

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, December 9, 2014
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; Solicitor Réal Boudreau and Executive Assistant/Deputy Clerk Chris Frotten.

Regrets: Councillors Roderick Murphy Jr. and Lucien LeBlanc.

The meeting is called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Warden Aldric d'Entremont.

Agenda:

On motion by Guy Surette seconded by Kathy Bourque the agenda is approved with the addition of item 10i Surveys.

Motion Carried

Conflict of Interest Declaration

Warden Aldric d'Entremont asks for any declarations of conflict of interest from the floor.

None declared.

Presentations and/or Petitions

None.

Adoption of Minutes

Regular Council Meeting, November 13, 2014

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Kathy Bourque that the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of November 13, 2014, be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Business Arising from the Minutes

The report on business arising from the minutes of November 13, 2014 was presented to Council.

Financial Report

CAO Muise summarized the financial report at November 30, 2014. He continued to anticipate a surplus at fiscal year-end but indicated that there were still projects to complete which could have an impact on the final figures. He noted the significant variances in both the revenues and expenses and provided brief explanations for each.

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Guy Surette to accept the unaudited Financial Report as at November 30, 2014.

Motion carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Financial Report Attached

Warden's Report

On November 14th, I took part in the Athletic awards ceremony at École secondaire de Par-en-Bas. It was well attended and very well organized. Congratulation to all the awards recipient and thank you to the recreation departments for a job well done.

From the 19th to the 20th, I attended an emergency management conference sponsored by the Red Cross and EMO Nova Scotia. We had some very good presentations on the Calgary flood and the Lac Megantic train derailment disaster. It is hard to imagine finding yourself in such a mess but with proper training you get over it.

I attended the tree lighting in Yarmouth and also in Tusket. They were both well attended, congratulations to all the people involved in putting those events together.

On Dec. 4th, CAO Muise and I had a meeting with the N.S. Minister of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Farming. We had some good discussions on the fishing industry, especially lobsters and what could be done to increase revenue by adding value to the product. We also spoke a lot about aquaculture and mink farming.

Councillor's Reports

Councillor Albright reported on her attendance at the athletic awards banquet, the municipal tree lighting and the Quinan community tree lighting and party.

Councillor Surette reported on the Indian Sluice Senior Club Supper on Saturday December 6th. He also reported that the Indian Sluice Bridge Album sale began and was going well.

CAO's Report

CAO Alain Muise reviewed his report that was circulated to Council; reporting on the progress of the Economic Development Committees and the Western Regional Enterprise Network, the Yarmouth International Airport and other municipal projects.

Report Attached.

Other Business and for Decision

Policy Review – Phase 1

Deputy Clerk Chris Frotten presented phase 1 of the review of the current staff and Council policies. He reviewed each policy and explained briefly the reasons for repeal, amendment or approval.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Danny Muise to repeal the Position Bonding, Salaries, Travel Allowance, Hours of Work, and the Educational Leave policies.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Kathy Bourque to amend the Method of Payment policy of as presented.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

It is moved by Danny Muise and seconded by Calvin d'Entremont to amend the Vacations policy as presented.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Richard Donaldson to amend the Cell Phones policy as presented.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Nicole Albright to amend the Holidays policy as presented.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

It is moved by Calvin d'Entremont and seconded by Kathy Bourque to amend In-Service Training policy as presented.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Richard Donaldson to amend the Association Dues policy as presented.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Guy Surette to approve the Healthy Eating in Recreation Settings policy as presented.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

CAO Muise provided an explanation to Council on the development of the streetlight policy and requested direction from Council on some sections.

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Guy Surette to approve the Streetlight policy with the recommended changes made by Council and Solicitor Boudreau.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

By-Law #35 Repeal – First Reading

CAO Muise presented By-Law #35 Repeal for first Reading.

It is moved by Calvin d'Entremont and seconded by Danny Muise that By-Law #35 be read for the first time.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Relief of Taxes and Interest Request

CAO Muise presented a request from the Tax Department to relieve the taxes and interest from specific accounts.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Kathy Bourque to relieve the taxes and interest of the accounts noted in the request in the amount of \$8,428.37.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Grant Thornton Internal Control Findings

CAO Muise outlined the recommendations from Grant Thornton regarding internal controls from the 2014 audit.

