

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, March 28, 2017
Tusket, NS 6:30 p.m.

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

Regrets: None.

The meeting is called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Deputy Warden Danny Muise.

Agenda:

On motion by Roderick Murphy Jr. and seconded by Kathy Bourque the agenda is approved with the addition of Wedgeport Trail Committee under 13avii, Jean Léo Surette Plaque under 13aviii and Pubnico Area Lions Club under 13ix.

Motion Carried

Conflict of Interest Declaration

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

None declared.

Presentations and/or Petitions

None.

Adoption of Minutes

Emergency Management Organization Planning Committee Meeting - January 4, 2017

It is moved by Nicole Albright and seconded by Guy Surette that the minutes of the Emergency Management Organization Planning Committee Meeting of January 4, 2017, be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Building Committee Meeting - February 6, 2017

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Roderick Murphy Jr. that the minutes of the Building Committee Meeting of February 6, 2017, be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Regular Council Meeting - February 14, 2017

It is moved by Calvin d'Entremont and seconded by Nicole Albright that the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of February 14, 2017, be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Committee of the Whole Meeting - February 28, 2017

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Glenn Diggdon that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 28, 2017, be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Business Arising from the Minutes

CAO Muise provided an update on the Welcome Pole Banners project and the Hipson Bridge report.

Growing Communities Scholarship Program Amendment

Deputy Clerk Frotten outlined the amendments to the eligibility criteria of the Growing Communities Scholarship Program.

It is moved by Lucien LeBlanc and seconded by Roderick Murphy Jr. to approve the amendments to the Growing Communities Scholarship Program Policy.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Hipson Bridge Report

CAO Muise summarized the assessment report completed on the Hipson Bridge. He highlighted the repair options and their associated costs. He suggested that a long-term plan be developed and that it be assessed through the budget process.

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Glenn Diggdon to accept the Hipson Bridge Report and develop a 5-year strategy on its repair.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Grants to Organizations Policy Amendment

Deputy Warden Muise explained the amendments to the eligibility criteria of the Community Grants.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Roderick Murphy Jr. to approve the amendments to the Grants to Organizations Policy.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Warden's Report

Feb. 14th – Regular Council

Feb 21st – Priority Establishing Workshop

Feb 23rd - 24th – Accountability and Transparency Workshop (Halifax)

Feb 28th – MP Colin Fraser, funding announcement

Feb 28th – EMO Advisory Committee

Feb 28th – Council, Committee of the Whole

Councillor's Reports

Councillor Albright reported on her attendance at the EMO Advisory Committee meeting and the EMO meeting where they discussed safety concerns of the local dirt roads. She reported on her attendance at the RCMP Advisory Committee meeting and a meeting with the CAPEB and the FANE on the provincial electoral boundaries. She also reported on her attendance at the Recreation Commission meeting where they set their soccer executive and her on her attendance at a town hall meeting with the PC Party of Nova Scotia regarding the education system.

Councillor LeBlanc provided an update on the Western Regional Enterprise Network's budget and business plan and reported some concerns raised by residents regarding speeding in the community.

Councillor Diggdon reported on a meeting he had with residents at the Bellevue Apartments and his attendance at the EMO Advisory Committee meeting and his work on a community development plan.

Councillor Surette reported on his attendance at a meeting of the Liaison and Oversight Committee of the Yarmouth International Airport Corporation.

Councillor d'Entremont reported on his meeting with Christopher Lockyer of the Bay of Fundy Sea Kayak Symposium.

Deputy Warden reported on his attendance at a CHOICE meeting and a transparency and accountability workshop. He advised Council of an upcoming meeting with Housing Nova Scotia regarding program and opportunities on co-op housing and affordable housing.

Staff Report

CAO Alain Muise reviewed the staff report that was circulated to Council; reporting specifically on the water supply upgrade lending agreement draft that is near completion, the building committee's location recommendation, a report submitted to the airport corporation regarding opportunities, provincial funding recently announced for rural broadband and the demolition of the Domtex Building.

