MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
Thursday, February 1, 2018
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 and Kathy Bourque; Chief Administrative Officer Alain Muise and Municipal Clerk Chris Froten.

Regrets: Councillor Glenn Diggdon.

The Committee of the Whole Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Deputy Warden Danny Muise.

Agenda:
On a motion by Guy Surette and seconded by Kathy Bourque, the agenda was approved with the addition of Amirault’s Hill and Hubbard’s Point Fire Department Community Grant under item 10av and New Airport Board Member under 7f.
Motion Carried

Conflict of Interest Declaration:
Deputy Warden Danny Muise asked for any declarations of conflict of interest from the floor.

None declared.

Presentations
Western REN Atlantic Immigration Pilot - Gino Thibeault
Mr. Gino Thibeault, Western REN Immigration Lead, was in attendance to make a presentation to Council regarding the Western REN’s Atlantic Immigration Pilot Project.

Mr. Thibeault introduced the project by explaining the background and pathways to immigration, the western region’s statistics and eligible candidates. Mr. Thibeault also highlighted the benefits of the project, explained how businesses can get involved and noted the successes of the project to date.

Council asked questions on the length of the process for employers and the use of the program for fish plants.

Presentation Attached (18020101)

Mariners Centre Capital Request - Gil Dares
Mr. Gil Dares, General Manager of the Mariners Centre, was in attendance to make a presentation to Council regarding a capital assistance financial request to help with the costs of a new Zamboni.
Mr. Dares explained why a new Zamboni needed to be purchased, noted the various features and options available and outlined the costs.

*Presentation Attached (18020102)*

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Lucien LeBlanc to contribute one-third of the cost of a new Zamboni, for a total $42,227.00, to the Mariners Centre.

*Motion carried (8 in favour, 0 against)*

**Council Priorities Progress Report**

Deputy Warden Muise presented the progress of Council’s priorities. CAO Muise provided a brief summary on the progress of the new administration building project.

Council question work happening on the property. CAO Muise provided an update for the public on the geothermal testing taking place on the property of the new administration building. He noted the testing was required to test the suitability of the property for geothermal heating in an effort to make the building “net-zero” in energy efficiency. He explained that the achievement would make a low interest loan and grant program application to the FCM more attractive.

**Financial Report**

CAO Muise presented a summary of the financial position and summarized the financial report at December 31, 2017 which was indicating an anticipated surplus at fiscal year-end. He noted that a variety of positive variances in the expenditures of Council related benefits, dangerous and unsightly property cleanups and Recreation Department and Courthouse & Archives expenses resulted in the anticipated surplus of $168,994.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Roderick Murphy Jr. to accept the unaudited Financial Report at December 31, 2017.

*Motion carried (8 in favour, 0 against)*

*Financial Report Attached (18020103)*

**Strategic Priority Topics**

None.

**For Decision**

**Department of Public Works Fleet Expansion**

Mr. Hans Pfeil, Director of Public Works, was seeking improvements to the municipal fleet in an effort to reduce operational costs. He presented a request for decision proposing to upgrade the Ford Ranger to a half ton truck due to the end of life and limited use of the Ranger and to purchase a new or used half ton truck with a single crew cab to be used by the West Pubnico Water Treatment Plant.

It is moved by Roderick Murphy Jr. and seconded by Lucien LeBlanc to replace the 2009 Ford Ranger in the current fiscal year using operational surplus and to purchase a new/used vehicle for the West Pubnico Wastewater operations in the current fiscal year, in accordance with our procurement policy.

*Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)*
2018 Summer Recreation Staff Budget

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Nicole Albright to approve the 2018 Summer Recreation Staff Budget in the amount of $76,778.00.

*Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)*

Low-Income Tax Rebate Policy Amendments
CAO Muise noted Council’s request to review the current low-income tax rebate and consider the idea of increasing the eligibility. He explained the possible options after his review of the program and noted some of the major decisions Council would be required to make based on their chosen options.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Kathy Bourque that Council make official notice of change to the Tax Exemption Policy to include the following:

Family income 0 - $17,600 – $200 exemption
Family income $17,601 - $22,600 – $150 exemption
Family income $22,601 - $26,000 – $100 exemption

And that the Policy amendment be brought to February Regular Council meeting for approval.

*Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)*

Dewatering Solution – West Pubnico Waste Water
Mr. Hans Pfeil, Director of Public Works, presented another request for decision to Council to inform them of a potential change of direction to deal with the dewatering process at the West Pubnico Sewer Treatment Plant. He explained in detail the option of purchasing a mobile dewatering solution which would eliminate the need for a centrifuge to be installed at the West Pubnico Sewer Treatment plant and could be used to service the wastewater tanks in Tusket and Wedgeport. He noted that the cost would be less than the initial budget set aside for the centrifuge and would increase the efficiency of delivery of service.

It is moved by Calvin d’Entremont and seconded by Kathy Bourque to authorize CAO Muise to retender the dewatering project in favor of a mobile dewatering option and that the original tender be cancelled; both being arranged as soon as possible.

*Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)*

Tusket Crosswalk Petition
Deputy Warden Muise presented a petition which was received on January 29, 2018 requesting that a crosswalk be installed on Highway 308 between Carl’s Store and the Courthouse in Tusket.

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Lucien LeBlanc that Council request the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal to investigate the installation of a crosswalk on Highway 308 between the Argyle Courthouse and Carl’s Store and evaluate the safety of the intersection of Highway 3 and Highway 308.

*Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)*
New Airport Board Member Appointment
Deputy Warden Muise indicated that Mr. Lloyd McDougal was recommended as a community member on the Yarmouth International Airport Board.

