

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING - BUDGET
Tuesday, May 10, 2016
Tusket, NS 7:30 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 and Richard Donaldson; Chief Administrative Officer Alain Muise; Director of Finance Marsha d'Eon and Executive Assistant/Deputy Clerk Chris Frotten.

Regrets: None.

The meeting is called to order at 7:42 p.m. by Warden Aldric d'Entremont.

Agenda:

On a motion by Roderick Murphy Jr. and seconded by Calvin d'Entremont the agenda is approved with the addition of West Pubnico Health Club, Green Grove Cemetery, le Club des Acadiens, Apartment Nova, the New Horizons Historical Seaside Park Association, Festival acadien de Wedgeport and the Lower Argyle Cemetery.

Motion Carried

Conflict of Interest Declaration

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

Deputy Warden d'Entremont declared a conflict with the grant request from the Canadian Owners and Pilots Association.

Grants to Organizations Allocation and Approval

Council reviewed the list of organizations which requested municipal assistance through the Grants to Organizations program. CAO Muise explained that the average of all of the individual allocations of each Councillor was calculated and the results were presented. Council discussed a number of the requests and amended the allocations accordingly.

No discussion was had on the Canadian Owners and Pilots Association application, therefore Deputy Warden d'Entremont was not required to leave the Council Chambers.

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Roderick Murphy Jr. to approve grants to organizations totaling \$52,500 to various organizations (list attached).

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

District Community Grants

It is moved by Lucien LeBlanc and seconded by Roderick Murphy Jr. to maintain the District Community Grants at \$27,000 (\$3,000 per councillor).

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Low Income / Property Tax Exemption

CAO Muise presented the property tax exemption for low income dwellings.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Calvin d'Entremont to approve the low income/property tax rebate program in the amount of \$17,500.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Approval of Fire Budget

It is moved by Lucien LeBlanc and seconded by Calvin d'Entremont to approve the fire budget in the amount of \$339,039.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Approval of Sewer Budgets

Tusket Sewer Charge (Operating & Capital)

It was moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Danny Muise that Council establish an operating rate of \$245.00 per equivalent unit and the capital rate of \$210.60 per equivalent unit for the Tusket Sewer Charge for the 2016/2017 fiscal year.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

West Pubnico Sewer Charge (Operating & Capital)

It was moved by Calvin d'Entremont and seconded by Roderick Murphy Jr. that Council establish an operating rate of \$265.00 per equivalent unit and the capital rate of \$211.00 per equivalent unit for the West Pubnico Sewer for 2016/2017 fiscal year.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Resolutions

Interest Rate / Date On Overdue Accounts

It was moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Lucien LeBlanc 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 29th, 2016 and interest will accrue after that date.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

West Pubnico Fire Protection Area Rate (Year 3 of 5)

It is moved by Calvin d'Entremont and seconded by Guy Surette that Council set an area rate levy equivalent to Fifty Thousand (\$50,000) Dollars be collected by means of tax billing in the areas and /or communities covered by the West Pubnico Fire Protection Association for the fiscal year 2016/17, this being year 3 of 5.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Wedgeport & District Area Rate (Year 7 of 15)

It is moved by Roderick Murphy Jr. and seconded by Lucien LeBlanc 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 2016/17, this being year 7 of 15.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Eel Brook & District Area Rate (Year 4 of 5)

It is moved by Nicole Albright and seconded by Danny Muise that Council approve an area rate equivalent to 0.045 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 2016/17, this being year 4 of 5.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

East Pubnico Area Rate (Year 2 of 5)

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Nicole Albright 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 2016/17, this being year 2 of 5.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Islands & District Area Rate (Year 5 of 5)

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Roderick Murphy Jr. 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 Islands and District Fire Department for the fiscal year 2016/17, this being year 5 of 5.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Kemptonville & District Area Rate (Year 3 of 5)

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 2016/17, this being year 3 of 5.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Quinan & District Area Rate (Year 3 of 5)

It is moved by Nicole Albright and seconded by Calvin d'Entremont that Council approve an area rate equivalent to 0.06 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 2016/17, this being year 3 of 5.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Lake Vaughn Volunteer Fire Department (Year 1 of 10)

It is moved by Danny Muise and seconded by Kathy Bourque 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 Vaughn Volunteer Fire department for the fiscal year 2016/17, this being year 1 of 10.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

District Community Grants

Mount Pleasant Cemetery

A letter from the Mount Pleasant Cemetery is circulated to Council. They are requesting a District Community Grant of \$500 to help with the cost of general maintenance.

