

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING – BUDGET – PART I & 2
Tuesday, May 7, 2019 & Thursday, May 9, 2019
Tusket, NS 3:00 p.m.

Present: Warden Richard Donaldson; Deputy Warden Danny Muise; Councillors Nicole Albright, Guy Surette, Glenn Diggdon and Kathy Bourque; Chief Administrative Officer Alain Muise; Director of Finance Marsha d'Eon and Municipal Clerk Eilidh Canning.

Regrets: Councillors Roderick Murphy Jr., Lucien LeBlanc and Calvin d'Entremont.

The meeting was called to order at 3:08 p.m. by Warden Richard Donaldson.

Agenda:

On a motion by Guy Surette and seconded by Kathy Bourque the agenda is approved as circulated.

Motion Carried

Conflict of Interest Declaration

Warden Richard Donaldson asks for any declarations of conflict of interest from the floor.

Approval of Fire Budget

CAO Muise presented the fire budget and provided some detail regarding the budget and advised council that this budget does not include the approved area fire rates for each fire department.

Approval of Utility Budgets

Tusket Sewer Charge (Operating & Capital)

It was moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Danny Muise that Council establish an operating rate of \$265.00 per equivalent unit and the capital rate of \$213.76 per equivalent unit for the Tusket Sewer Charge for the 2019/2020 fiscal year.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

West Pubnico Sewer Charge (Operating & Capital)

It was moved by Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Kathy Bourque that Council establish an operating rate of \$280.00 per equivalent unit and the capital rate of \$211.00 per equivalent unit for the West Pubnico Sewer for 2019/2020 fiscal year.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

East Pubnico Water Utility (Operating)

It was moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Glenn Diggdon that Council establish the following rates for the East Pubnico Water Utility:

1. Middle East Pubnico - \$3,371.59 plus \$3.57 per 1,000 imperial gallons.

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2. Lower East Pubnico - \$626.15 for a 1.5-inch pipe plus \$2.10 per 1,000 imperial gallons.

3. Lower East Pubnico- \$1,001.84 for a 2-inch pipe plus \$2.10 per 1,000 imperial gallons.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Wedgeport Sewer Charge (Operating & Capital)

It was moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Nicole Albright that Council establish an operating rate of \$175.00 per equivalent unit and the capital rate of \$550.98 per equivalent unit for the Wedgeport Sewer Charge for 2019/2020 fiscal year.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

For Decision

RFD – East Pubnico Water Utilities Funding PCAP Application

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and Danny Muise that council supports the submission of an application under the Provincial Capital Assistance Program for the total amount of \$63,563 for the Middle and Lower East Pubnico Water System Upgrade projects.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Mobile Dewatering Truck Garage Construction Tender Award

It is moved by Glenn Diggdon and Kathy Bourque to support the recommendations of the Public Works Staff and is awarding the Mobile Dewatering Truck Garage Construction to GARIAN Construction at a bid price of \$119,370 + HST.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Resolutions

Interest Rate / Date On Overdue Accounts

It was moved by Nicole Albright and seconded by Danny Muise that Council establish an interest rate of 16% per annum on overdue accounts and that the current year's property taxes be payable and due by July 31st, 2019 and interest will accrue after that date.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

East Pubnico Area Rate (Year 1 of 1)

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Danny Muise that Council approve an area rate of .05 cents per \$100 of assessment be collected by means of tax billing in the areas and/or communities covered by the East Pubnico Volunteer Fire Department for the Fiscal year 2019/20, this being year 1 of 1.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

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Eel Brook & District Area Rate

It is moved by Nicole Albright and seconded by Guy Surette that Council approve an area rate equivalent to 0.0125 cents per \$100 of assessment be collected by means of tax billing in the areas and/or communities covered by the Eel Brook & District Volunteer Fire Department for the Fiscal year 2019/20, this being year 1 of 5.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Islands & District Area Rate (Year 3 of 5)

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Danny Muise that Council approve an area rate of .07 cents per \$100 of assessment be collected by means of tax billing in the areas and /or communities covered by the Islands and District Fire Department for the fiscal year 2019/20, this being year 3 of 5.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Kemptonville & District Area Rate (Year 1 of 6)

It is moved by Danny Muise and seconded by Nicole Albright that Council approve an area rate equivalent to .03 cents per \$100 of assessment be collected by means of tax billing, in the areas covered by the Kemptonville & District Volunteer Fire department for the fiscal year 2019/20, this being year 1 of 6.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Lake Vaughan Volunteer Fire Department (Year 4 of 10)

It is moved by Danny Muise and seconded by Nicole Albright that Council approve an area rate equivalent to .05 cents per \$100 of assessment be collected by means of tax billing, in the areas covered by the Lake Vaughan Volunteer Fire department for the fiscal year 2019/20, this being year 4 of 10.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Quinan & District Area Rate (Year 1 of 12)

