

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
Tuesday May 25th, 2021
Via Zoom 6:30 p.m.

Present: Warden Danny Muise, Deputy Warden Nicole Albright; Councillors Glenn Diggdon, Guy Surette, Calvin d'Entremont, Gordon Boudreau, Richard Donaldson, Ted Saulnier and Kathy Bourque, Chief Administrative Officer Alain Muise, and Municipal Clerk/Recorder Eilidh Canning.

Regrets: none

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. by Deputy Warden Nicole Albright.

Agenda:

On a motion by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Glenn Diggdon the agenda was approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Conflict of Interest Declaration

Deputy Warden Nicole Albright asked for any declarations of conflict of interest from the floor.

None declared.

Presentation – none

Adoption of Minutes

Special Council Meeting minutes – Thursday, May 6, 2021

It is moved by Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Guy Surette that the Thursday, May 6, 2021 Special Council Meeting minutes be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Regular Council Meeting Minutes – Thursday, May 13, 2021

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Guy Surette that the Thursday, May 13, 2021 Regular Council Meeting minutes be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Business Arising from the Minutes

Sidewalks

Councillor Saulnier stated that he would like Council to adopt a policy via a motion and staff to create this criterion-based policy for sidewalks. The reasons for the need for this policy includes school safety. Plymouth School's evacuation policy is to cross the main road and with the amount of traffic, he would not want children crossing that busy road (traffic volume of 4000 cars a day).

CAO Muise advised that a sidewalk policy will be part of what staff will work on for 2021-2022. He advised Council that a draft policy will be ready late summer / early fall then it will be up to Council to determine when they want this policy implemented.

Warden Danny Muise advised that more investigation is needed by Council to see what is needed within a sidewalk policy, including the finances. CAO Muise advised that staff could have a policy prepared for Council in the Fall of 2021, but if Council does want sooner, they will need to determine what comes off the priority list.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Danny Muise to direct staff to investigate requirements for a sidewalk policy and present a policy to Council within the next 12 months.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

For Decision and discussion

Article C4 – Grants to Organizations Policy

Deputy Warden Albright reviewed the changes to the Grants to Organizations policy, as attached to agenda, and asked Council if they are prepared to approve the policy. Council advised they are happy with the changes and are prepared to approve the amended Grants to Organizations Policy.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Danny Muise that Council approve the Grants to Organizations Policy.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Attachment 052501

Article P20 – Performance Evaluation Policy

Deputy Warden Albright reviewed the changes to the Performance Evaluation Policy, as attached to the agenda, and asked Council if there were any questions.

Councillor Diggdon asked if the CAO will be part of this evaluation policy. Eilidh Canning, Municipal Clerk, advised that the CAO will be part of this evaluation policy, however the means by which he/she is evaluated via the Appendix may change. Eilidh then advised Council that a comparison will be completed by staff between the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators and the current evaluation form attached to this policy for the CAO. She then advised that if there are changes, the policy will be brought back to Council for approval.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Calvin d'Entremont that Council approve the Performance Evaluation Policy as presented.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Attachment 052502

Community Hall Capital Grant

Deputy Warden Albright reviewed the Memo attached to the agenda, and asked Council if they have any questions regarding who the Community Hall Grant Evaluation

committee recommended as this year's recipients. No questions were asked, and Council indicated they wanted to move forward with a motion to approve.

It is moved by Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Kathy Bourque that Council approve the below Community Halls as the 2021 Community Hall Capital Project Grant recipients:

1. Club Social des Iles - \$10,000 (new flooring)
2. Club Acadien - \$6,386.27 (new roof, septic, siding, windows / doors, lighting & security system)
3. Quinan Club - \$2,100 (repairs to the floor)

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Letter of Support for Spiri Robotics, Inc.

CAO Muise advised Council that the Municipality of Argyle has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Province of Nova Scotia, and together are working towards establishing an Aquaculture Development Area (ADA) for marine plants and shellfish. An ADA is an area that has been identified, assessed, and preapproved as a suitable and sustainable site for aquaculture. The work has been extensive, and along with many other federal, and provincial departments, as well as industry and other stakeholders, the team has been mapping the area through the collection of bathymetric data, eel grass, natural oyster beds, ghost gear, lobster grounds, navigation routes, water data, currents, rockweed cultivation, and wildlife, including bird habitats and other protected areas. They're asking for a letter of support from Council to go along with their application.

