

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE
137th ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, April 11, 2017
Tusket, NS 6:30 p.m.

Present: Warden Richard Donaldson; Deputy Warden Danny Muise; Councillors Nicole Albright, Guy Surette, Kathy Bourque and Glenn Diggdon; Chief Administrative Officer Alain Muise; Solicitor Réal Boudreau and Executive Assistant/Deputy Clerk Chris Frotten.

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

Warden Richard Donaldson called the 137th Annual meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

Agenda:

On motion by Guy Surette and seconded by Glenn Diggdon the agenda was approved as circulated.

Motion Carried

Conflict of Interest Declaration

Warden Richard Donaldson asked for any declarations of conflict of interest from the floor.

Councillor Glenn Diggdon declared a conflict of interest with item 15b - Letter to the Minister of Health Regarding Ambulance Service in Pubnico and indicated he would remove himself from the conversation.

Presentations and/or Petitions

None.

Adoption of Minutes

Regular Council Meeting – March 28, 2017

It is moved by Danny Muise and seconded by Nicole Albright that the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of March 28, 2017, be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Business Arising from the Minutes

CAO Muise updated Council on the Welcome Pole Banner project which was awaiting their final design.

Council questioned whether the banners would be installed by the beginning of the tourist season and if an answer to the invitation to the Department of Transportation was received.

Warden's Report

March 13th - Priority Establishing Workshop

March 20th - Building Committee

March 20th - YAIC

March 28th - Council

March 31st - Tusket River Watershed

April 4th - YCSWP (Waste Park)

April 8th - Jean Leo Surette dedication, Tuna Museum. Warden Donaldson commented on the overwhelming attendance at the event.

Councillor's Reports

Councillor Albright reported on her attendance at the most recent Eel Brook Fire meeting and their work on the new fire hall plans. She indicated that the fire department were having difficulty choosing a location and design but that they were working with an architect to help them.

Deputy Warden Muise reminded Council of an affordable housing meeting being held on April 12th. He reported on a public meeting in Hubbard's Point regarding projects in the community; in particular, a playground young families. He also reported on his attendance at a Yarmouth Airport and Liaison Oversight Committee meeting where they discussed hiring an economic development officer for the airport.

Councillor Bourque reported on the near completion of the transformation of the East Pubnico ballfield. She noted that it looked very good and a grand opening was being planned.

Councillor Surette reported on his attendance at a Waste Park meeting in which they discussed the purchase of a new excavator.

Staff Report

CAO Alain Muise reviewed the staff report that was circulated to Council; reporting specifically on the ongoing budgeting work which had begun in preparation of the budget process, a financial management workshop he facilitated in Lunenburg, a municipal restructuring workshop he attended which was attended by almost 50 municipal units and funding received from the Province for aquaculture.

Report Attached.

Appointment of Auditors

Council approved the Auditors for the fiscal period of April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018.

It is moved by Danny Muise and seconded by Nicole Albright that Council approve the firm Grant Thornton as auditors of the Municipality for the fiscal year 2017-2018.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Appointment of Solicitor

Council approved the Solicitor for the fiscal period of April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018.

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Glenn Diggdon that Council approve the firm of d'Entremont Boudreau as Solicitors of the Municipality for the fiscal year 2017-2018.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Report of Auditor

Where there was no Report of the Auditor, it was deferred to a later date.

Council Remuneration Resolution

CAO Muise explained that Council should make a resolution every year to reaffirm that 1/3 of the payment be a non-taxable expense allowance.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Nicole Albright that,

Whereas Municipal Councillors are not directly compensated for home office expenses,

And whereas Municipal Council may declare that up to 1/3 of Councillors' remuneration may be treated as a non-taxable expense allowance,

Therefore be it resolved that one-third of all remuneration paid to the Warden, Deputy Warden and members of Municipal Council in the 2017-2018 fiscal year shall be designated as a non-taxable expense allowance.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Appointment of Officers

It is moved by Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Kathy Bourque that Council approve the enclosed list of appointments as Officers of the Municipality of Argyle for the fiscal year 2017-2018.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Membership to UNSM and FCM

It is moved by Danny Muise and seconded by Kathy Bourque that Council approve its membership to UNSM and FCM for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Other Business and for Decision

Tendered Properties

CAO Muise presented the properties that were tendered following the tax sale.

It is moved by Danny Muise and seconded by Kathy Bourque to accept the highest bids for tendered lot #2, AAN #01902881 and lot #3, AAN #08476004, as presented.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Councillor Diggdon left at this time.

