

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, August 14, 2014
Tusket, NS 6:30 p.m.

Present: Warden Aldric d'Entremont; Deputy Warden Calvin d'Entremont; Councillors Danny Muise, Nicole Albright, Roderick Murphy Jr., Guy Surette, Lucien LeBlanc; Chief Administrative Officer Alain Muise; Solicitor Réal Boudreau and Executive Assistant/Deputy Clerk Chris Frotten.

Regrets: Councillors Kathy Bourque and Richard Donaldson.

The meeting is called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Warden Aldric d'Entremont.

Agenda:

On motion by Roderick Murphy Jr. and seconded by Danny Muise the agenda is approved with the addition of Pubnico Point Trail Association under 9aiii and Festival acadien de Wedgeport under 9aiiii.

Motion Carried

Conflict of Interest Declaration

Warden Aldric d'Entremont asks for any declarations of conflict of interest from the floor.

None declared.

Presentations and/or Petitions

None.

Adoption of Minutes

Emergency Management Organization, March 5, 2014

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Roderick Murphy Jr. that the minutes of the Emergency Management Organization of March 5, 2014, be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Regular Council Meeting, June 10, 2014

It is moved by Lucien LeBlanc and seconded by Calvin d'Entremont that the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of June 10, 2014, be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Committee of the Whole Meeting, June 24, 2014

It is moved by Calvin d'Entremont and seconded by Roderick Murphy Jr. that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of June 24, 2014, be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Business Arising from the Minutes

The report on business arising from the minutes of December 10th, 2013 is presented to Council. The report included an update on the Municipal Boundary Review and the Municipal Office Building.

Municipal Boundary Review

CAO Muise noted that the boundary review report is 95% completed and would be presented to the Regular Council Meeting on September 9, 2014. He reiterated that the deadline is December 31, 2014 but the report would be approved and submitted before that date.

Dark Sky Initiative

CAO Muise indicated that at last the last meeting, Council approved funding for the project and there is currently an outstanding application with ACOA that has not received any response yet.

Municipal Administration Building

CAO Muise noted that staff had another meeting regarding this matter and developed a general timeline for the review. He indicated that the staff committee would be requesting that an official staff-council ad-hoc committee be established to move the capital priority which was determined by Council forward.

Warden's Report

On June 11th, I had supper with travel writers from across Canada at the Yarmouth light. This supper was organized by YASTA staff.

On the 13th, I led a group of 13 bikers through Pubnico for "Ride your riding" organized by Natalie Surette d'Entremont as part of Active Living program.

On June 16th and 17th, The CDÉNÉ had its meetings in the Municipality of Argyle. The meetings are rotated between Chéticamp, Petit de Gras, Clare, Argyle and Halifax.

Over the summer I attended three funding announcements by our MP Greg Kerr. One was for the play Evangéline, another was for the Women's Centre in Yarmouth and one was for YASTA.

On the 28th, I took part in the official opening of the Indian Sluice Bridge. I would like to congratulate the bridge replacement committee and the special event committee for a job well done.

On the 29th, Annie and I, along with Councillor Danny Muise, were guests at a BBQ to welcome our five resident doctors in the South West Health District.

During the month of June I attended graduations at the Tuskent Campus of Université Sainte-Anne, Drumlin Heights and Par-en-Bas. There were eighty five grade twelve graduates between both high schools.

July was also busy starting with the Canada Day breakfast on the Yarmouth waterfront put on by the Crime Prevention Association. This year we had a record attendance.

The Heartland Tour biking group travelled through S.A.R., Belleville and Tusket and I brought greetings from the Argyle council and residents at École secondaire de Par-en-Bas, where we had lunch. Thanks to the volunteers who looked after us.

On July 10th, I attended a reception on the eve of the Jody Shelley golf tournament at the Yarmouth Golf Club. The tournament has raised a lot of money for special equipment for our hospital.

On the 22nd of July I watched the play “Evangéline” at the Salle Père Maurice LeBlanc and attended the reception after the performance where I was presented with a key to Assumption Parrish in Louisiana by the writer of the play.

Councillor's Reports

Councillor Albright reported that on July 1st she attended the Knights of Columbus’ first Canada Day celebration and thanked her for our support in the form of a grant. She also attended a Municipal Alcohol Project meeting and a public meeting for the Eel Lake Oyster Farm. She also had a meeting with the Eel Brook Fire Department regarding a new Fire Hall.

Councillor LeBlanc reported that the local family softball tournament was successful once again this year. He also noted that the Tuna Tournament and the Wedgehaven Seniors were thankful for the grants they received from the municipality.