It is moved by Calvin d'Entremont and seconded by Kathy Bourque to accept the recommendations on internal controls as prepared by Grant Thornton.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

BCF Application Priorities

CAO Muise noted the new guidelines of the Building Canada Fund and the impacts they have on the Municipality's potential application of the two municipal projects which qualified for the fund: the COMFIT wind project and the Wedgeport wastewater project. He then explained his recommendation to support the Municipality of Yarmouth's application for the COMFIT wind project instead of applying for the Wedgeport wastewater project at this time.

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Danny Muise that Council support the Municipality of the District of Yarmouth's application for BCF funding for the COMFIT wind project.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Municipal Fiscal Review Response

CAO Muise presented the Municipality's response to the Provincial/Municipal fiscal review.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Richard Donaldson to approve the response as presented by CAO Muise and submit it to the Department of Municipal Affairs.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Nakile Home For Special Care – Partial Tax Exemption Policy

Warden d'Entremont presented correspondence from the the Nakile Home For Special Care requesting that Nakile be considered for a partial tax exemption under the Municipality's Tax Exemption By-Law. The Nakile Home for Special Care indicated that their assessment would increase due to the expansion and they are requesting to continue to pay the current pre-expansion rate which is currently funded by the Province.

Council debated the request and the options presented by CAO Muise.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Richard Donaldson to approve a partial tax exemption for one year to Nakile Home For Special Care in the amount of \$17,204.
Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Starlight Steering Committee Members

CAO Muise explained that Bon Temps formed a Starlight designation steering committee and had requested representation from all partners. He noted that the committee would oversee the recommendations of the consulting report and implement the guide course.

It is moved by Calvin d'Entremont and seconded by Kathy Bourque that Councillor Danny Muise be appointed to the Acadian Skies and Mi'kmaq Land Steering Committee.
Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Surveys

Councillor Surette reported on complaints he received from residents regarding an active living phone survey on behalf of the Municipality of Argyle.

Other members of Council expressed having received similar questions regarding the surveys.

CAO Muise indicated he will report Council's concerns to Natalie Surette d'Entremont, Active Living Coordinator.

Correspondence and for Information

Western Counties Regional Library November Report

The November Report of the Western Counties Regional Library was circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

Bay of Fundy Sea Kayak Symposium 2014 Final Report

The 2014 Final Report of the Bay of Fundy Sea Kayak Symposium was circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

South West Health – Bilingual Response Letter

A response letter regarding filling open positions with bilingual staff from South West Health was circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

Yarmouth Area Industrial Commission Board Meeting – October 20, 2014

Minutes from October 20, 2014 of the Yarmouth Area Industrial Commission Board Meeting were circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

Yarmouth Area Industrial Commission Special Meeting – October 30, 2014

Minutes from October 30, 2014 of the Yarmouth Area Industrial Commission Special Meeting were circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

Municipal Affairs Update Letter

A letter from the Department of Municipal Affairs updating Council on a meeting they had with Minister Mark Furey was circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

Municipality of Barrington – High Speed Internet

Correspondence from the Municipality of Barrington regarding high speed internet access was circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

Western Counties Regional Library – Minutes of September 18, 2014

Minutes from the September 18, 2014 Western Counties Regional Library Board Meeting was circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

Amendments to the NS Building Code Regulations – Municipal Affairs

Amendments to the Nova Scotia Building Code Regulations from the Department of Municipal Affairs were circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

2015-2016 PVSC Budget

Correspondence from PVSC regarding their budget was circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

2013-2014 November Building Permit Comparisons

A comparison of building permits from November 2013 and 2014 is circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

Waste Check Enforcement Officer Report, August to October 2014

A Waste Check enforcement officer report was circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

YASTA Board Member Vacancy

The Citizen Appointment policy is circulated to Council for their information as a vacancy on the YASTA Board has become available. No action was requested by Council.

Dept. of Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal – Safety Concern Response

Correspondence from the Department of Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal regarding safety concerns on Highway 103 was circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

Financial Requests

None.

Notice of Motion by Councillors

None.

Question Period

None.

There being no further business, it is moved by Calvin d'Entremont and seconded by Richard Donaldson to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Recorder

Chris Frotten

Date Approved:

Chairman/Warden

Alain Muise, Chief Administrative Officer
