



MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE
REGULAR BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023

Council Members Present: Warden Danny Muise, Deputy Warden Nicole Albright, Councillor Gordon Boudreau, Councillor Glenn Diggdon, Councillor Ted Saulnier, Councillor Calvin d'Entremont, Councillor Guy Surette, and Councillor Kathy Bourque.

Absent with Regrets: Councillor Richard Donaldson

Staff Present: Chief Administrative Officer Alain Muise, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Scott Surette, Director of Finance Marsha d'Eon, and Executive Assistant Chantalle Newell.

1. **Call Meeting to Order**

Warden Danny Muise called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

2. **Approval of Agenda/Conflict of Interest Declaration**

By consensus, the agenda was approved with the addition of 6C option 3.

3. **Invitation to Stand and Move**

Warden Danny Muise reminded Council that they are permitted to stand and move as they need to during the meeting. This is a new initiative introduced by Argyle Recreation which normalizes movement in meetings.

4. **Presentation – None.**

5. **Adoption of Minutes**

a. **Special Council Meeting Minutes – April 27, 2023**

By consensus, the special council meeting minutes of April 27, 2023, are approved as presented.

b. **Executive Council Meeting Minutes – April 27, 2023**

By consensus, the executive council meeting minutes of April 27, 2023, are approved as presented.

6. **Grant Approvals**

a. **Grants to Organizations Spring 2023**

It is MOVED by Councillor Guy Surette and SECONDED by Deputy Warden Nicole Albright to approve the grant allocations as presented for the Spring 2023 edition.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. **Extraordinary Grants**

i. **Bay of Fundy Sea Kayak Symposium**



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It is MOVED by Councillor Calvin d'Entremont and SECONDED by Councillor Glenn Diggdon to approve an extraordinary grant in the amount of \$5,000 to the Bay of Fundy Sea Kayak Symposium.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ii. **Yarmouth Rotary Club Ribfest – Sponsorship**

It is MOVED by Councillor Gordon Boudreau and SECONDED by Deputy Warden Nicole Albright to approve a sponsorship to the Yarmouth Rotary Club Ribfest in the amount of \$2,500.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

iii. **Yarmouth County Trail Development Association**

It is MOVED by Councillor Kathy Bourque and SECONDED by Councillor Glenn Diggdon to approve a financial contribution to the Yarmouth County Trail Development Association in the amount of \$150 per km of trails in the Municipality of Argyle for a total of \$7,050 for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

c. **Community Hall Grants**

It is MOVED by Councillor Glenn Diggdon and SECONDED by Councillor Guy Surette to table the West Pubnico Legion's ask of \$10,000 and to approve the Plymouth Hall's ask of \$10,000 and the Hubbard's Point Community Centre in the amount of \$8481.50 under the condition that the West Pubnico Legion will be eligible for a \$10,000 Community Hall Grant in the Spring of 2024.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

d. **Argyle Emergency Fund**

It is MOVED by Councillor Ted Saulnier and SECONDED by Councillor Calvin d'Entremont to provide various social aid organizations in the Municipality of Argyle with a financial contribution of \$4,000 over 5 years for a total amount of \$20,000.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

e. **Fire Services Capital Grant Program – Lake Vaughan Fire Department**

It is MOVED by Councillor Guy Surette and SECONDED by Councillor Guy Surette to approve a \$50,000 contribution to the Lake Vaughan Fire Department, being \$10,000 per year for 5 years beginning in the 2023-2024 fiscal year and ending in the 2027-2028 fiscal year.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. **Financial Approvals**

a. **Financial Report until March 31, 2023**



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It is MOVED by Deputy Warden Nicole Albright and SECONDED by Councillor Kathy Bourque to accept the financial report until March 31, 2023.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Fire Operating Budget 2023-2024

It is MOVED by Councillor Guy Surette and SECONDED by Councillor Kathy Bourque to approve the Fire Operating Budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

c. Sewer Budgets (Operating and Capital) 2023-2024

It is MOVED by Councillor Glenn Digdon and SECONDED by Councillor Gordon Boudreau to establish the following rates for the 2023-2024 fiscal year:

- An operating rate of \$440.00 per equivalent unit for the West Pubnico Sewer Charge.
- An operating rate of \$210.00 per equivalent unit and a capital rate of \$550.98 per equivalent unit for the Wedgeport Sewer Charge.
- An operating rate of \$345.00 per equivalent unit and the capital rate of \$223.66 per equivalent unit for the Tusket Sewer Charge.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

d. East Pubnico Utility Water Charge 2023-2024

It is MOVED by Councillor Kathy Bourque and SECONDED by Deputy Warden Nicole Albright to establish the following rates for the East Pubnico Water Utility for the 2023-2024 fiscal year:

- Middle East Pubnico = \$3768.26 plus \$4.00 per 1,000 imperial gallons.
- Lower East Pubnico = \$700.23 for a 1.5-inch pipe plus \$2.36 per 1,000 imperial gallons.
- Lower East Pubnico = \$1119.72 for a 2-inch pipe plus \$2.36 per 1,000 imperial gallons.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

e. Fire Area Rates 2023-2024

It is MOVED by Councillor Ted Saulnier and SECONDED by Councillor Calvin d'Entremont to approve the fire area rates set out by the fire departments as presented for fiscal year 2023-2024.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

f. Interest Rate/Date on Overdue Accounts 2023-2024

It is MOVED by Deputy Warden Nicole Albright and SECONDED by Councillor Kathy Bourque to approve the interest rate of 13% per annum on overdue accounts and that the current year's property taxes be payable and due by July 31st, 2023, and the interest will accrue after that date.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



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g. **Transfer Surplus to Capital Reserve**

It is MOVED by Councillor Guy Surette and SECONDED by Councillor Ted Saulnier to transfer \$250,000 of the 2022-2023 operating surplus be transferred to the Capital Reserve for a total transfer to the Capital Reserve of \$300,000 for the 22-23 fiscal year.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

h. **Residential and Commercial Rates 2023-2024**

The proposal for the 2023-2024 fiscal year is to maintain the same tax rates as last year.

It is MOVED by Councillor Kathy Bourque and SECONDED by Councillor Gordon Boudreau to approve the tax rates at \$1.11 for Residential and Resource, and \$2.29 for Commercial for the Fiscal year 2023-2024.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8. **Operating Fund Budget Presentation 2023-2024**

It is MOVED by Councillor Gordon Boudreau and SECONDED by Councillor Kathy Bourque to approve the operating fund budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year with the correction of the overall budget number due to the reduction of the Community Hall Grants for this fiscal year. The amount Council is approving for the Operating Fund Budget for 2023-2024 is \$10,627,093.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. **Operating Reserve 2023-2024**

It is MOVED by Councillor Guy Surette and SECONDED by Councillor Calvin d'Entremont to approve the operating reserve as amended.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. **Capital Budget Presentation 2023-2024**

It is MOVED by Deputy Warden Nicole Albright and SECONDED by Councillor Kathy Bourque to approve the Capital Budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11. **Recognizing Argyle**

Councillor Diggon gave a shout out to Alain and his staff for how great they are, and he thanked them for the work they do. He would like to see that there will be some posts on Facebook regarding the tax rate staying the same.

12. **Wardens Report**

Warden Muise indicated that at the NSFM, he spoke to the Warden for the Municipality of Clare and they spoke about the upcoming CMA 2024. They agreed it would be a great idea to get together amongst councils to discuss what each area is doing to prepare for the CMA.



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13. **Committees Report**

- a. **Substance Use Awareness Project**
- b. **Yarmouth Area Industrial Commission**
- c. **REMO Executive Meeting**
- d. **Mariners Management Authority**
- e. **Mariners Centre Expansion Board**
- f. **Yarmouth and Acadian Shores Tourism Association**

Councillor d'Entremont reported on the CAT Ferry that ticket sales are up higher than last year and the tourism season is beginning and the staff at YASTA are busy.

- g. **Yarmouth County Solid Waste Park**
- h. **Yarmouth International Airport Corporation**
- i. **Nakile Board**
- j. **Western County Regional Libraries**
- k. **WREN Liaison and Oversight Committee**
- l. **Argyle Recreation Committee**
- m. **Police Advisory Board**
- n. **Doctor Recruitment**
- o. **Waste check**
- p. **Tusket Sewer**
- q. **Wedgeport Sewer**
- r. **West Pubnico Sewer**
- s. **East Pubnico Water Utility**

14. **Reports**

- a. **Clerks Report**

The clerks report is attached to the agenda for information purposes. There were no questions on the report.

- b. **Department Head Report**

The Department Head Report is attached to the agenda for information purposes. There were no questions on the report.

- c. **Building Permit Report**

The Building Permit Report is attached to the agenda for information purposes. There were no questions on the report.

15. **For Decision and Discussion**

- a. **Yarmouth Airport Agreement**

Councillor Surette will express the Municipality of Argyle's willingness to restart the conversation about the Airport to the Yarmouth International Airport Commission board.



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16. **Correspondence and For Information**

a. **Low Income Tax Exemption Applications 2023**

The low income tax exemption totals were presented to council for their information. There was no action required.

17. **Financial Requests – Deferred.**

18. **Agenda Topics for the next meeting/Notice of Motion by Councillors – None.**

19. **Question Period – None.**

20. **In-Camera – None.**

21. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

May 25, 2023

Date Approved

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Amie", is written over a horizontal line.

Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cremell", is written over a horizontal line.

Clerk/Recorder