



MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 9, 2024

<u>Council Members Present:</u>	Warden Danny Muise, Deputy Warden Nicole Albright, Councillor Guy Surette, Councillor Glenn Diggdon, Councillor Ted Saulnier, Councillor Calvin d'Entremont, and Councillor Kathy Bourque.
<u>Absent with Regrets:</u>	Councillor Richard Donaldson
<u>Absent:</u>	Councillor Gordon Boudreau
<u>Staff Present:</u>	Chief Administrative Officer Alain Muise, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Scott Surette, Executive Assistant Chantalle Newell and Executive Assistant Julie Atkinson.

1. **Call Meeting to Order**

Warden Danny Muise called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

2. **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.

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

By consensus, the agenda was approved as circulated with no conflict declared at this time.

4. **Presentation**

Marty King along with Kyle Gordon were present from Fisheries and Oceans Canada to present a Marine Conservation Plan. Marty leads a process to develop a long-term special plan for marine conservation for the Scotian Shelf and Bay of Fundy bioregion. Canada has made a strong commitment to protecting 30% of its oceans by 2030. Currently 14.66% of Canadas oceans are protected. This is being done on behalf of the government of Canada and is a collaboration between DFO, Canadian Wildlife Service and Parks Canada.

There is an online survey for public engagement and will be open from April 29th until Jun 29th. Interactive Maps, Pre-recorded webinars, virtual Q&A sessions, and In-Person engagement sessions are all available.

Councillor Surette asked a question regarding the connection between the Offshore Network sites.

Councillor d'Entremont asked a question regarding the future of lobster fishermen in this area.

Marty King stated that the marine protected area will still allow fishing such as lobster to continue.

Councillor d'Entremont raises a concern on the Chebogue Bay area that contains the Tusket Islands.



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Councillor Saulnier raises a concern on sustainable fishery for the years to come, he asks if there is anything in their research that can show the gaining of biomasses of herring and ground fish.

There was a resident present with concerns which were addressed by Marty King.

Councillor Saulnier asked if the local fisherman should be concerned with the restrictions in the areas.

Councillor d'Entremont suggests encouraging everyone to take the survey and provide feedback.

5. **Adoption of Minutes**

- a. **Executive Council Meeting Minutes – April 25, 2024**
- b. **Special Budget Meeting Minutes – May 1, 2024**

By consensus, the Minutes from April 25 and May 1, 2024 are approved as presented.

6. **Financial Report until March 31, 2024/Operating Fund Budget Presentation**

Marsha d'Eon went over the Financial Report to March 31, 2024, there were no questions asked.

It is MOVED by Councillor Guy Surette and SECONDED by Councillor Calvin d'Entremont that the financial report until March 31, 2024 be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CAO Alain Muise presented the Operating Fund Budget Presentation.

The tax rates remain the same, but the low-income exemption was significantly increased of up to \$64,999. Low-income exemptions were up \$50,000 from last year.

It is MOVED by Councillor Guy Surette and SECONDED by Councillor Kathy Bourque to approve the Operating Fund Budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The amount that Council is approving for the Operating Fund Budget is \$11,319,624.

a. **Transfer to Capital Reserve**

It is MOVED by Councillor Ted Saulnier and SECONDED by Councillor Nicole Albright to approve the Transfer \$300,000 from the year end surplus to the Capital Reserve.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. **Operating Reserve Budget Presentation 2024-2025**

It is MOVED by Councillor Kathy Bourque SECONDED by Councillor Calvin d'Entremont that the Operating Reserve Budget be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8. **Financial Approvals**

- a. **Sewer Budget (Operating and Capital) 2024-2025**



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It is MOVED by Councillor Calvin d'Entremont SECONDED by Councillor Nicole Albright that the operating fee for West Pubnico per equivalent unit is \$440.00, the operating fee for Wedgeport per equivalent unit is now \$175.00 and the capital fee per equivalent unit is \$550.98 and the operating fee for Tusket per equivalent unit is now \$355.00 and the capital fee per equivalent unit is \$252.00.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. East Pubnico Water Utility Charge 2024-2025

It is MOVED by Councillor Kathy Bourque and SECONDED by Councillor Nicole Albright that Council establish the following rates for the East Pubnico Water Utility for the 2024-2025 fiscal year:

- Middle East Pubnico - \$3,888.85 plus \$4.13 per 1,000 imperial gallons.
- Lower East Pubnico - \$722.64 for a 1.5-inch pipe plus \$2.44 per 1,000 imperial gallons.
- Lower East Pubnico - \$1,155.56 for a 2-inch pipe plus \$2.44 per 1,000 imperial gallons.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

c. Fire Area Rates 2024-2025

It is MOVED by Councillor Ted Saulnier and SECONDED by Councillor Kathy Bourque that Council approves the area rates set out by the fire departments as presented for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

d. Interest Rate/Date on Overdue Accounts 2024-2025

It is MOVED by Councillor Nicole Albright and SECONDED by Councillor Kathy Bourque that Council 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 31, 2024, and interest will accrue after that date.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

e. Residential and Commercial Rates 2024-2025

It is MOVED by Councillor Guy Surette and SECONDED by Councillor Nicole Albright that Council approve the tax rates at \$1.11 for Residential and Resource, and \$2.29 for Commercial for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. Recognizing Argyle

Councillor Kathy Bourque reported on Waste Checks presentation in her district, as well as the bike park video promotion. She mentioned the anniversary of the Nouveaux Horizon de la Baronnie.