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Roderick Murphy Jr. to accept the Airport Board’s recommendation to appoint Mr. Lloyd MacDougall to their board.
Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Other Business
Contribution to Jeux de l'Acadie Foundation Fundraising Campaign
A request to contribute to the Fondation des Jeux de l’Acadie’s fundraising campaign was presented to Council.

It is moved by Roderick Murphy Jr. and seconded by Lucien LeBlanc to support the fundraising campaign in the amount of $1,000.
Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Illegal Garbage Dumping and Burning
Councillor d’Entremont raised a garbage dumping and burning issue he experienced in his district and his residents’ request to strengthen the regulations and penalties of the solid waste by-law.

Council discussed solutions used in the past to attempt to stop illegal dumping and burning of garbage and the possibility of increasing the penalties of the by-law.

Domtex Demolition Budget Update
CAO Muise updated Council on the cost of tipping fees associated with the disposal of waste of the Domtex demolition. He noted that the Waste Park would forgive the fees as there is no need for a new cell at this time but that once a new cell was necessary, the cost would be incurred at that time.

Port of Yarmouth
CAO Muise noted that the Town and Municipality of Yarmouth were requesting what the Municipality of Argyle’s intentions would be once the assets of the Port of Yarmouth were removed from the Industrial Commission.

Council discussed how the Port of Yarmouth assets became a part of the Industrial Commission and commented on the ongoing position of the Municipality to avoid funding Port of Yarmouth assets as there were many wharfs in the municipality that they did not provide financial assistance to.

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Roderick Murphy Jr. to inform the Yarmouth and Area Industrial Commission that the Municipality of Argyle intends to leave the Port of Yarmouth once it is created, pending legal advice.
Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)
Correspondence and for Information
Letter from the Prime Minister - Municipal Awareness Video
A letter from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau thanking the students of École Belleville who participated in the Municipality’s municipal awareness videos was circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

Western REN Investment Opportunities & Strategies
A report on the investment opportunities and strategies of the area was circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

Waste Check Update
A Waste Check newsletter was circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

Municipal Officer's Expense Allowance Update
An update on the municipal officer’s expense allowance was circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

2017 SPCA Annual Report
The SPCA’s 2017 annual report was circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

2018 Assessment Roll Media Kit - Property Valuation Services Corporation
Property Valuation Services Corporation’s 2018 assessment roll media kit was circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

Western REN January 2018 Newsletter
The Western REN’s January 2018 newsletter was circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

Hubbard's Point & Area Community Development Association - Comfort Centre Response
A letter from the Hubbard’s Point & Area Community Development Association responding to the Municipality’s request to upgrade the hall to a comfort centre was circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

Financial Requests

Community Grants

Comité d'école consultatif de Pubnico-Ouest
A letter from the Comité d'école consultatif de Pubnico-Ouest requesting a Community Grant of $500 to help purchase toys for the grandir en français students which cannot use the playground was circulated to Council.

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Calvin d’Entremont to give a Community Grant of $500 to the Comité d'école consultatif de Pubnico-Ouest to help purchase toys for the grandir en français students which cannot use the playground.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)
Hubbard's Point Community Centre
A letter from the Hubbard's Point Community Centre requesting a Community Grant of $500 to help with the cost of their annual rappie pie and seafood chowder supper fundraiser was circulated to Council.

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Roderick Murphy Jr. to give a Community Grant of $500 to the Hubbard's Point Community Centre to help with the cost of their annual rappie pie and seafood chowder supper fundraiser.  
Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Abram's River Wharf Association
A letter from the Abram's River Wharf Association requesting a Community Grant of $500 to help with the cost of a “Welcome to Abrams River” sign was circulated to Council.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Kathy Bourque to give a Community Grant of $500 to the Abram's River Wharf Association to help with the cost of a “Welcome to Abrams River” sign.  
Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Club Social des Îles
A letter from the Club Social des Îles requesting a Community Grant of $500 to help with the cost coordinating your activities and purchasing kitchen supplies.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Kathy Bourque to give a Community Grant of $500 to the Club Social des Îles to help with the cost coordinating your activities and purchasing kitchen supplies.  
Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Amirault’s Hill and Hubbard’s Point Volunteer Fire Department
A letter from the Amirault’s Hill and Hubbard’s Point Volunteer Fire Department requesting a Community Grant of $500 to help with the costs of clearing the fire pond in Hubbard’s Point was circulated to Council.

It is moved by Roderick Murphy Jr. and seconded by Guy Surette to give a Community Grant of $500 to the Amirault’s Hill and Hubbard’s Point Volunteer Fire Department to help with the costs of clearing the fire pond in Hubbard’s Point.  
Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Agenda Topics for Next Meeting/Notice of Motion
Councillor d’Entremont indicated his intention to add a discussion on the solid waste by-law to the agenda of the February 27th Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Question Period
None.

In Camera
It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Guy Surette to recess the Regular Council Meeting and go In-Camera to discuss an Acquisition, Sale, Lease and Security of Municipal Property.  
*Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)*

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Kathy Bourque to recess the In-Camera meeting and go back to the Regular Council Meeting.  
*Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)*

It is moved by Calvin d’Entremont and seconded by Nicole Albright to authorize the CAO to purchase approximately 3 acres of the property (PID# 39802402) to secure neighbouring land next to the Tusket ballpark.  
*Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)*

There being no further business, it is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Kathy Bourque to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Recorder
Chris F rotten

Date Approved:  
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Chairman/Deputy Warden  
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Alain Muise, Chief Administrative Officer  
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