Councillor d'Entremont requested an update on the odour of the West Pubnico Treatment Plant following the report. CAO Muise explained that some solutions were being discussed but that no decision had been made.

Report Attached.

Financial Report

CAO Muise summarized the financial report at February 28, 2017 and indicated an anticipated surplus at fiscal year-end. He noted the considerable positive variances in the revenues; such as the deed transfer tax; and a variety of positive variances in the expenditures which resulted in the anticipated surplus as at March 31, 2017 of \$110,102.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Lucien LeBlanc to accept the unaudited Financial Report at February 28, 2017.
Motion carried (9 in favour, 0 against)
Financial Report Attached

Council Priorities Progress Report

Deputy Warden Muise reviewed the progress report on Council's priorities.

Other Business and for Decision

RCMP Related Concerns

Warden Donaldson raised safety concerns during the moving of lobster boats from a boat shop in his district to the Argyle wharf. He noted that communication could be improved to avoid issues during a move.

CAO Muise noted that EMO could help coordinate the circulation of information to the residents and arrange for signage at the boundaries of the route.

Councillor LeBlanc raised a speeding issue in Wedgeport around the school and the church and Councillor Bourque raised the issue of text messaging while driving.

Councillor Albright noted that she would forward Council's concerns to the Staff Sergeant.

I-Valley Internet Project

CAO Muise outlined the general details of the project lead by I-Valley. He noted that an official funding request had not yet been received.

Council opted to defer their decision on this item until they received an official request.

Letter of Request - Provincial Boundaries

Councillor Leblanc provided Council with a brief history of the provincial boundary amendments in 2011, an explanation of the recent developments following a decision by the Nova Scotia Court of Appeals that the amendments were unconstitutional and the importance of protected boundaries.

It is moved by Lucien LeBlanc and seconded by Kathy Bourque to draft a resolution, to be sent to all three political parties, stating that Council wishes the provincial boundaries be returned as they were before the amendments in 2011 and that the adjustment be made before the next election.
Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

2017 Council Priorities

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Lucien LeBlanc to accept the 2017 Council priorities as presented.
Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Building Committee - Location Recommendation

CAO Muise explained that negotiations were ongoing and an appraisal had been requested to gather more information regarding a property in question. He noted that, due to the negotiations, no specific information could be disclosed but expected that at the next meeting, a public decision can be made.

Correspondence and for Information

Region of Queens Solid Waste Management Facility Fees

Correspondence from the Region of Queens Municipality regarding the increase in solid waste management facility fees was circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

WREN Newsletter #6

The 6th edition of the Western Regional Enterprise Network's newsletter was circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

Letter from Frank Saulnier

A letter from Frank Saulnier, a resident of the Municipality of Argyle was circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

Gary J. Surette Memorial Association - NHL Alumni Event

Correspondence from the Gary J. Surette Memorial Association regarding an upcoming NHL Alumni Event Fundraiser was circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

Jadon Robinson Memorial Golf Tournament

Correspondence from Acadia First Nation regarding the Jadon Robinson Memorial Golf Tournament was circulated to Council for their information.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Roderick Murphy Jr. to send a letter that this request is considered a grant to organization and that they apply through that program.
Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Financial Requests

Community Grants

Les amies du Musée

A letter from Les amies du Musée requesting a Community Grant of \$500 to help with the cost of materials was circulated to Council.

It is moved by Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Calvin d'Entremont to give a Community Grant of \$500 to Les amies du Musée to help with the cost of materials.
Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Bellevue Apartments

A letter from a group of residents at the Bellevue Apartments requesting a Community Grant of \$500 to help with the purchase of new furniture was circulated to Council.

It is moved by Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Kathy Bourque to give a Community Grant of \$500 to the Western Regional Housing Authority to help with the purchase of new furniture at the Bellevue Apartments.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Immaculate Conception Cemetery Committee

A letter from the Immaculate Conception Cemetery Committee requesting a Community Grant of \$500 to help with the cost of improvements to the cemetery was circulated to Council.