It is moved by Nicole Albright and seconded by Kathy Bourque that Council approve an area rate equivalent to 0.10 cents per \$100 of assessment be collected by means of tax billing in the areas and/or communities covered by the Quinan & District Volunteer Fire Department for the Fiscal year 2019/20, this being year 1 of 12.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

West Pubnico Fire Protection Area Rate (Year 1 of 1)

It is moved by Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Guy Surette that Council set an area rate of .07 cents per \$100 of assessment be collected by means of tax billing in the areas and

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/or communities covered by the West Pubnico Fire Protection Association for the fiscal year 2019/20, this being year 1 of 1.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Wedgeport & District Area Rate (Year 10 of 15)

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Kathy Bourque that Council approve an area rate equivalent to .07 cents per \$100 of assessment be collected by means of tax billing, in the areas covered by the Wedgeport & District Volunteer Fire department for the fiscal year 2019/20, this being year 10 of 15.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Capital Budget and Gas Tax Expenditures

Council discussed the Capital Budget and Gas Tax expenditures listed by CAO Muisse and the purpose of each expense.

Councillor Guy Surette recommended having the East Pubnico Water Utility and the Hipson Bridge Improvements be removed from this year's budget and made part of next year's budget. Councillor Kathy Bourque concurred with councillor Guy Surette regarding the Hipson Bridge.

It was moved by Guy Surette and Nicole Albright to commit \$200,000 over 2-3 years, \$100,000 of which being committed in the 2019-2020 budget for the construction of the Eel Brook Fire Hall.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Operating Budget Deliberations (includes analysis of discretionary expenses) and Recommended Property Tax Rate

Council discussed the Operating Budget and also discussed and reviewed the proposed property tax rate that was explained in detail by CAO Muisse. Council also reviewed the assessment of discretionary expenditures as listed by CAO Muisse and the purpose of each expense.

Council discussed the additional ask from public works for the Community Litter Clean up of \$7,000, and based on the available funds in this year's proposed budget, along with considering what has already been provided to the program, fiscally, no further dollars will be provided towards the program this year.

It is moved by Glenn Diggdon and Kathy Bourque to provide a \$13,000 annual contribution for 2 years to Société Historique de Pub Ouest to support the request for a part time employee, with a review to be made by council after two years.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

There being no further business, the meeting was postponed at 6:33 PM

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and will continue Thursday, May 9th at 3:00 PM.

Special Council Meeting – Budget Meeting Part 2

Present: Warden Richard Donaldson; Deputy Warden Danny Muise; Councillors Nicole Albright, Guy Surette, Glenn Diggdon, Calvin d’Entremont. and Kathy Bourque; Chief Administrative Officer Alain Muise; Director of Finance Marsha d’Eon and Municipal Clerk Eilidh Canning.

Regrets: Councillors Roderick Murphy Jr., and Lucien LeBlanc.

The meeting was called to order at 3:36 p.m. by Warden Richard Donaldson.

Agenda:

On a motion by Guy Surette and seconded by Glenn Diggdon the agenda is approved as circulated.

Motion Carried

Conflict of Interest Declaration

Warden Richard Donaldson asks for any declarations of conflict of interest from the floor.

Approval of Fire Budget

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Kathy Bourque to approve the fire budget in the amount of \$437,594.00 and have the fire departments approach EHS / Province of Nova Scotia to cover the expense of \$9,500 for the Radios line item within the Fire Budget.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Continuation of Operating Budget Deliberations (includes analysis of discretionary expenses) and Recommended Property Tax Rates

CAO Muise continued review of the Operating Budget, and discussed the NS Music Week ask from Neil MacKenzie, from the presentation he did to council in April of this year. CAO Muise recommended council budget \$5000 this year and \$5000 next year for a NS Music Week contribution. Council agreed to CAO Muise’ recommendation for \$5000 this year and \$5000 next and will amend the existing operating budget in order to include the NS Music Week Contribution.

Council then discussed the Operating budget listed by CAO Muise and the purpose of each revenue and expense. CAO Muise then reviewed the proposals for both commercial and residential tax rates with council, briefing them on the potential consequences of each option. Council provided consensus that they feel as though a residential and commercial tax increase, as recommended (Residential increase of +1.0901 and Commercial increase

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of +2.2539) is acceptable. Council will provide an official vote on this subject at the Regular Council meeting on Wednesday, May 15th at 6:30PM.

Presentation of Operating Reserve

CAO Muise advised council that this item will be deferred to Wednesday, May 15th's council meeting.

Approval of Capital Budget

CAO Muise advised council that the change from Tuesday, May 7th's meeting is the additional costs associated with the Hipson Bridge Improvements, which went from \$30,000 to \$110,000 for improvements, which is reflected in the approval of the capital budget attachment on the May 9, 2019 agenda.

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Glenn Diggdon to approve the capital budget of \$1,617,000 as amended.
Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

There being no further business, it is moved by Glenn Diggdon to adjourn the Special Council Meeting at 4:45 p.m.

Recorder
Eilidh Canning

Date Approved: _____ May 15, 2019 _____

Chairman/Warden _____

Alain Muise, Chief Administrative Officer _____