

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE

Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, November 9, 2021
Zoom 6:30 p.m.

Present: Warden Danny Muise, Deputy Warden Nicole Albright; Councillors Glenn Diggle, Guy Surette, Gordon Boudreau, Ted Saulnier, Richard Donaldson, and Kathy Bourque, Municipal Clerk Eilidh Canning, and Administrative Assistant/Recorder Chantalle Newell

Regrets: Chief Administrative Officer Alain Muise, Councillor Calvin d'Entremont

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Warden Danny Muise.

Warden Danny Muise asked to observe a moment of silence in honour of our Veterans for Remembrance Day.

Agenda:

On a motion by Nicole Albright and seconded by Ted Saulnier the agenda is approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Conflict of Interest Declaration

Warden Danny Muise asked for any declarations of conflict of interest from the floor.

None declared.

Presentation – Chris d'Entremont, Conservative MP for Nova Scotia

MP d'Entremont met with Council to allow them to raise concerns that he should be aware of within each district. He mentioned he has a meeting on Friday with Mayors and Wardens in the surrounding communities to discuss the fishing issue going on in South West Nova Scotia. They are currently waiting on the new Fisheries Minister to reach out and discuss some other fisheries issues, like the infrastructure and the wharves. MP d'Entremont advised Council the new seniors grants applications have not come out yet, but hopefully by December they will be available for different community halls and associations that require attention and funding. He will ensure that Council is aware once they are available.

Kathy Bourque raised the concern of the wharves in her district and how crowded they are. She believes it is starting to get dangerous and hopes that the Federal Government is looking at them and looking at expanding them, as boats are also getting larger. MP d'Entremont advised Council that during the last meeting he had with Small Craft Harbours, they indicated that there is an infrastructure deficit of close to \$300 or \$400 million dollars in the Western Zone. He wants to make sure that they understand that the wharves need to be looked at carefully, as they are our business parks for the most part. He wants to ensure they continue to support them. He mentioned the issue of some of the wharves being unsafe.

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Guy Surette asked about Congrès Mondial, wondering if MP d'Entremont had any word on it. MP d'Entremont believes there is funding that is going to be available to be ready for Congrès Mondial. There is currently a committee working together. Funding has not come through yet, but it is coming. MP d'Entremont also mentioned that he mentions Congrès Mondial at every meeting he is a part of to promote it.

Nicole Albright spoke about how she and MP d'Entremont have been in regular contact regarding the Mariner's Centre. She stated how MP d'Entremont has been very vocal in advocating for the Mariner's Centre, trying to get support for this project. She expresses her thanks to MP d'Entremont for advocating and pushing for them. She also advised Council that at the NSFM conference that she attended, it was mentioned that they are trying to push for a permanent doubling of the gas tax, or the Canada Community Building Fund. She asked if MP d'Entremont knew anything about that. He advised that he did not have any further information on that.

Ted Saulnier raised the concern of Fisheries. He asked for assurance that the lobster industry is going to be sustained and not broken by outside involvement. MP d'Entremont stated that part of the conversation has always been conservation, ensuring the stock is available. He also advised Council that the issue they are having now is that Commercial fishers kept their part of the deal, and stayed off the bay during the summer, but in return for that they wanted good enforcement and conservation on St. Mary's Bay. He is not sure that that is what happened. He stated that he is worried about the conservation side of things.

Richard Donaldson mentioned that funding is needed for the "Nakile" intersection. He also raised the concern of the end of Highway 103. There often is at least a kilometer of traffic in the mornings at the end of the highway. MP d'Entremont stated that the Nakile intersection is a priority of his. He is pushing for Minister LeBlanc to push for the federal government to get funding for the Nakile Intersection. He will raise the concern of the end of the Highway 103.

Danny Muise mentioned that there is a need for low-rentals or low cost housing for seniors. He stated that quite a few seniors cannot afford to live in their homes. MP d'Entremont advised Council that there has been some work from CMHC for low rental housing to be available for everyone. He stated that the Federal Government should assist private sector with these housing initiatives, which means municipalities should have the zoning available to make these things happen. He mentioned that the Town of Yarmouth is central and currently has a lot of the affordable housing, as it is central in the area. He advised Council that the Federal Government needs to find a good incentive that works, however the challenge is the provincial government capped rent increases. He mentioned that he will continue to work with CMHC.

Adoption of Minutes

Regular Council Meeting Minutes – October 12, 2021

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It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Nicole Albright that the October 12, 2021, minutes of the Regular Council Meeting be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Special Council Meeting Minutes – October 29, 2021

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Glenn Diggdon that the October 29, 2021, minutes of the Special Council Meeting be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Business Arising from the Minutes

Expression of interest in Accessible Housing Discussion Group support letter

Warden Muise responded to a letter from Mayor Cleveland in Digby expressing Council's support and interest in participating in a South West Municipalities discussion group regarding housing.

Reply to Letter of Concern – Regulations applicable to the Coastal Protection Act – October 2021

Warden Muise received a letter from the Honourable Tim Halman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change confirming they received Council's letter.