It is moved by Glen Diggdon and seconded by Danny Muise that Council provide a letter of support to Spiri Robotics, Inc.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Mariners Center Expansion and Mariners on Main Street Cost Sharing Model

Council discussed the Resolution attached to the agenda, which reads:

Whereas that the Mariners Center is a regional asset providing recreational, economic, social and health benefits to the Town of Yarmouth, Municipality of the District of Yarmouth, and the Municipality of the District of Argyle (Municipal Units of Yarmouth County);

Whereas the Town and Municipality of the District of Yarmouth are currently the co-owners of the Mariners Center, and that the Municipality of the District of Argyle provides annual operating funding to support the operation of the Mariners Center;

Whereas the Municipal Units of Yarmouth County recognize the need for infrastructure replacement for recreational services delivered in the County in the area of aquatics and fitness;

Whereas the Municipal Units of Yarmouth County desire a regional approach to replace aquatic and fitness centers for the benefit of the County and its residents;

Whereas the Municipal Units of Yarmouth County also desire other expanded recreational services and will consider further investments if they meet our collective budget limitations;

Whereas the Municipal units of Yarmouth County collectively agree that the Mariners Center is the ideal location for an expansion of this nature;

Whereas the Municipal units of Yarmouth County have agreed to offer aquatic, fitness and other services temporarily at the former YMCA location on Main Street until such time as the Mariners Center expansion is adequately funded;

Whereas a funding application outlining all desired Mariners Center expansion options shall be submitted to the Governments of Canada through the “Green and Inclusive Community Buildings (GICB) program” for consideration of financial support;

Whereas the Municipal Units of Yarmouth County have set an early budget, for the purposes of the GICB application, at 30 Million Dollars;

Whereas the Municipal Units of Yarmouth County shall also seek Provincial funding for this expansion;

Whereas the Municipal units of Yarmouth County are committed to funding up to 12 million dollars to cover their 30% municipal share of the Mariners Center expansion;

And Whereas the Municipality of Argyle is committed to public engagement to further inform our residents and the associated costs and benefits of the project,

Now therefore be it *resolved* that

1. The Municipality of Argyle agrees that the proportion of operational and capital funding for the Mariners Center expansion be expressed via written agreement, and shall be based on the following agreed upon cost sharing formula:

Town of Yarmouth	30.666%
Municipality of the District of Argyle	30.666%
Municipality of the District of Yarmouth	38.666%

The Municipality of Argyle agrees that the funding formula shall be updated, upon the availability of new census population data from Statistics Canada and that this revised formula would be used to share operating expenditures of the Mariners Center.

2. The Municipality of Argyle supports the funding application to the GICB Funding Program, and that the Mariners Center expansion is conditional on sufficient Federal and Provincial funding.
3. That the funding formula as expressed in item one be the same funding formula for the funding of the aquatic and fitness services temporarily located at “Mariners on Main”.
4. That the Municipality of Argyle consider the merits of ownership of the existing and expanded Mariners Center as part of their commitment to the project.
5. The Municipality of Argyle agrees to undertake a comprehensive public engagement process.
6. The Municipality of Argyle commits to open, respectful and transparent engagement with its regional partners and stakeholders through the

implementation of the expansion project and in providing temporary services on Main Street.

7. The Municipality of Argyle is committed to a capital fund-raising and sponsorship strategy, either as lead, or as support, and in collaboration with community stakeholders engaged in this project.

Councillor Kathy Bourque advised she would like to table the motion, in order to gather more information prior to making a motion on the resolution.

Councillor Diggdon advised that he would like a social media update from the Municipality to advise the public on the current status of the Mariners Center expansion so Councillors can then take that and share on their social media platforms. CAO Muise advised that he will draft an ad, and send it to our partners for their approval, then will send to Scott Muise to upload to the Municipality of Argyle's Facebook page.

Council agreed to table this item to another Council meeting, once more information is available.

