MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
Tuesday, November 24, 2015
Tusket, NS 6:30 p.m.

Present: Warden Aldric d’Entremont; Deputy Warden Calvin d’Entremont; Councillors Danny Muise, Nicole Albright, Guy Surette, Kathy Bourque, Richard Donaldson; Chief Administrative Officer Alain Muise, Director of Finance Marsha d’Eon and Executive Assistant/Deputy Clerk Chris Frotten.

Regrets: Councillors Roderick Murphy Jr. and Lucien LeBlanc.

The Committee of the Whole Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Deputy Warden Calvin d’Entremont.

Agenda:
On a motion by Aldric d’Entremont and seconded by Danny Muise, the agenda was approved with the addition of District Community Grant under 8a.
Motion Carried

Conflict of Interest Declaration:
Deputy Warden Calvin d’Entremont asked for any declarations of conflict of interest from the floor.

None declared.

Presentations and/or Petitions
None.

Business Arising from the Minutes
CAO Muise updated Council on the work of the Building Review Committee and the potential public engagement strategies to be used during the review. He also indicated that the amendment to the Dangerous or Unsightly Policy will be presented to Council in the near future.

Voluntary Disposition of Property
CAO Muise presented a request for decision regarding the request from Council to review the MGA and contact the PVSC and Province regarding voluntary disposition of property.

It is moved by Danny Muise and seconded by Aldric d’Entremont to deny the taxpayer request for a tax rebate on voluntary disposition of property, in accordance with our policy and Section 69 of the MGA.
Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Financial Report
CAO Muise summarized the financial report at November 30, 2015 and indicated an anticipated surplus at fiscal year-end. He noted the considerable positive variances in the
revenues and a variety of positive variances in the expenditures which resulted in the anticipated surplus as at March 31, 2016 of almost $138,333.

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Roderick Murphy Jr. to accept the unaudited Financial Report at October 31, 2015.

*Motion carried (7 in favour, 0 against)*

Financial Report Attached

**Other Business and for Decision**

**Welcome Pole Banners**

Councillor Surette suggested that Staff review the cost of installing welcome banners on the telephone poles next to the 15 tourism sites. He expressed that it would bring pride to the community during the tourism season and help highlight our tourism sites.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Aldric d'Entremont to have Staff review the cost of purchasing and installing welcome pole banners at the 15 tourism sites across the municipality and report back at the next meeting.

*Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)*

**Hipson Bridge Condition**

Councillor Bourque explained that there had been icicles forming on the Hipson Bridge in East Pubnico and that the structure should be assessed and repaired since it is a historical asset.

Council questioned the operation/maintenance and ownership of the bridge. Councillor Bourque explained that there was a committee responsible for the maintenance of the site and that the municipality was the owner.

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Guy Surette that Council direct Staff to assess the condition of the bridge and evaluate the cost of repairs and return the information to Council.

*Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)*

**Plebiscite on Administration Building Review**

Councillor Surette presented his request to do a cost assessment of conducting a plebiscite on the administration building review during or separate of the 2016 municipal election.

Council discussed the general election costs of the previous election, the timeframe of a decision on the administration building and the use of the plebiscite information.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Richard Donaldson to have Staff to determine the cost of a plebiscite by electronic and paper voting on a new administration building or retrofitted building during or separate from the 2016 municipal election.

*Motion Denied (1 in favour, 6 against)*

**Nakile Home For Special Care - Partial Tax Exemption Request**

CAO Muise presented a request from the Nakile Home for Special Care to continue their partial tax exemption which was granted to them last year.
It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Kathy Bourque to approve a partial tax exemption for one year to Nakile Home For Special Care in the amount of $17,680.  
*Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)*

**Tax Exemption List Review**

CAO Muise explained that Council should review schedule A of the Tax Exemptions By-Law, which lists all of the organizations which are tax exempt to determine whether it will continue its exemption or be deleted from the list. He noted that the list was reviewed by Staff and that no changes were to be reported.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Kathy Bourque to approve the list of tax exemptions.  
*Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)*

**Request for Relief of Interest**

It is moved by Aldric d’Entremont and seconded by Nicole Albright to relieve the interest on property 05268052 for $8.62.  
*Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)*

**December Meetings**

Council discussed the dates of the December meetings due to the start of the fishing season and the holidays.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Richard Donaldson to cancel the December Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 29th.  
*Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)*

**Argyle Fire Fighters’ Association - Proposed Changes to MGA**

CAO Muise explained the concern of the Firefighters’ Association regarding the suggested changes to the MGA to Section 10 on Fire Services and their lack of input in the process.

Council discussed the association’s concerns and their fear of the amalgamation of fire services.

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Guy Surette to send a letter to the Fire Fighters’ Association stating Council’s position on fire services.  
*Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)*

**Building Review Financing Options**

Councillor Surette wished to raise the financing options at the meeting to present the information to the public and requested information on where the remaining portion of a new building or retrofit building budget would come from.

CAO Muise presented to Council additional information regarding financial options which was attached to the agenda. He noted that at the present time, the Municipality had sufficient funds in the capital reserve to pay for either option. He explained that in any
case, whether the Municipality would borrow or not, the reserves would pay for the project.

**Letter of Support - Monument de l'Odyssée acadienne**
Deputy Clerk Frotten explained the monument project to Council and the request from the Conseil acadien de Par-en-Bas for a letter in support of it.

It is moved by Aldric d’Entremont and seconded by Kathy Bourque to send a letter in support of the Monument de l’Odyssée project to the Conseil acadien de Par-en-Bas. *Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)*

**Correspondence and for Information**
*Thank You from Mayor Régis Labeaume*
A thank you letter from the Mayor of Québec City, Régis Labeaume was circulated to Council. No action was requested by Council.

**Financial Requests**
*District Community Grant*

**Kemptville District Volunteer Fire Department**
A letter from the Kemptville District Volunteer Fire Department requesting a District Community Grant of $500 to help with the cost of repairs to the fire hall is circulated to Council.

It is moved by Danny Muise and seconded by Nicole Albright to give a District Community Grant of $500 to the Kemptville District Volunteer Fire Department to help with the cost of repairs to the fire hall. *Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)*

**Notice of Motion**
None.

**Question Period**
None.

There being no further business, it is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Nicole Albright to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting at 7:56 pm.

Recorder
Chris Frotten
Date Approved: ________________________________

Chairman/Deputy Warden ________________________________

Alain Muise, Chief Administrative Officer ________________________________