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Calvin d'Entremont to give a District Community Grant of \$500 to the Mount Pleasant Cemetery to help with the cost of general maintenance.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

La société historique acadienne de Pubnico-Ouest

A letter from the société historique acadienne de Pubnico-Ouest is circulated to Council. They are requesting a District Community Grant of \$500 to help with the cost of promoting their activities.

It is moved by Calvin d'Entremont and seconded by Kathy Bourque to give a District Community Grant of \$500 to the société historique acadienne de Pubnico-Ouest to help with the cost of promoting their activities.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Knights of Columbus 8988

A letter from the Knights of Columbus 8988 is circulated to Council. They are requesting a District Community Grant of \$500 to help with their second Canada Day Event.

It is moved by Nicole Albright and seconded by Kathy Bourque to give a District Community Grant of \$500 to the Knights of Columbus 8988 to help with their Canada Day Event.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Eel Brook and District Volunteer Fire Department

A letter from the Eel Brook and District Volunteer Fire Department is circulated to Council. They are requesting a District Community Grant of \$500 to help with the cost of their fishing tournament.

It is moved by Nicole Albright and seconded by Guy Surette to give a District Community Grant of \$500 to the Eel Brook and District Volunteer Fire Department to help with the cost of their fishing tournament.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Le Club Acadien

A letter from Le Club Acadien is circulated to Council. They are requesting a District Community Grant of \$500 to support their apple pie fundraiser.

It is moved by Nicole Albright and seconded by Danny Muise to give a District Community Grant of \$500 to Le Club Acadien to support their apple pie fundraiser.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Patchwork Pals

A letter from the Patchwork Pals is circulated to Council. They are requesting a District Community Grant of \$500 to help with the cost of materials.

It is moved by Nicole Albright and seconded by Kathy Bourque to give a District Community Grant of \$500 to the Patchwork Pals to help with the cost of materials.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Saint Gabriel Cemetery

A letter from the Saint Gabriel Cemetery is circulated to Council. They are requesting a District Community Grant of \$500 to help with the purchase of topsoil.

It is moved by Roderick Murphy Jr. and seconded by Guy Surette to give a District Community Grant of \$500 to the Saint Gabriel Cemetery to help with the purchase of topsoil.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Association des Clairmont, DeVillers, Fitzgerald, Harris et Jacquard

A letter from the Association des Clairmont, deVillers, Fitzgerald, Harris et Jacquard is circulated to Council. They are requesting a District Community Grant of \$500 to help with the upkeep costs of their trail.

It is moved by Roderick Murphy Jr. and seconded by Kathy Bourque to give a District Community Grant of \$500 to the Association des Clairmont, DeVillers, Fitzgerald, Harris et Jacquard to help with the upkeep costs of their trail.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Comeau's Hill & Little River Harbour Recreational Association

A letter from the Comeau's Hill & Little River Harbour Recreational Association is circulated to Council. They are requesting a District Community Grant of \$500 to help with the cost of a portable toilet and streetlight at the picnic area.

It is moved by Roderick Murphy Jr. and seconded by Kathy Bourque to give a District Community Grant of \$500 to the Comeau's Hill & Little River Harbour Recreational Association to help with the cost of a portable toilet and streetlight at the picnic area.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Plymouth Hall

A letter from the Plymouth Hall is circulated to Council. They are requesting a District Community Grant of \$500 to help with repairs and maintenance.

It is moved by Roderick Murphy Jr. and seconded by Guy Surette to give a District Community Grant of \$500 to the Plymouth Hall to help with repairs and maintenance.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Plymouth Cemetery

A letter from the Plymouth Cemetery is circulated to Council. They are requesting a District Community Grant of \$500 to help with improvements.

It is moved by Roderick Murphy Jr. and seconded by Kathy Bourque to give a District Community Grant of \$500 to the Plymouth Cemetery to help with improvements.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Twin Village Social Club

A letter from the Twin Village Social Club is circulated to Council. They are requesting a District Community Grant of \$500 to help with the cost of repairs to their building.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Roderick Murphy Jr. to give a District Community Grant of \$500 to help with the cost of repairs to their building.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Apartment Nova

A letter from the Apartment Nova is circulated to Council. They are requesting a District Community Grant of \$500 to help with the cost of purchasing new furniture.

It is moved by Danny Muise and seconded by Nicole Albright to give a District Community Grant of \$500 to the Western Regional Housing Authority for the residents of Apartment Nova to help with the cost of purchasing new furniture.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

New Horizons Historical Seaside Park Association

A letter from the Apartment Nova is circulated to Council. They are requesting a District Community Grant of \$500 to help with the cost of purchasing new furniture.

