

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, November 10, 2015
Tusket, NS 6:30 p.m.

Present: Warden Aldric d'Entremont; Deputy Warden Calvin d'Entremont; Councillors Danny Muise, Nicole Albright, Roderick Murphy Jr., Guy Surette, Lucien LeBlanc, Kathy Bourque, Richard Donaldson; Chief Administrative Officer Alain Muise, Solicitor Réal Boudreau and Executive Assistant/Deputy Clerk Chris Frotten.

Regrets: None.

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Warden Aldric d'Entremont.

Moment of Silence - Jadon Robinson

A moment of silence was taken to honor the death of Jadon Robinson, son of Chief Deborah Robinson, on November 7th. 2015.

Presentation of a Certificate of Service

Warden Aldric d'Entremont presented a UNSM Long Service Award to Deputy Warden Calvin d'Entremont for his 15 years of service.

Agenda:

On motion by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Roderick Murphy Jr. the agenda was approved as circulated.

Motion Carried

Conflict of Interest Declaration

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

None declared.

Presentations and/or Petitions

None.

Adoption of Minutes

Regular Council Meeting, October 20, 2015

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Kathy Bourque that the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of October 20, 2015, be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Committee of the Whole Meeting, October 27, 2015

It is moved by Roderick Murphy Jr. and seconded by Danny Muise that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 27, 2015, be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Business Arising from the Minutes

CAO Muise updated Council on the municipal administration building review and the dangerous or unsightly premises policy review.

Municipal Administration Building

CAO Muise explained some minor changes to the report presented at the last meeting and presented a brief report the Department of Property Inspection and Public Works prepared for Council on the necessity of renovating the entire first floor of the building to attain an entire barrier free building if a wheelchair ramp was constructed.

CAO Muise proceeded to present a sample resolution prepared by the Warden and himself in an attempt to help Council in their decision. He did note, however, that he was prepared to answer any questions and was ready to modify the resolution as to Council's wishes.

Council proceeded to discuss the feedback received from the public on the building review report and debate the timing of the decision and the resolution regarding public consultation.

It is moved by Calvin d'Entremont and seconded by Danny Muise that

WHEREAS: Our current administrative building is housed in an old schoolhouse, constructed in 1948, and has come to its end of useful life for our current delivery of municipal services; and

WHEREAS: Council has identified the substantial retrofit of the building or a new construction as a priority in their long term capital investment planning; and

WHEREAS: An assessment of options has been prepared for Council's consideration, comparing the costs to retrofit versus the cost to build new; and

WHEREAS: The results of this analysis is that the cost of retrofit is estimated to be \$64,000 per year, and that the cost of a new building is estimated to be \$38,500 per year, with energy savings in a new building estimated to be about \$8,000 per year; and

WHEREAS: The decision to repair or build new are in excess of two million dollars, and that the funds are currently available in Municipal reserves due to a long-term savings plan initiated by Council in 1998; and

WHEREAS: While there will be no tax increases caused by this decision, the public should be consulted before a final decision is made by Council; and

WHEREAS: There is opportunity for the public to provide input on additional services and space requirements, location and other variables that impact this decision.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Municipality of the District of Argyle engage in public consultation prior to making its final decision on the future of the administrative building.

ALSO BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The public consultation and information plan include various forms of media, public meetings, and other forms of communication, and that the Municipality collect community input in the form of surveys and other methods it sees appropriate.

ALSO BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The public consultation and information process be completed by March 31, 2016 and a report brought to Council to assist in their decision.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 3 against – Roderick Murphy Jr., Guy Surette and Richard Donaldson)

Warden's Report

On October 22nd, I attended a meeting at the Airport with MP Colin Fraser, the CAOs, Mayor Mood, Warden Goodwin and Mr. Fields, the airport manager, to inform our newly elected MP on the situation of our airport.

That afternoon we had a green energy committee meeting in preparation for the public consultation meetings for our com-fit project.

On October 26th, CAO Muise and I met with Mr. Paul Wills, director of the Municipal Finance Corporation Mr. Wills was making his rounds, visiting the municipalities in the area.

On the 27th, I attended both public consultation sessions on our com-fit project in Wellington. The meetings were held at the Hebron Recreation Complex.

From Oct.28th to Nov.1st, I attended the Réseau des villes francophones et francophiles d'Amerique in Quebec City. It was a great event with eighty five cities, towns and municipalities participating.

