

**MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
Tuesday, February 28, 2017
Tusket, NS 6:30 p.m.**

Present: Warden Richard Donaldson; Deputy Warden Danny Muise; Councillors Nicole Albright, Guy Surette, Kathy Bourque, Glenn Digdon; Chief Administrative Officer Alain Muise, Director of Finance Marsh d'Eon and Executive Assistant/Deputy Clerk Chris Frotten.

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

The Committee of the Whole Meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. by Deputy Warden Danny Muise.

Agenda:

On a motion by Guy Surette and seconded by Kathy Bourque, the agenda was approved with the addition of Gravel Roads under 8g.

Motion Carried

Conflict of Interest Declaration:

Deputy Warden Danny Muise asked for any declarations of conflict of interest from the floor.

None declared.

Presentations and/or Petitions

Affordable Housing – Denise Vacon

Mrs. Denise Vacon, Health Promoter in Public Health Services with the Nova Scotia Health Authority, was in attendance to make a presentation to Council regarding the Community Housing Option Initiative through Collaboration & Engagement (CHOICE) Committee's work on affordable housing.

Mrs. Vacon highlighted the organization's mission and vision, structure and objectives. She noted many examples and local statistics of the need for affordable housing in the municipality and the committee's available entrepreneurial, economic development, employment and immigration services. She concluded with an explanation of their upcoming activities and goals.

Business Arising from the Minutes

CAO Muise updated Council on the ongoing design work of the Welcome Pole Banners project, the receipt of a draft report on the condition of the Hipson Bridge and the amendment to the Municipal Scholarship program.

Growing Communities Scholarship Program Amendment

An amendment to the eligibility criteria of the municipal scholarship program was presented to Council. Deputy Clerk Frotten noted that the committee met and discussed both the residential criteria and the community college/technical school criteria and chose

to broaden the residential criteria to include any resident of the municipality but maintain the requirement for the students to attend a community college or technical school. He explained that this was presented for notice and could be approved at the next meeting.

Council Priorities Progress Report

CAO Muise presented the progress of the Council priorities. He noted, in particular, the progress of the municipal building as work had been done on gathering information on specific locations reviewed by the building committee and the continued work on the Wedgeport Wastewater project which should see construction beginning shortly on the first systems.

Financial Report

CAO Muise summarized the financial report at January 31, 2017 and indicated an anticipated surplus at fiscal year-end. He noted the considerable positive variances in the revenues; such as the deed transfer tax; and a variety of positive variances in the expenditures due to an election year reducing the amount of conferences being attended and vacancies in the Department of Public Work and Property Inspection which resulted in the anticipated surplus as at March 31, 2017 of \$202,598.

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Glenn Diggdon to accept the unaudited Financial Report at January 31, 2017.

Motion carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Financial Report Attached

Other Business and for Decision

Relief of Taxes and Interest Request

CAO Muise explained a request to relieve taxes and interested of properties which were purchased at the tax sale. He noted that these properties had all been on the tax sale for 6 years which made them non-redeemable and that the starting bids had been reduced by Council at an earlier meeting. He explained that the property with a large amount was due to an unsightly clean up and as these properties had been sold, the balance needed to be written off.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Kathy Bourque to relieve the taxes and interest on the accounts presented to Council in the amount of \$21,152.61.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Regional Priority Session

Deputy Warden Muise explained that the Town of Yarmouth made a request to participate in a regional priority session but that all municipal units had not completed their own priority sessions so no dates were confirmed.

This item was tabled to a future date.

Road Name Change Request – Shunacadie and Spar Ridge Roads

CAO Muise presented a request to change the road name of “Shunacadie Road” to “Spar Ridge Road” and extend the Shunacadie Road to a place known as Meat Rock.

It is moved by Nicole Albright and seconded by Glenn Diggdon to accept the road name change request of Shunacadue Road to Spar Ridge Road and extend Shunacadie Road to Meat Rock.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Warden Richard Donaldson left at 7:58 p.m.