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Kathy Bourque to give a District Community Grant of \$500 to the Western Regional Housing Authority for the residents of Apartment Nova to help with the cost of purchasing new furniture.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Green Grove Cemetery Association

A letter from the Apartment Nova is circulated to Council. They are requesting a District Community Grant of \$500 to help with the cost of purchasing new furniture.

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Kathy Bourque to give a District Community Grant of \$500 to the Western Regional Housing Authority for the residents of Apartment Nova to help with the cost of purchasing new furniture.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Lower Argyle Cemetery

A letter from the Apartment Nova is circulated to Council. They are requesting a District Community Grant of \$500 to help with the cost of purchasing new furniture.

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Kathy Bourque to give a District Community Grant of \$500 to the Western Regional Housing Authority for the residents of Apartment Nova to help with the cost of purchasing new furniture.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Le Club des Acadiens

A letter from the Apartment Nova is circulated to Council. They are requesting a District Community Grant of \$500 to help with the cost of purchasing new furniture.

It is moved by Lucien LeBlanc and seconded by Kathy Bourque to give a District Community Grant of \$500 to the Western Regional Housing Authority for the residents of Apartment Nova to help with the cost of purchasing new furniture.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

West Pubnico Health Club

A letter from the Apartment Nova is circulated to Council. They are requesting a District Community Grant of \$500 to help with the cost of purchasing new furniture.

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Calvin d'Entremont to give a District Community Grant of \$500 to the Western Regional Housing Authority for the residents of Apartment Nova to help with the cost of purchasing new furniture.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Festival Acadien de Wedgeport

A letter from the Apartment Nova is circulated to Council. They are requesting a District Community Grant of \$500 to help with the cost of purchasing new furniture.

It is moved by Roderick Murphy Jr. and seconded by Lucien LeBlanc to give a District Community Grant of \$500 to the Western Regional Housing Authority for the residents of Apartment Nova to help with the cost of purchasing new furniture.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

It was moved by Danny Muise and seconded by Kathy Bourque to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m. and reconvene on Tuesday May 17th, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at the same location.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

The meeting is reconvened on Tuesday May 17th, 2016 at 6:35 p.m. Present at this meeting were Warden Aldric d'Entremont; Deputy Warden Calvin d'Entremont; Councillors Danny Muise, Nicole Albright, Guy Surette, Lucien LeBlanc and Kathy Bourque; Chief Administrative Officer Alain Muise; Director of Finance Marsha d'Eon and Executive Assistant/Deputy Clerk Chris Frotten. Regrets were received from Councillors Roderick Murphy Jr. and Richard Donaldson.

Approval of Budgets

Operating Reserve Budget Approval

CAO Muise summarized the draft operating reserve budget and reviewed the transfers to and from the operating reserve.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Calvin d'Entremont that \$130,000 of the March 31, 2016 surplus (unaudited) be transferred to the operating reserve.

Motion carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Danny Muise to approve the Operating Reserve Budget as presented.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Operating Budget

CAO Muise began by presenting an overview of the total estimated operational expenditures for Argyle and identifying the mandatory and discretionary expense items. CAO Muise, along with Director of Finance d'Eon, then provided a detail explanation of some expenditures such as garbage collection and disposal, dangerous and unsightly premises, community development initiatives, administration and I.T. costs. CAO Muise and Director of Finance d'Eon followed with an explanation of the budgeted expenditures presented in a pie chart, a 2 year comparison of revenues and expenses and a detailed presentation of the operating budget. Council asked questions, discussed a variety of line items and provided input on the presented budget. Council also raised a few items that they would like to discuss for future budgets; such as garbage collection, dangerous and unsightly premises, tourism banner imitative.

It was moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Lucien LeBlanc to include in the budget the purchase of 45 tourism banners (3 banners per visitor site) at a maximum cost of \$15,000 coming from the capital reserve.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Councillor LeBlanc left at this time.

It was moved by Danny Muise and seconded by Kathy Bourque to approve the 2016-2017 operational budget with the specific amendments totaling \$8,378,910.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Capital Reserve Budget Approval

CAO Muise reviewed the capital reserve budget by explaining the projects within the budget and the balance of the revenues and expenses.

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Guy Surette to approve the Capital Reserve Budget with the addition of the tourism banner initiative.
Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Residential & Commercial Rates

It was moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Danny Muise that Council establish the residential Tax Rate at \$1.07 per \$100 assessment and the commercial Tax Rate at \$2.25 per \$100 of assessment for the fiscal year 2016/17.
Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

There being no further business, it is moved by Calvin d'Entremont and seconded by Kathy Bourque to adjourn the Special Council Meeting at 8:22 p.m.

Recorder
Chris Frotten

Date Approved: _____

Chairman/Warden _____

Alain Muise, Chief Administrative Officer _____