

**MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE**  
**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING - BUDGET**  
**Tuesday, May 9, 2017**  
**Tusket, NS 7:30 p.m.**

**Present:** Warden Richard Donaldson; Deputy Warden Danny Muise; Councillors Calvin d'Entremont, Nicole Albright, Guy Surette, Lucien LeBlanc, Kathy Bourque and Glenn Diggdon; Chief Administrative Officer Alain Muise; Director of Finance Marsha d'Eon and Municipal Clerk Chris Frotten.

**Regrets:** Councillor Roderick Murphy Jr.

The meeting is called to order at 7:31 p.m. by Warden Richard Donaldson.

**Agenda:**

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

*Motion Carried*

**Conflict of Interest Declaration**

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

Councillor d'Entremont declared a conflict with the YASTA Core Funding Request.

**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 submitted by each Councillor was calculated and the results were presented. Council discussed a number of requests and amended the allocations accordingly.

It is moved by Lucien LeBlanc and seconded by Guy Surette to approve grants to organizations totaling \$52,500 to various organization.

*Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)*

*List Attached (17050902)*

**Low Income / Property Tax Exemption**

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

It is moved by Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Kathy Bourque to approve the low income/property tax rebate program in the amount of \$17,400.

*Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)*

## **Approval of Fire Budget**

It is moved by Nicole Albright and seconded by Kathy Bourque to approve the fire budget in the amount of \$354,577.

*Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)*

## **Approval of Sewer Budgets**

### Tusket Sewer Charge (Operating & Capital)

It was moved by Danny Muise and seconded by Nicole Albright that Council establish an operating rate of \$255.00 per equivalent unit and the capital rate of \$213.84 per equivalent unit for the Tusket Sewer Charge for the 2017/2018 fiscal year.

*Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)*

### West Pubnico Sewer Charge (Operating & Capital)

It was moved by Calvin d'Entremont and seconded by Kathy Bourque that Council establish an operating rate of \$270.00 per equivalent unit and the capital rate of \$211.00 per equivalent unit for the West Pubnico Sewer for 2017/2018 fiscal year.

*Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)*

## **Resolutions**

### Interest Rate / Date On Overdue Accounts

CAO Muise explained that the municipal interest rate has been 16% for the past number of years and that the rate was above average in the Province. Warden Donaldson noted that the 16% rate was set at a higher rate than credit cards to encourage residents to pay their taxes first or earlier.

CAO Muise highlighted that past due accounts are often with residents in financial limitations and lowering the rate may alleviate some of the burden they have in paying their property taxes.

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 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017 and interest will accrue after that date.

*Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)*

### West Pubnico Fire Protection Area Rate (Year 4 of 5)

It is moved by Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Calvin d'Entremont 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 2017/18, this being year 4 of 5.

*Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)*

Wedgeport & District Area Rate (Year 8 of 15)

It is moved by Danny Muise and seconded by Guy Surette 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 2017/18, this being year 8 of 15.

*Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)*

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

It is moved by Nicole Albright and seconded by Calvin d'Entremont 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 2017/18, this being year 5 of 5.

*Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)*

East Pubnico Area Rate (Year 4 of 5)

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Glenn Diggdon 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 2017/18, this being year 4 of 5.

*Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)*

Kemptonville & District Area Rate (Year 4 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 2017/18, this being year 4 of 5.

*Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)*

Quinan & District Area Rate (Year 4 of 5)

It is moved by Nicole Albright and seconded by Guy Surette 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 2017/18, this being year 4 of 5.

*Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)*

Lake Vaughn Volunteer Fire Department (Year 2 of 10)

It is moved by Calvin d'Entremont and seconded by Nicole Albright 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 Vaughan Volunteer Fire department for the fiscal year 2017/18, this being year 2 of 10.

*Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)*

## Islands & District Area Rate (Year 1 of 5)

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Kathy Bourque 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 2017/18, this being year 1 of 5.

*Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)*

## **Approval of Budgets**

### 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 Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Kathy Bourque to approve the Capital Reserve Budget as amended in the amount of \$1,899,000.

*Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)*

*Capital Budget Attached (17050903)*

*Councillor LeBlanc left at this time.*

### Operating Budget

#### YASTA Core Funding Request

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Kathy Bourque to approve the YASTA Core Funding Request in the amount of \$66,250.

*Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)*

#### YMCA Funding Request

It is moved by Danny Muise and seconded by Nicole Albright to approve the YMCA Funding Request in the amount of \$15,000.

*Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)*

CAO Muise began by highlighting items which were included in the budget for Council's discussion and consideration prior to recommending the budget for final approval:

- Passenger service subsidy
- Economic Development Position – Airport
- Community Hall – Special Grant
- Interest Rate Assumption in Revenues
- Dangerous and Unsightly Premises

Council discussed each item and amended the budget according to their discussion.