Councillor Glenn Diggdon reported on the Veterans Banner Project doing well and they are accepting applications until the end of the month.

10. Wardens Report

Warden Muise's report is attached to the agenda. There were no questions on his report.



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11. **Committees Report**

- a. **Yarmouth Area Industrial Commission**
- b. **REMO Executive Meeting**
- c. **Mariners Management Authority**

Councillor Surette reported on the financial meeting of the Mariners Centre. It was indicated that the capital budget was not passed at this time, due to some outstanding questions.

- d. **Mariners Centre Expansion Board (MCEB)**

Deputy Warden reported on the tender documents still being worked on. Councillor Surette asked about when shovels will be in the ground. Deputy Warden responded indicating if everything goes well with the tender, shovels should be in the ground in the fall.

- e. **Yarmouth and Acadian Shores Tourism Association**
- f. **Yarmouth County Solid Waste Park**
- g. **Yarmouth International Airport Corporation**

Councillor Surette reported on the task force and a meeting with Spiri Robotics.

- h. **Nakile Board**

Warden Muise indicated there was a special meeting, and things seem to be going well with the changes that are happening around Nakile.

- i. **Western County Regional Libraries**

Councillor Bourque reported on the budget being passed.

- j. **WREN Liaison and Oversight Committee**
- k. **Argyle Recreation Committee**
- l. **Police Advisory Board**
- m. **Doctor Recruitment**
- n. **Waste check**
- o. **Sewer Committees**

12. **7-day Notice**

- a. **Article P5 – Hiring and Probation of Staff**

Council received 7-day notice to pass the amendments to Article P5 – Hiring and Probation of Staff.

- b. **Article P16 – Christmas Bonus**

Council received 7-day notice to pass the amendments to Article P16 – Christmas Bonus.

- c. **Article P19 – Job Sharing**

Council received 7-day notice to pass the amendments to Article P19 – Job Sharing.

13. **For Decision and Discussion**



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a. **By-law 27A – Solid Waste Resource**

It is MOVED by Councillor Guy Surette and SECONDED by Councillor Nicole Albright to approve the amendments to By-law 27A – Solid Waste Resource.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. **Article P14 – Vacation Policy**

It is MOVED by Councillor Kathy Bourque and SECONDED by Councillor Nicole Albright to approve the amendments to Article P14 – Vacation Policy.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

c. **Article P39 – Four Day Work Week**

It is MOVED by Councillor Guy Surette and SECONDED by Councillor Ted Saulnier to approve the amendments to Article P39 – Four Day Work Week.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

d. **Executive Meeting – End of May**

Consensus to move the Executive Meeting of Council from May 30 to May 23.

14. **Correspondence and For Information**

a. **Letter to the Honourable John Lohr re Service Exchange**

Council received correspondence regarding the service exchange.

b. **Invitation for Selection Process for the Host Municipality of the 46th “Finale des Jeux de l’Acadie” in 2027**

Council received an invitation for the selection process to be the host municipality for the 46th “Finale des Jeux de l’Acadie” in 2027.

c. **Public Engagement on the Marine Conservation Network Plan for the Scotian Shelf-Bay of Fundy Bioregion**

Council received correspondence regarding public engagement on the Marine Conservation Network Plan for the Scotian Shelf-Bay of the Fundy Bioregion.

d. **Low Income Tax Exemptions 2024**

Council received the totals from the Low-Income Tax Exemptions for 2024.

e. **Correspondence from Oceans and Fisheries Canada**

Council received correspondence from Oceans and Fisheries Canada regarding the concerns about Abbots Harbour.

f. **Memo to CAO – Plow Truck Tender**

Council received correspondence on the Plow Truck Tender that ended on April 30th.



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It is MOVED by Councillor Guy Surette and SECONDED by Councillor Ted Saulnier to accept Little Chevrolets offer for the plow truck.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The CAO will check the MGA regarding requirements for budgeting a capital item and accepting an offer on the capital item.

g. **Marketing Levy Ad Hoc Committee – Deputy CAO**

Deputy CAO Scott Surette stated that amendments need to be made to Article C05 -Citizen Appointment to Committees, Commissions and Boards in order to create the requested Ad-Hoc Committee.

15. **Financial Requests – Deferred until after Budget Deliberation**
16. **Agenda Topics for the next meeting/Notice of Motion by Councillors**
17. **Question Period**
18. **In-Camera – Section 22:2 (E)**
 - a. **Potential Land Purchase**

The Council went to the in-camera session at 8:10 p.m.

Council came out of the in-camera session at 9:09 p.m. to make the following motion:

It is MOVED by Councillor Ted Saulnier and SECONDED by Councillor Calvin d'Entremont to provide instruction to put a bid on a property at a price discussed in camera.

19. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.



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Date Approved

Chair

Clerk/Recorder