Attachment 052503

Drought

Deputy Warden Albright reviewed the request for decision attached to the agenda and advised Council that the best solution for water is an onsite solution. She also advised there is a need to increase the threshold to \$800,000 to ensure we are allowing more residents to borrow money from us.

It is moved by Danny Muise and seconded by Gordon Boudreau that the CAO amend the Water lending policy to include the enhanced funding model and bring the modifications to Council for final approval.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Calvin d'Entremont that the Warden and CAO be authorized to lead a discussion with the Province on behalf of the affected region regarding a provincially supported water lending project.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Attachment 052504

Discussion topics for Warden Muise's meeting with Minister Maguire, Minister of Municipal Affairs

CAO Muise advised Council that he and Warden Muise have a meeting with Minister Maguire at 12 noon on Wednesday, May 26th. Deputy Warden Albright asked Council for topics of discussion:

Councillor d'Entremont stated water lending.

No other recommendations made, and no motion required for this topic.

Mariner Center Expansion Funding Approval

Deputy Warden Albright advised Council that the application has to be revamped to fit the criteria for federal funding. The engineer, Marc Brophy has engaged engineering firm, EXP to do this work. The application deadline is July 6, 2021. \$32,500 is the approximate cost to have EXP engineering complete the necessary work.

It is moved by Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Richard Donaldson that MODA provide our share (30.666%) of \$32,500 plus 15% HST to engage EXP engineering to complete get the application for Federal funding for the Mariner Center Expansion.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Correspondence and for Information

Home Delivery of Alcohol

No action, for information.

MOU – The Municipality of the District of Argyle and the Argyle Municipality

Historical and Genealogical Society

No action, for information.

Response letter from the Municipality of Yarmouth regarding resident survey

No action, for information.

DMA Funding Application Launch 2021-2022

No action, for information.

Renewal of the Georges Bank Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration and Drilling Moratorium

Councillor d'Entremont advised he would like to see a letter of concern sent to government regarding this Moratorium.

It is moved by Calvin d'Entremont and seconded by Gordon Boudreau that staff write a letter of concern to government officials regarding the renewal of the Georges Bank Offshore oil and gas exploration and drilling moratorium.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Collaborative Research Agreement

CAO Muise reviewed the Collaborative Research Agreement attached to the agenda. He provided a summary of the agreement, and advised that the project will investigate water security challenges in rural and remote communities in South West Nova Scotia (SWNS). The Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) in collaboration with the Emergency Management Organization (EMO) – Municipality of the District of Argyle, the Town of Shelburne, HMC Emergency Management Consulting Inc., and Acadia University (School of Engineering) will contribute their expertise and engage in a joint applied

research initiative, leading to greater capacity for problem solving methodology and increased awareness. The project will therefore lead to communities' self-empowerment and recommendations to inform decision makers as they work on water literacy strategies.

He then indicated to Council that a motion will be required approving staff to sign and move forward with this agreement.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Kathy Bourque that staff sign The Collaborative Research Agreement with NSCC, as presented.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Attachment 052505

Financial Requests – All District Community Grants

District Community Grant request of \$500 – Amirault's Hill Community Improvement Committee

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Danny Muisse to provide a \$500 community grant to Amirault's Hill Community Improvement Committee.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

District Community Grant request of \$500 – Association des Acadiens-Metis Souriquois (AAMS)

It is moved by Gordon Boudreau and seconded by Calvin d'Entremont to provide a \$500 community grant to Association des Acadiens-Metis Souriquois (AAMS).

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

District Community Grant request of \$500 – Association des Clairmont, Deviller, Fitzgerald, Harris and Jacquard

It is moved by Ted Saulnier and seconded by Gordon Boudreau to provide a \$500 community grant to Association des Clairmont, Deviller, Fitzgerald, Harris and Jacquard.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

District Community Grant request of \$500 – Comeau's Hill and Little River Harbour Beach Committee

It is moved by Ted Saulnier and seconded by Danny Muisse to provide a \$500 community grant to Comeau's Hill and Little River Harbour Beach Committee.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

District Community Grant request of \$500 – East Pubnico Improvements Committee

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Glenn Diggdon to provide a \$500 community grant to East Pubnico Improvements Committee.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