Councillor Surette noted that the bridge celebrations and the removal of the middle span was well attended and the work on the memorial album is underway; with a goal of completing it in October. He also reported on Acadian Day festivities that took place at the Amirault’s Hill Church and Hall.

Deputy Warden d’Entremont reported that the smell in the West Pubnico area around the Sewage Treatment Plan has disappeared and the Dennis Point Sewer Extension project has begun.

Other Business and for Decision

Community Name Change Request - Centre East Pubnico

Warden d’Entremont explained the community of Center East Pubnico was petitioned and is requesting that the community name be changed to Middle East Pubnico.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Roderick Murphy Jr. to send a letter to Nova Scotia Government on behalf of the Municipality of Argyle to change the name of the community from “Centre East Pubnico” to “Middle East Pubnico”.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Noise By-Law Exemption Request - CRE8 Art Centre

Warden d'Entremont explained that the CRE8 Art Centre has been having outdoor concerts on Friday and Saturday nights from 7-10 PM and would like an exemption of the noise by-law from 9-10 PM as playing loud music during that time period is contrary to the by-law.

Deputy Warden d'Entremont indicated that he attended a few concerts and noted that they are great events.

Councillor Muise questioned who had complained and whether or not it would disturb a lot of residents. Warden d'Entremont indication that a neighbour had complained but it was only once.

Councillor Albright indicated that since the event is only during the summer months and only for one extra hour that the exemption request should be granted.

It is moved by Calvin d'Entremont and seconded by Nicole Alright to approve the exemption request made by CRE8 Art Centre and extend the time which provides singing and playing music on Fridays and Saturdays by 1 hour until September 30, 2014.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Road Name Request - Brandee's Lane

CAO Muise explained that due to the fact that there are more than three residents on the driveway, that it must be officially named. He indicated that the petition which was signed by the residents on the driveway requests that Brandee's Lane be the name.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Danny Muise to accept the road name request of Brandee's Lane.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Mariners Centre Agreement

CAO Muise reviewed the agreement presented to Council and highlighted the important provisions within the agreement.

Warden d'Entremont raised a question around operating deficit and what would be done with the balance if the deficit was lower than \$100,000.

CAO Muise indicated that a provision could be added in the agreement regarding operating deficit and the use of a surplus from the funding provided by the three municipal units. He noted that a modification would have to be made to the agreement and would have to be shared with the other partners before being approved by Council.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Lucien LeBlanc to accept the Mariners Centre Agreement with the addition of a provision regarding the operating surplus and deficit.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Heritage Property De-Registration - Nehemiah D. Crocker House

Warden d'Entremont presented a request from the Heritage Advisory Committee regarding a de-registration request from the owner of the Nehemiah D. Crocker House heritage property in Plymouth.

It is moved by Calvin d'Entremont and seconded by Roderick Murphy Jr. to approve the de-registration of the Nehemiah D. Crocker House heritage property.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Mink Farming Position Paper

CAO Muise explained that Council had approved a strategic and economic development plan with a variety of objectives. He noted that staff prefers not to assume that Council would like for staff to continue on a specific objective if that is not how Council interpreted it.

For that reason, CAO Muise explained a position paper on mink farming that was developed by Brenda LaGrandeur and highlighted the potential for growth of this industry in the municipality. He also noted staff's proposed next steps and what each step would include.

Council debated when public participation should take place and what kind of information should be provided to them before meetings are scheduled.

CAO Muise reviewed the discussion by Council and proposed modifying the approach by bringing the information collecting process at the beginning and providing an opportunity for Council to review the information before going through an official public participation process. It was noted that any discussion with Council would be done in a public forum.

Tax Exemption Agreement

CAO Muise reviewed the tax exemption agreement between the Town of Yarmouth and Municipality of Yarmouth for subsidiary commissions between the three parties.

It is moved by Lucien LeBlanc and seconded by Calvin d'Entremont to accept the Tax Exemption Agreement as presented.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Waste Check Comments - Proposed Changes to Solid Waste Regulations

CAO Muise highlighted the comments provided by Waste Check regarding the proposed changes by the province to the solid waste regulations and noted that Council has not provided any comments but had until the end of September to do so. He noted that Council could direct staff to gather more information or endorse Waste Check's comments.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Roderick Murphy Jr. to endorse the comments by Waste Check on the proposed changes to Solid Waste Regulations.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Removal of Boat in Eel Lake

Councillor Albright indicated that she was looking for direction and discussion on the issue of the removal of the boat which was submerged for quite some time in Eel Lake. She began by providing a brief history of her work to date and the complaints and concerns she had heard. She noted that MLA Chris d'Entremont had solicited some government departments but with no success.