Long Term Financial Projections

CAO Muise explained the reason the long term financial projections were calculated. He noted the major factors which impact the financials such as policing services, education and solid waste costs, how the cost of these major factors is calculated, what impacts them and who controls them. He concluded with strategies in which Council could use to respond to these factors increasing in cost and avoid the erosion of funds.

Council asked questions regarding the assumptions made by the CAO and details regarding some of the proposed options.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Kathy Bourque to accept the long term financial projections report as presented by the CAO.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Mariners Centre Deficit Funding

CAO Muise explained the reasoning behind the request for additional funds and the higher than expected deficit in 2015/2016.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Glenn Diggdon to approve the total contribution of \$12,560 towards the Mariners Center deficit for the 2015/2016 fiscal year.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Memorandum of Understanding - Solar COMFIT Initiative

CAO Muise reviewed a MOU between the three Yarmouth County municipal units and the Alternative Resource Energy Authority. He noted that the authority was similar to the Green Energy Committee and that the parties wished to collaborate on mutually beneficial projects of a renewable energy nature; in particular with regards to pursuing opportunities being presented by the Province of Nova Scotia regarding Solar Photovoltaic as a renewable energy resource.

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Nicole Albright to accept the memorandum of understanding as presented.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Gravel Roads

Councillor Albright raised complaints from residents in her district regarding the poor condition of the gravel roads. She echoed their concerns regarding the ability for emergency vehicles to pass through and the inability for some residents to even access their homes.

It is moved by Nicole Albright and seconded by Guy Surette to write a letter to the Department of Transportation regarding the poor condition of gravel roads in her district.
Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

It is moved by Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Nicole Albright to write a letter to the Department of Transportation inviting the Area Manager to attend a Council meeting to discuss resident concerns and request a response within one month.
Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Correspondence and for Information

2016-2017 January Building Permit Comparisons

A comparison of building permits issued in January 2016 and 2017 was circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

Order of Nova Scotia

Information on the Order of Nova Scotia was circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

2017 Halifax International Boat Show Report

A report from Charlene LeBlanc, the Community Development Officer, on her attendance at the 2017 Halifax International Boat Show. No action was requested by Council.

WREN CEO Report of February 14, 2017

The Western Regional Enterprise Network's CEO's report of February 14, 2017 was circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

Argyle Senior Housing Survey Results

The results of the Argyle senior housing survey were circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

Clean Ocean Action Committee - Scotian Shelf Oil and Gas

Correspondence from the Clean Ocean Action Committee regarding a request for clarification was circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

Financial Requests

Community Grants

Remember When Fashion Show Committee

A letter from the Remember When Fashion Show Committee requesting a District Community Grant of \$500 to help with the start up costs of the show was circulated to Council.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Glenn Diggdon to give a District Community Grant of \$500 to the Remember When Fashion Show Committee to help with the start up costs of the show.
Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Le Village historique acadien de la Nouvelle-Écosse

A letter from le Village historique acadien de la Nouvelle-Écosse requesting a District Community Grant of \$500 to help with upgrades to the entrance of the village was circulated to Council.

It is moved by Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Kathy Bourque to give a District Community Grant of \$500 to le Village historique acadien de la Nouvelle-Écosse to help with the upgrades to the entrance of the village.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Following the approval of the grants, Council discussed the eligibility criteria for organizations to apply for community grants and grants to organizations and the possibility of loosening the criteria for community grants.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Glenn Diggdon to instruct Staff to develop two separate eligibility criteria for the community grants and the grants to organizations.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Agenda Topics for Next Meeting/Notice of Motion

None.

Question Period

None.

There being no further business, it is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Kathy to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting at 8:59 pm.

Recorder
Chris Frotten

Date Approved: _____

Chairman/Deputy Warden _____

Alain Muise, Chief Administrative Officer _____