

**MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**  
**Tuesday, April 25, 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, Glenn Diggdon; Chief Administrative Officer Alain Muise, Director of Finance Marsha d'Eon and Executive Assistant/Deputy Clerk Chris Frotten.

**Regrets:** None.

The Committee of the Whole Meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. by Deputy Warden Danny Muise.

**Agenda:**

On a motion by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Roderick Murphy Jr., the agenda was approved with the addition of Réseau des Villes Francophones under item 7h.

*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**

Bouctouche Bay Industries – Raymond Ouellette and Steen Gunderson

Mr. Raymond Ouellette and Steen Gunderson, with Bouctouche Bay Industries, were in attendance to make a presentation to Council regarding their oyster farming system – OysterGro.

Mr. Gunderson began the presentation by explaining to Council the various designs and practical uses of the system. He noted the business planning and mentoring services they offer to startup businesses and demonstrated the environmental advantages of the system. He also described the economic and environmental benefits of oyster farming in general and touched on the potential of the oyster farming in the municipality.

Council asked questions on the specifics of the system, on the business potential of oyster farming and their business planning process.

*Presentation Attached.*

**Business Arising from the Minutes**

CAO Muise updated Council on the ongoing design work of the Welcome Pole Banners project

### Dangerous or Unsightly Demolition Funding

Councillor LeBlanc raised the issue of long standing dangerous or unsightly premises cases in the municipality and the difficulty of finding a suitable solution that would not encumber a resident financially but would respect the communities and its residents who file complaints. He noted a specific example from within his district which caused financial and emotional hardship on a resident and challenged Council to

It is moved by Lucien LeBlanc and seconded by Roderick Murphy to have staff research proactive solutions to dangerous or unsightly premises policies in the municipality and present them to Council.

*Motion carried (9 in favour, 0 against)*

### Department of Transportation Communication

Councillor Albright expressed her concerns over the recent communication shortfalls with the local area office of the Department of Transportation regarding resident complaints. In an effort to solve this issue, she requested to schedule a meeting with the new area manager of TIR in order to discuss resident road issues as well as a schedule of grading and brush cutting for the spring.

Council discussed individual situations within their districts and the possible need to raise the communication issue with the Minister of Transportation.

It is moved by Nicole Albright and seconded by Kathy Bourque to schedule a meeting with the Area Manager of the Department of Transportation to discuss resident issues with roads and schedule of grading and brush cutting.

*Motion carried (9 in favour, 0 against)*

It is moved by Calvin d'Entremont and seconded by Kathy Bourque to send a letter to the Minister and Deputy Minister of the Department of Transportation regarding the lack of communication with the area office of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal.

*Motion carried (9 in favour, 0 against)*

### **Council Priorities Progress Report**

Deputy Warden Muise presented the progress of Council's priorities. As the priorities were new, there was no major progress to report.

### **Financial Report**

Director of Finance d'Eon summarized the financial report at March 31, 2017 and indicated an anticipated surplus at fiscal year-end. She noted the considerable positive variances in the revenues; such as the deed transfer tax; and a variety of positive variances in the expenditures of I.T. equipment, council conferences and Department of Public Works position vacancies which resulted in the anticipated surplus of \$198,170.

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Calvin d'Entremont to accept the unaudited Financial Report at March 31, 2017.

*Motion carried (9 in favour, 0 against)*

*Financial Report Attached*

## **Other Business and for Decision**

### Support for Cancer Unit in Yarmouth

Councillor Bourque brought forward the recent motion of the Town of Yarmouth in which they approved to send a letter to the Department of Health to request a cancer unit at the Yarmouth Regional Hospital.

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Nicole Albright to send a letter to the Department of Health in support of the Town of Yarmouth's motion.

*Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)*

### Draft 2017-2018 Operating Budget and Highlights

CAO Muise presented the draft operating budget, noting specifically:

- A 2% increase in tax revenues and a \$13,000 increase in the deed transfer tax.
- An increase in revenues from own sources which includes the sale of wind energy and various services provided to the WREN, Nakile and the Industrial Commission.
- A decrease in the interest rate.
- A \$23,000 grant from the Province to complete an investment readiness project for aquaculture in Argyle.
- A transfer to own reserves for the Domtex Textiles building demolition and East Pubnico Water Utility renovations.
- Expenditures in general government services remaining similar to the prior year.
- A \$32,000 increase in police protection costs.
- A \$42,000 increase in the Airport budget.
- A \$20,000 increase in the garbage collection and dangerous or unsightly budgets.
- A \$10,000 increase in medical incentives.
- A \$10,000 increase in environmental development services for Council's housing priority.

### Airport Liaison and Oversight Committee- Special Funding Request

Deputy Warden Muise presented a special funding request from the Airport Liaison and Oversight Committee to hire economic support, under the management of the Western Regional Enterprise Network, for the Yarmouth Airport.

Council discussed where the request originated from, what the funds would cover and the supervision and timeline of the position.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Richard Donaldson to approve a special funding request in the amount of \$32,000 for economic support at the Yarmouth Airport.

*Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)*

### Municipal Accountability and Transparency Committee Recommendations

CAO Muise presented the municipal accountability and transparency committee recommendations which were to:

- Post expenses online;
- Have stronger expense policies;
- Develop a code on conduct;
- Improve audits and audit committees; and
- Clarify the role of the Department of Municipal Affairs.

### Cannabis Legalization and Municipal Impacts Symposium

Deputy Warden Muise provided information on a cannabis legalization and municipal impacts symposium being held in Halifax and the possibility of staff attending the symposium.

It is moved by Calvin d'Entremont and seconded by Roderick Murphy Jr. to the attendance of a staff member to the cannabis legalization and municipal impacts symposium.

*Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)*

### Request for Relief of Taxes and Interest

CAO Muise explained a request to relieve taxes and interest of properties.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Kathy Bourque to relieve the taxes and interest on the account presented to Council in the amount of \$358.60.

*Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)*

### Réseau des villes francophones et francophiles d'Amérique

Deputy Warden Muise explained that Acadian Affairs approved a grant of \$1,000 to each francophone municipality in the Province to attend the next conference of the Réseau des villes francophones et francophiles d'Amérique. He noted that the Municipality had attended the inaugural event last year and that the Conseil de développement économique de la Nouvelle-Écosse approved his attendance as part of the delegation from Nova Scotia and requested approval from Council.

It is moved by Nicole Albright and seconded by Kathy Bourque to approve Deputy Warden Muise's attendance to the Réseau des villes francophones et francophiles d'Amérique.

*Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)*

### **Correspondence and for Information**

#### 2016-2017 March Building Permit Comparison

A comparison of building permits issued in March 2016 and 2017 was circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

#### Western REN Rural Broadband Project Application

The Western Regional Enterprise Network's rural broadband project application was circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

#### Fishery Magazine Article

An article written by CAO Alain Muise for a fishing magazine was circulated to Council. No action was requested by Council.

#### Yarmouth International Airport Corporation 2016-2017 Annual Report

The Yarmouth International Airport Corporation's 2016-2017 Annual Report was circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

MP Colin Fraser - Support for Western REN Rural Broadband Project Application

Correspondence from MP Colin Fraser regarding the Western Regional Enterprise Network’s rural broadband project application was circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

**Financial Requests**

None.

**Agenda Topics for Next Meeting/Notice of Motion**

It is moved by Nicole Albright and seconded by Roderick Murphy Jr. to send a letter of thank you to the Mariners Centre for helping during the drought by providing water for residents.

*Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)*

**Question Period**

A resident, via Facebook Live, requested an update on the improvement of cell phone service in the municipality.

CAO Muise explained that no significant progress was made on the improvement of cell phone service but that investments were being made in improving internet service that could benefit cell service.

**In Camera**

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Roderick Murphy Jr. to recess the Regular Council Meeting and go In-Camera to discuss a Personnel Matter.

*Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)*

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

*Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)*

There being no further business, it is moved by Roderick Murphy Jr. and seconded by Kathy Bourque to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting at 9:23 p.m.

Recorder  
Chris Frotten

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman/Deputy Warden \_\_\_\_\_

Alain Muise, Chief Administrative Officer \_\_\_\_\_