

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, February 17, 2015
Tusket, NS 6:30 p.m.

Present: Councillors Danny Muise, Nicole Albright, Guy Surette, Lucien LeBlanc, Kathy Bourque, Richard Donaldson; Chief Administrative Officer Alain Muise and Executive Assistant/Deputy Clerk Chris Frotten.

Regrets: Warden Aldric d'Entremont; Deputy Warden Calvin d'Entremont and Councillor Roderick Murphy Jr.

The meeting is called to order at 6:27 p.m. by Councillor Richard Donaldson.

Agenda:

On motion by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Danny Muise the agenda is approved as circulated.

Motion Carried

Conflict of Interest Declaration

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

None declared.

Presentations and/or Petitions

RCMP Update – S/Sgt. Michel Lacroix

Mr. Michel Lacroix, Staff Sergeant of the Yarmouth Rural RCMP Detachment, was in attendance to present to Council the detachment's annual report and update of the RCMP's local work. Mrs. Peggy Boudreau, Senior Safety Coordinator, was also in attendance.

Mr. Lacroix began the presentation by reporting on the personnel changes at the detachment in the past year, their operations and priorities, their noteworthy investigations and local statistics. He indicated his intention to begin his annual plan for 2015/2016 and invited input from Council.

Mrs. Peggy Boudreau reported on the senior safety program which is entering its 3rd year. She reported on the presentations, meetings and functions held during the year as well as the clients to date and other relevant information such as revisits and referrals to the RCMP and other agencies. She noted that the program is continuing to receive notoriety in the community and that they are now receiving a good number of referrals. She also indicated that the number of total visits did not increase during the past year, but that the number of high risk files have increased.

Report Attached.

Adoption of Minutes

Regular Council Meeting, January 13, 2015

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Danny Muise that the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of January 13, 2015, be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Committee of the Whole Meeting, February 3, 2015

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Nicole Albright that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of February 3, 2015, be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

Warden's Report

On January 13th, the EMO Advisory committee met with our co-ordinator Janine to go over our disaster management plan. Thank you Janine for all of the work you are doing.

On the 15th, the active living committee met and things are progressing very well in that department thanks to Natalie.

On Jan. 19th, our CAO and I attended the HHRC (doctor recruitment) committee meeting. This was our last meeting before the changes to the Health Board structure. We will be meeting at a later date to see who will be there from the new health district.

On the 20th, I attended a shared services meeting with Mayor Mood, Warden Goodwin and our CAOs. We had very good discussions.

At 1:30 pm was the YASTA meeting and at 4:00 pm we had a good presentation from people from the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

On Jan. 22nd, I did my yearly report on CIFA radio with Warden LeBlanc of Clare and the Courier. We gave a resume of our accomplishments for 2014 and a preview of what we are working on for 2015.

On Feb. 4th, many of us were present for the ferry announcement at the Yarmouth Visitor Information Centre by Minister Sampson. Good news for 2015.

On the 10th, we had a presentation of the ferry terminal site preliminary plan. This is still in its early stage, but we are getting ready for when the right time is here.

Councillor's Reports

Councillor LeBlanc reported that he met with Wedgeport 21, a new community committee in Wedgeport, regarding their goals and ideas.

Councillor Albright reported that the Argyle Soccer club will be providing online registration through the Recreation Department's new system.

CAO's Report

CAO Alain Muise reviewed his report that was circulated to Council; reporting on the announcement of \$13 million of provincial funding for the ferry, the presentation to the regional Councils from the engineering firm on the potential second phase of construction of the Yarmouth Ferry Terminal, his attendance, along with the Community Development Officer, Charlene LeBlanc, at the Nova Scotia Aquaculture Conference, YASTA's continuing work on branding the region, Dr. Charelle d'Eon accepting 500 new patient and the tax sale which took place February 17th where 12 of the 21 properties were sold.

Report Attached.

Other Business and for Decision

Dangerous and Unsightly – Order to Remedy

Councillor Donaldson indicated that this item was deferred until the winter season was over.

This item was deferred.

Tax Exemption Policy Review

CAO Muise presented the updated tax exemption policy and noted the proposed option which was drafted from Council's preferred action plan; to help more people by increasing thresholds. He explained some of the main articles which were added to clarify the exemption process and provide a detailed definition of the terms "owner" and "principal residence".

Council questioned the impact of the increased thresholds on the budget and how the increase would be predicted.

CAO Muise indicated that it would be very difficult to predict the increase but that the budget will be increased to balance for the increased thresholds.

It is moved by Lucien LeBlanc and seconded by Danny Muise that the suggested increase in thresholds be approved and that the low income property tax rebate policy be amended to include the revisions.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Thresholds attached.

Revised List of Tax Exempted Organizations

CAO Muise noted that By-Law 28 on tax exemptions indicate that Council shall review Schedule A, which lists those organizations which are tax exempt, to determine whether it will continue its exemption or be deleted from the list. During the review process, additional organizations may be included for tax exemption.

It is moved by Danny Muise and seconded by Kathy Bourque to approve the revised list of tax exempted organizations.

List Attached.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

2015 Council Priorities – Draft

CAO Muise presented the draft version of the 2015 Council Priorities.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Lucien LeBlanc to approve the draft version of the 2015 Council Priorities.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Correspondence and for Information

Waste Check Enforcement Officer Report, Nov. 2014 to Jan. 2015

The Waste Check Enforcement Officer Report for November 2014 to January 2015 was circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

Order of Nova Scotia

Correspondence from the Secretary of the Order of Nova Scotia regarding the nominations for the Order of Nova Scotia was circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

Financial Requests

District Community Grants

Comité des aînées et des aînés de la région d'Argyle

A letter from the Comité des aînées et des aînés de la région d'Argyle requesting a District Community Grant of \$500 to help with the regroupement des aînées et des aînés de la Nouvelle-Écosse initiative is circulated to Council.

It is moved by Danny Muise and seconded by Guy Surette to reject the request as it does not qualify within the regulations of the policy.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Notice of Motion by Councillors

None.

Question Period

None.

There being no further business, it is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Lucien LeBlanc to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Recorder

Chris Frotten

Date Approved:

Chairman/Deputy Warden

Alain Muise, Chief Administrative Officer