It was moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Guy Surette to approve the 2017-2018 operational budget with the specific amendments totaling \$8,878,608.

*Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)*

*Operating Budget Attached (17050904)*

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 Kathy Bourque and seconded by Nicole Albright to approve the Operating Reserve Budget as amended.

*Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)*

*Operating Reserve Budget Attached (17050905)*

**Community Grants**

Le Club Acadien

A letter from Le Club Acadien requesting a Community Grant of \$500 to support their apple pie fundraiser.

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

*Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)*

La société historique acadienne de Pubnico-Ouest

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

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

*Motion Carried (7 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 Community Grant of \$500 to help with the cost of promoting their activities.

It is moved by Calvin d'Entremont and seconded by Glenn Diggdon to give a Community Grant of \$500 to the le village historique acadien de la Nouvelle-Écosse to help with the cost of promoting their activities.

*Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)*

Saint Gabriel Cemetery

A letter from the Saint Gabriel Cemetery requesting a Community Grant of \$500 to help with the purchase of topsoil.

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

*Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)*

Comeau's Hill & Little River Harbour Recreational Association

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

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Kathy Bourque to give a 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 (7 in favour, 0 against)*

East Kemptville Meeting House Society

A letter from the East Kemptville Meeting House Society requesting a Community Grant of \$500 to help with the cost of a portable toilet and streetlight at the picnic area.

It is moved by Danny Muise and seconded by Glenn Diggdon to give a Community Grant of \$500 to the East Kemptville Meeting House Society to help with the cost of a portable toilet and streetlight at the picnic area.

*Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)*

Comité touristique de la paroisse Sainte-Anne

A letter from the Comité touristique de la paroisse Sainte-Anne requesting a Community Grant of \$500 to help with the cost of a portable toilet and streetlight at the picnic area.

It is moved by Nicole Albright and seconded by Kathy Bourque to give a Community Grant of \$500 to the Comité touristique de la paroisse Sainte-Anne to help with the cost of a portable toilet and streetlight at the picnic area.

*Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)*

Patchwork Pals

A letter from the Patchwork Pals requesting a Community Grant of \$500 to help with the cost of materials.

It is moved by Nicole Albright and seconded by Calvin d'Entremont to give a Community Grant of \$500 to the Patchwork Pals to help with the cost of materials.

*Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)*

Twin Village Social Club

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

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Nicole Albright to give a Community Grant of \$500 to the Twin Village Social Club to help with the cost of repairs to their building.

*Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)*

Green Grove Cemetery Association

A letter from the Green Grove Cemetery Association requesting a Community Grant of \$500 to help with the cost of improvements.

It is moved by Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Kathy Bourque to give a Community Grant of \$500 to the Green Grove Cemetery Association to help with the cost of improvements.

*Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)*

#### New Horizons Historical Seaside Park Association

A letter from the New Horizons Historical Seaside Park Association requesting a Community Grant of \$500 to help with the cost of enhancing their park.

It is moved by Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Kathy Bourque to give a Community Grant of \$500 to the New Horizons Historical Seaside Park Association to help with the cost of enhancing their park.

*Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)*

#### Wedgeport Seniors Group

A letter from the Wedgeport Seniors Group requesting a Community Grant of \$500 to help with the cost of enhancing their park.

It is moved by Nicole Albright and seconded by Kathy Bourque to give a Community Grant of \$250 to the Wedgeport Seniors Group to help with the cost of enhancing their park.

*Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)*

#### Association des Clairmont, DeVillers, Fitzgerald, Harris et Jacquard

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

It is moved by Guy Surette 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 (7 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 Glenn Diggdon to give a District Community Grant of \$500 to the Knights of Columbus 8988 to help with their Canada Day Event.

*Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)*

#### Comité du 250e anniversaire de Wedgeport

A letter from the Comité du 250e anniversaire de Wedgeport requesting a District Community Grant of \$500 to help with the cost of equipment maintenance.

It is moved by Calvin d'Entremont and seconded by Kathy Bourque to give a District Community Grant of \$500 to the Comité du 250e anniversaire de Wedgeport to help with the cost of equipment maintenance.

*Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)*

Festival acadien de Wedgeport

A letter from the Festival Acadien de Wedgeport requesting a District Community Grant of \$500 to help with the cost of maintaining the founding families' monument.

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Guy Surette to give a District Community Grant of \$500 to the Festival Acadien de Wedgeport to help with the cost of maintaining the founding families' monument.

*Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)*

**Residential & Commercial Rates**

It was moved by Calvin d'Entremont and seconded by Nicole Albright 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 2017/18.

*Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)*

There being no further business, it is moved by Danny Muise and seconded by Kathy Bourque to adjourn the Special Council Meeting at 9:27 p.m.

Recorder  
Chris Frotten

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman/Warden \_\_\_\_\_

Alain Muise, Chief Administrative Officer \_\_\_\_\_