District Community Grant request of \$500 – Festival acadien de Wedgeport

It is moved by Gordon Boudreau and seconded by Ted Saulnier to provide a \$500 community grant to Festival acadien de Wedgeport.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

District Community Grant request of \$500 – Festival d’la barge

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Calvin d’Entremont to provide a \$500 community grant to Festival d’la barge.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

District Community Grant request of \$500 - Harbour Hill Community Hall

It is moved by Ted Saulnier and seconded by Gordon Boudreau to provide a \$500 community grant to Harbour Hill Community Hall.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

District Community Grant request of \$500 – Indian Sluice Seniors Club

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Kathy Bourque to provide a \$500 community grant to Indian Sluice Seniors Club.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

District Community Grant request of \$500 – Le Club Acadien

It is moved by Danny Muise and seconded by Calvin d’Entremont to provide a \$500 community grant to Le Club Acadien.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

District Community Grant request of \$500 - La société historique acadienne de Pubnico-Ouest

It is moved by Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Calvin d’Entremont to provide a \$500 community grant to La société historique acadienne de Pubnico-Ouest.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

District Community Grant request of \$500 – Our Lady Of the Assumption Parish at St. Michael’s Church

It is moved by Gordon Boudreau and seconded by Ted Saulnier to provide a \$500 community grant to Our Lady of the Assumption Parish at St. Michael’s Church.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

District Community Grant request of \$500 – Patchwork Pals Quilters

It is moved by Danny Muise and seconded by Kathy Bourque to provide a \$500 community grant to Patchwork Pals Quilters.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

District Community Grant request of \$500 – Plymouth Cemetery Co.

It is moved by Ted Saulnier and seconded by Richard Donaldson to provide a \$500 community grant to Plymouth Cemetery Co.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

District Community Grant request of \$500 – Pubnico Health Club

It is moved by Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Calvin d'Entremont to provide a \$500 community grant to Pubnico Health Club.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

District Community Grant request of \$500 - Pubnico light monument society

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Calvin d'Entremont to provide a \$500 community grant to Pubnico light monument society.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

District Community Grant request of \$500 – Royal Canadian Legion Branch 155 Wedgeport

It is moved by Ted Saulnier and seconded by Gordon Boudreau to provide a \$500 community grant to Royal Canadian Legion Branch 155 Wedgeport.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

District Community Grant request of \$500 – Saint Gabriel Cemetery

It is moved by Ted Saulnier and seconded by Richard Donaldson to provide a \$500 community grant to Saint Gabriel Cemetery.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

District Community Grant request of \$500 – The Events and Decorating Committee of Club

Social des Iles, Surette's Island

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Ted Saulnier to provide a \$500 community grant to The Events and Decorating Committee of Club Social des Iles, Surette's Island.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

District Community Grant request of \$500 – Twin Village Social Club

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Calvin d'Entremont to provide a \$500 community grant to Twin Village Social Club.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

District Community Grant request of \$500 – Village Friends

It is moved by Danny Muise and seconded by Ted Saulnier to provide a \$500 community grant to Village Friends.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

District Community Grant request of \$500 – Harbourview Community Graveyard

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Ted Saulnier to provide a \$500 community grant to Harbourview Community Graveyard.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

District Community Grant request of \$500 - Les amies du Musée

It is moved by Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Calvin d'Entremont to provide a \$500 community grant to Les amies du Musée.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Agenda Topics for Next Meeting/Notice of Motion

None.

Question Period

CAO Muise advised Council that in regards to Letter of Support for Spiri Robotics, Inc.. our Community development officer, Charlene Leblanc, advised via email that Spiri does their work with technology such as drones, cameras and side scan sonar. They can tell the biomass of rock weed on our shores using flyover technology, see natural oyster beds reefs, eel grass, ghost gear, and they will give us a real picture of the channel and the flats in that body of water. They will even test water quality using drones. CAO Muise also advised Council that Charlene stated that as far as she understands, Spiri Robotics will not be placing anything in the water.

In Camera - none

There being no further business, it is moved by Gordon Boudreau and seconded by Ted Saulnier to adjourn the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 8:23 p.m.

Recorder
Eilidh Canning

Date Approved: _____

Chairman/Warden _____

Alain Muise, Chief Administrative Officer _____