The lodging and registration was paid for by the City of Quebec and the travel expenses by Affaires acadiennes. There were representatives from Guadalupe to Yellowknife and a lot in between. We had some very interesting sessions on various topics on the development of francophone tourism, the importance of French signage, two languages - is good for business and many more. The next step is to setup zones and we will be in the Atlantic Zone.

From Nov. 3rd to the 6th, I attended the fall UNSM conference in Halifax. It was well attended with a lot of good information to absorb in a short time. It was also a great opportunity to do some networking.

Councillor's Reports

Deputy Warden d'Entremont reported on construction of phase 2 of the Pubnico Point Trail.

Councillor Albright reported on her attendance to a newcomers' potluck and the grand opening of the new tennis courts.

Councillor Surette reported on his attendance at UNSM and found the sessions very informative.

Councillor Muise reported on his attendance at the Kemptville Fire Department Meeting where he presented the long service medals to the volunteer firefighters.

Staff Report

CAO Alain Muise reviewed his report that was circulated to Council; reporting on the Green Energy Committee's public consultations that took place on October 27th and went well, the completion of the Dark Skies training workshop which was very well attended and appreciated by the participants, the draft debt affordability model report which was received and was being reviewed and the deadline for comments for the provincial MGA review.

Report Attached.

Other Business and for Decision

Internet Usage Policy

CAO Muise presented an updated version of the Internet Usage Policy.

It is moved by Lucien LeBlanc and seconded by Richard Donaldson to approve the updated Internet Usage Policy as presented.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Letter of Support - Senior Safety Program Funding

Deputy Clerk Frotten explained that Peggy Boudreau, the Senior Safety Coordinator, was in the process of putting together the provincial application for the Senior Safety Program and was requesting a letter of support from the Municipality.

It is moved by Roderick Murphy Jr. and seconded by Calvin d'Entremont to send a letter in support of the Senior Safety Program.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Municipal Strategic Plan Update

CAO Muise presented Council an update on the municipal strategic plan objectives.

PVSC - Voluntary Disposition

Councillor Surette reported that the PVSC had a booth at the UNSM conference in which he approached and questioned them on the voluntary disposition situation in the municipality. He noted that the PVSC explained that a rebate could be given to a resident whose building was voluntarily torn down just as much as if the building was destroyed by fire or hurricane. He explained that he felt it was necessary to bring it back to Council as he checked with them a number of times and they repeated their same response.

CAO Muise explained to Council the interpretation of the act was done by the solicitor and himself and noted he did have the right, as CAO of the Municipality, to send a letter to the PVSC requesting a re-assessment of the property but that the adjustment would only be made in the following way. He reiterated that the position of the solicitor and himself, according to their interpretation of the MGA, was that an immediate adjustment could not be made in the case of voluntary disposition.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Kathy Bourque to direct the CAO to contact the PVSC to attain an official response on voluntary disposition and report back to Council.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Correspondence and for Information

Auditor General of Nova Scotia - Performance Audit

The Auditor General of Nova Scotia's Performance Audit was circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission Response

A letter of response from the CRTC regarding phone line issues in Quinan was circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

NSDFA - Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler Deployment Request

Correspondence from the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture regarding the Municipality's request to deploy acoustic Doppler current profilers was circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

2014-2015 October Building Permit Comparison

A comparison of building permits issued in October 2014 and 2015 was circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

Affaires acadiennes - Réseau des villes francophones et francophiles d'Amérique

Correspondence Affaires acadiennes regarding the funding for the Municipality's participation to the inaugural event of the Réseau des villes francophones et francophiles d'Amérique was circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

Financial Requests

None.

Notice of Motion by Councillors

Councillor Surette made a notice of motion regarding a cost assessment of a plebiscite on the question of the municipal building review, during or separate of the upcoming election.

Councillor Donaldson made a notice of motion for the January Regular Council Meeting regarding amalgamation.

Question Period

In honour of Remembrance Day, Councillor Bourque thanked the veterans for their work and providing residents with the opportunity for free speech.

There being no further business, it is moved by Danny Muise and seconded by Kathy Bourque to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting at 8:13 p.m.

Recorder

Chris Frotten

Date Approved: _____

Chairman/Deputy Warden _____

Alain Muise, Chief Administrative Officer _____