Council discussed whether they should remove the boat or not and assessed the risks associated with the removal.

Solicitor Boudreau noted that there is an official owner of the boat and suggested that Council send a demand letter to the listed owner with a deadline indicating that if the owner does not take action, the municipality would and the municipality would then sue the owner in order to seek repayment of the cost of the removal. If the owner denies ownership of the boat, the municipality could investigate the owner of the boat.

It is moved by Nicole Albright and seconded by Danny Muise to have municipal staff gather information on a precise estimate for the removal and disposal costs in accordance with the purchase policy and to send a letter to the registered owner demanding removal of the boat and to inform the owner that the municipality is obtaining quotes and that if the boat is not removed, action will be taken against the owner.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Youth Engagement Project Position Paper

CAO Muise reviewed the position paper on the Youth Engagement Project. He provided an overview of phase 1 which has been complete and explained phase 2 of the project.

It is moved by Calvin d'Entremont and seconded by Roderick Murphy Jr. to accept the recommendations of the Youth Engagement Project Position Paper and appoint Guy Surette and Lucien LeBlanc to the selection committee.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Lack of Tourism Representation on Nova Star/Portland Terminal

Councillor LeBlanc congratulated the Nova Star for their success during their inaugural year and expressed his but explained that throughout his travels on the Nova Star, he noticed there is a limited amount of marketing and publicity on the boat from either port region.

He noted that this was not a municipal issue but suggested sending a letter to the Province, YASTA, the Nova Star and the Portland terminal to try and market the areas more efficiently.

It is moved by Lucien LeBlanc and seconded by Danny Muise to send a letter to the Province of Nova Scotia, YASTA, the Nova Star and the Portland Terminal to discuss the lack of tourism advertisement of Nova Scotia on the Nova Star and in the terminal and copy all the members of the UNSM to gain support of this issue.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Correspondence and for Information

Dept. of Municipal Affairs - Financial Impact Notice

A notice was received from the Department of Municipal Affairs regarding the possible financial impacts of upcoming decisions was circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

Western Counties Regional Library Annual Report

The annual report of the Western Counties Regional Library was circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

2013 - 2014 July Building Permit Comparisons

A comparison of the building permits issued in July 2013 and 2014 was circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

Accounts Receivable Comparison

A comparison of the accounts receivable from 2013 and 2014 was circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

Financial Requests

District Community Grants

Pubnico Light Monument Society

A letter from the Pubnico Light Monument Society requesting a District Community Grant of \$500 to help with the cost of renting a porta-potty is circulated to Council.

It is moved by Calvin d'Entremont and seconded by Roderick Murphy Jr. to give a District Community Grant of \$500 to the Pubnico Light Monument Society to help with the cost of renting a porta-potty.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Le Club des Acadiens Seniors de Wedgeport

A letter from the Le Club des Acadiens Seniors de Wedgeport requesting a District Community Grant of \$500 to help with their rental costs is circulated to Council.

It is moved by Lucien LeBlanc and seconded by Roderick Murphy Jr. to give a District Community Grant of \$500 to the Le Club des Acadiens Seniors de Wedgeport to help with their rental costs.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Pubnico Point Trail Association

A letter from the Pubnico Point Trail Association requesting a District Community Grant of \$500 to help with the expenses and repairs to the Pubnico Point Trails is circulated to Council.

It is moved by Calvin d'Entremont and seconded by Roderick Murphy Jr. to give a District Community Grant of \$500 to the Pubnico Point Trail Association to help with the expenses and repairs to the Pubnico Point Trails.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Festival acadien de Wedgeport

A letter from the Festival acadien de Wedgeport requesting a District Community Grant of \$500 to help with the maintenance and repairs costs to the Monument Gazebo is circulated to Council.

It is moved by Roderick Murphy Jr. and seconded by Guy Surette to give a District Community Grant of \$500 to the Festival acadien de Wedgeport to help with the maintenance and repairs costs to the Monument Gazebo.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Notice of Motion by Councillors

None.

Question Period

None.

There being no further business, it is moved by Lucien LeBlanc and seconded by Roderick Murphy Jr. to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting at 8:26 p.m.

Recorder
Chris Frotten

Date Approved: _____

Chairman/Warden _____

Alain Muise, Chief Administrative Officer _____