Letter to the Minister of Health Regarding Ambulance Service in Pubnico

Councillor Bourque advocated that a letter be sent to the Minister of Health and copied to all local members of the legislature regarding the importance of the priority status of the Pubnico EHS station.

Council discussed the concept of priority status and the possibility of sending a letter to the private company which operates the service.

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Guy Surette to send a letter to the Minister of Health and local MLAs regarding the importance of the priority status of the Pubnico EHS station.

Motion Carried (5 in favour, 0 against)

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Kathy Bourque to send a letter to the private company that operates the service requesting a presentation regarding the loss of the priority status of the Pubnico EHS station.

Motion Carried (5 in favour, 0 against)

Councillor Diggdon returned at this time.

Appointment of Fire Inspector

CAO Muise explained that the Municipality had a short-term need for a fire inspector and that Dave Andrews of the Municipality of Barrington had been confirmed. He noted that Mr. Andrews needed to be officially designated by the Municipality as a fire inspector to complete any inspections.

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Nicole Albright to designate Dave Andrews as a Fire Inspector for the Municipality of Argyle.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Crosswalk Request

CAO Muise presented a letter from Inshore Fisheries requesting a crosswalk on the Dennis Point Road across from their fish plant. He noted that Inshore Fisheries had sent a letter in 2010 requesting a crosswalk next to their fish plant due to the increased traffic in which Council had rejected based on the TIR requirements and the associated costs. He noted that they were requesting a crosswalk again due to the increase in traffic since that time.

It is moved by Danny Muise and seconded by Glenn Diggdon that Council request the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal to investigate the installation of a crosswalk on Dennis Point Road.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Building Committee Location Recommendation

CAO Muise began by providing Council with a brief background of the building committee's mandate and reminded them of its members. He followed with a review of

the proposals that the building committee evaluated and the two options in which they had requested more information; scenario 1, PID# 90307032 – property owned by Tusket Wipers Limited and scenario 2b, a consolidated option of PID# 90087263 and PID# 90087313 – properties owned by G and H Holdings Limited and a private residential owner.

He then explained the advantages and disadvantages of the two properties. He noted the advantage of an existing artesian well and septic tank on the properties in the consolidated scenario and the fact that one of the properties in the scenario was being donated. He did also highlight the disadvantage of having an existing residential home on one of the properties in the consolidated scenario, which would have to be moved.

He concluded by noting that the Building Committee's recommendation to Council was scenario 2b. a consolidated option of PID# 90087263 and PID# 90087313 – properties owned by G and H Holdings Limited and a private residential.

Council discussed the Building Committee's recommendation and asked questions regarding details of the properties, the potential impacts of the location on the design of the building and the process to follow to purchase the properties from the current owners.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Glenn Diggdon to accept the recommendation of the Building Committee of scenario 2b for the location of the new administrative building.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Glenn Diggdon to enter in a purchase and sale agreement with the owners of PID# 90087263 and PID# 90087313, in accordance with the offers that were received.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Letter of Support for the Western REN Rural Broadband Project

CAO Muise explained that the Western Regional Enterprise Network was developing a project to improve rural internet in the area and that they were looking for support for the application. He noted that no financial request was being made but that they would be looking for funding at a later date that could be as high as \$500,000.

Council discussed the necessity of internet and the importance of supporting their priority.

It is moved by Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Danny Muise to send a letter to the Western Regional Enterprise Network in support of their Rural Broadband Project.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Correspondence and for Information

Yarmouth-Argyle-Barrington District Planning Commission 2016-2017 Annual Report

The Yarmouth-Argyle-Barrington District Planning Commissions 2016-2017 Annual Report was circulated to Council. No action was requested by Council.

Financial Requests

Community Grants

Harbour Authority of Dennis Point

A letter from the Harbour Authority of Dennis Point requesting a Community Grant of \$500 to help with the cost of a welcome sign was circulated to Council.

It is moved by Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Kathy Bourque to give a Community Grant of \$500 to the Harbour Authority of Dennis Point to help with the cost of a welcome sign.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Notice of Motion by Councillors

Councillor Albright requested that a plan of action be developed to address the lack of communication with the local office of the Department of Transportation.

Question Period

None.

In Camera

It is moved by Danny Muise and seconded by Kathy Bourque to recess the Regular Council Meeting and go In-Camera to discuss a Personnel Matter.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Danny Muise to recess the In-Camera meeting and go back to the Regular Council Meeting.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

There being no further business, it is moved by Lucien LeBlanc and seconded by Kathy Bourque to adjourn the Annual Council Meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Recorder

Chris Frotten

Date Approved: _____

Chairman/Warden _____

Alain Muise, Chief Administrative Officer _____