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Glenn Diggdon to give a Community Grant of \$500 to the Immaculate Conception Cemetery Committee to help with the cost of improvements to the cemetery.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Indian Sluice Seniors Club

A letter from the Indian Sluice Seniors Club requesting a Community Grant of \$500 to help with the cost of some of their activities was circulated to Council.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Nicole Albright to give a Community Grant of \$500 to the Indian Sluice Seniors Club to help with the cost of some of their activities.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Seal Island 1906 Old Baptist Meeting Place Society

A letter from the Seal Island 1906 Old Baptist Meeting Place Society requesting a Community Grant of \$500 to help with the cost of repairing their church was circulated to Council.

It is moved by Calvin d'Entremont and seconded by Kathy Bourque to give a Community Grant of \$500 to the Seal Island 1906 Old Baptist Meeting Place Society to help with the cost of repairing their church.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Lower Argyle Harbour View Cemetery Committee

A letter from the Lower Argyle Harbour View Cemetery Committee requesting a Community Grant of \$500 to help with the cost of materials was circulated to Council.

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Glenn Diggdon to give a Community Grant of \$500 to the Lower Argyle Harbour View Cemetery Committee to help with the cost of materials.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Wedgeport Trail Committee

A letter from the Wedgeport Trail Committee requesting a Community Grant of \$500 to help with the cost of materials was circulated to Council.

It is moved by Lucien LeBlanc and seconded by Roderick Murphy Jr. to give a Community Grant of \$500 to the Wedgeport Trail Committee to help with the cost of materials.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

John Léo Surette Plaque

A letter from a resident involved in honouring John Léo Surette with a plaque requesting a Community Grant of \$500 to help with the cost of the plaque was 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 resident involved in honoring John Léo Surette with a plaque to help with the cost of plaque.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Pubnico Area Lions Club

A letter from the Pubnico Area Lions Club requesting a Community Grant of \$500 to help with the cost of materials was circulated to Council.

It is moved by Calvin d'Entremont and seconded by Kathy Bourque to give a District Community Grant of \$500 to the Pubnico Area Lions Club to help with the cost of materials.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Grants

Conseil acadien de Par-en-Bas

A letter from the Conseil acadien de Par-en-Bas requesting a grant of \$2,000 to help cover the cost for the “Odyssée acadienne” monument was circulated to Council.

It is moved by Calvin d'Entremont and seconded by Roderick Murphy Jr. to give a grant of \$2,000 to the Conseil acadien de Par-en-Bas to help with the cost of completing the project.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Agenda Topics for Next Meeting / Notice of Motion by Councillors

Councillor Bourque raised the lack of use of the Nakile van and noted she would be bringing possible municipal uses for this van at an upcoming meeting.

Councillor LeBlanc noted that he would be bringing forward during the budget process the possibility of Council setting funding aside in the budget for the demolishing of dangerous or unsightly properties.

Question Period

One resident, via Facebook, requested an update from Council on the potential reduction of EHS services in the Pubnico area.

In Camera

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Guy Surette to recess the Regular Council Meeting and go In-Camera to discuss a Personnel Matter and Contract Negotiations.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Danny Muise to recess the In-Camera meeting and go back to the Regular Council Meeting.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Nicole Albright to appoint Adam Randall as a volunteer representative of the Municipality of Argyle on the Mariners Centre Board.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

It is moved by Lucien LeBlanc and seconded by Roderick Murphy Jr. to amend the position of Deputy Clerk – Executive Assistant to reflect its added responsibilities and that the CAO be authorized to designate Chris Frotten as the Municipal Clerk

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

There being no further business, it is moved by Roderick Murphy Jr. and seconded by Guy Surette to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting at 9:17 p.m.

Recorder
Chris Frotten

Date Approved: _____

Chairman/Warden _____

Alain Muise, Chief Administrative Officer _____