Councillors Report

Deputy Warden Albright took part in a Doctor Recruitment meeting, attending the opening of the house that was built by the Credit Union for residents. She indicated that this initiative has been an amazing partnership. She also attended the Committee of the Whole meeting and volunteered at the Halloween on the Trail, through recreation. She stated there was 35 kids. She attended the Mariner's Centre Steering Committee meeting and advised that a fundraising RFP has been sent out. Part of the funding they are looking to raise is through fundraising. They are looking at hiring someone to assist with the fundraising. She participated in the NSFM virtual conference, and advised Council that Argyle was one of three Municipalities to win the Climate Change Leader Award, because of the Net Zero Building. She attended some staff meetings with the Warden to discuss a plan for the absence of the CAO. She had a conversation with Linda Gallagher regarding the Yarmouth Splash Park, and stated that Linda would like to thank Council for their contribution and advised them that they have raised over half the money so far for the Splash Park. They are hoping to open next spring Ground Search and Rescue reached out to her to thank Council for their contribution. Their roof is now complete.

Councillor Diggdon advised that there is a new Cenotaph put out by the West Pubnico Legion. He would like to thank the members for their contributions. He also wishes to thank a couple in West Pubnico that painted poppies on rocks and placed them on Veteran's graves. He also mentioned that there have been flags put on graves of veterans in the East Pubnico, West Pubnico and Argyle areas. Councillor Diggdon advised Council that he got to witness a water safety drill at the Dennis Point Wharf. He indicated that it was nice to

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see a piece of equipment used that was designed by a local fisherman in the Lower West Pubnico area. He stated that this equipment is being on a lot of boats across Canada.

Councillor Saulnier attended the virtual NSFM conference. He advised Council that he attended three ceremonies for placing of flags on Veteran's gravesites. He also attended a Veterans Memorial Service at a school. He indicated that Argyle had donated a wreath. He met with the Recreation Department and a resident at the Comeau's Hill Trail and found a site to place some artwork.

Councillor Surette advised Council that he placed flags on graves in Surette's Island in memory of the fallen soldiers. He also laid a wreath for the soldiers on behalf of the Municipality of Argyle. He attended the Yarmouth Area Industrial Committee meeting, as well as the Airport meeting. He took part in a Waste Check meeting, as well as the Sluice Point Betterment Committee meeting and the Mariner's Centre meeting.

Councillor Bourque attended her regular meetings for Nakile Home for Special Care and the Yarmouth Area Industrial Committee. She also volunteered at the first Halloween Trail and indicated that it was a huge success. She also laid 42 flags at the Cemetery in honor of the fallen Soldiers. She also indicated that she will be attending a Remembrance Day service.

Warden's Report

Warden Danny Muise reviewed his report, listed below.

October 13 – Choice Housing Committee Meeting

October 20 – Meeting with La Société Touristique of Bon Temps

October 26 – Committee of the Whole meeting

October 27 – Meeting with Mayor, Warden and CAOs to discuss next steps regarding fishing dispute with new Minister of Fisheries in place.

October 27 – Mariners Centre Committee Meeting

October 27 – Meeting with provincial Mayors and Wardens through NSFM

October 28 – Meeting with Municipal Office Staff

October 29 – Special Council Meeting

October 31 – Halloween Trail

November 3-5 – NSFM Fall Conference

November 4 – Meeting with Municipal Office Department Heads

Staff Report

Municipal Clerk, Eilidh Canning reviewed the staff report, as attached to the agenda.

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For Decision

Article C5 – Private Road Naming Policy – October 2021 amendment

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Nicole Albright by to approve Private Road Naming Policy, as presented.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Letter of Support request from Western REN Energy Project – Residential Retrofits funding application

It is moved by Gordon Boudreau and seconded by Richard Donaldson that Council provide a letter of support to Western REN Energy Project.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Islands and District Volunteer Fire department funding request

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Nicole Albright that Council approve Islands and District Volunteer Fire Department to get their Fire Engine appraised for \$1500-\$2000.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Funding Request for Fencing in Middle East Pubnico COMFIT Solar Location

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Glenn Diggdon to approve the funding request for Fencing in Middle East Pubnico COMFIT Solar location.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Approval request for Joint letter to Minister Lohr regarding REMO program

It is moved by Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Kathy Bourque that Warden Muise sign the joint letter to Minister Lohr regarding the REMO program.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Private Road Bylaw – First Reading

It is moved Kathy Bourque by and seconded by Richard Donaldson to accept the first reading of the Private Road Bylaw.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

RFD – Tree Lighting

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Glenn Diggdon to go with option 1, to allow old businesses and new businesses to apply for funding. Old businesses are allowed to have up to \$250 of funding and new businesses can have up to \$500 for funding with receipts.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Correspondence and For Information

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Letter of concern from Accessibility Committee regarding cancelled doctor's appointments for MODA Residents in Halifax

Councillor Saulnier raised the concern on behalf of the Accessibility Committee regarding Halifax Doctor's Appointments getting cancelled the same day as the appointment. He stated that this is highly inconvenient for the residents and would like something to be done about this. Councillor Saulnier is going to speak with MLA, Colton LeBlanc regarding these concerns.

Financial Requests

None.

Agenda Topics for Next Meeting/Notice of Motion

Kathy Bourque requested that the Pubnico Head Carpool Parking lot be added as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Gordon Boudreau raised the concern of the Chemin de L'Est not getting plowed sufficiently in the winter months, considering there is a Senior's Complex on that road. This will be added as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Question Period

None.

In Camera – Personnel Matter

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Glenn Diggdon to recess the Regular Council Meeting and go In-Camera to discuss a personnel matter at 8:14 pm.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

There being no further business, it is moved by and seconded by to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Recorder
Chantalle Newell

Date Approved: November 23, 2021

Chairman/Warden: Original signed
Municipal Clerk, Eilidh Canning: Original signed