

**MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Tuesday, March 27, 2018**  
**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, Director of Finance Marsha d'Eon and Municipal Clerk Chris Frotten.

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

The meeting is called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Deputy Warden Danny Muise.

**Agenda:**

On motion by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Nicole Albright the agenda is approved with the addition of the Immaculate Conception Cemetery Community Grant under 15avii.

*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**

North Nova Lumberjack Society - Burlin Nickerson

Mr. Burlin Nickerson, Director of the North Nova Lumberjacks Society, was in attendance to present to Council regarding a sponsorship request for the Nova Scotia Lumberjack Championships.

Mr. Nickerson presented the details and economic benefit of the event and elaborated on their agreement with Lumberjacks T.V. which provided substantial coverage of the event.

Council asked where the participants would be coming from. Mr. Nickerson indicated that the participants would be coming Quebec, the Atlantic Provinces and possibly Maine.

*Presentation Attached (18032701)*

Provincial Ban on Plastic Bags - Gus Green

Mr. Gus Green, General Manager of Waste Check, was in attendance to present to Council regarding the status of plastic film.

Mr. Green explained what was considered plastic film, provided a background on the current situation worldwide, in Nova Scotia and in Region 7, the waste hierarchy and Region 7's goal of reducing waste. He then provided options on how to reduce plastic film, which included; banning single use plastic bags, incentive programs, and voluntary participation. He concluded with suggested steps on moving forward and highlighted the Chair of Region 7's request to support their request to the minister of banning single use plastic bags.

Council questioned whether the fee charged by businesses, such as Walmart, returned to the community and what the economic impact of such a decision would be on the residents of Argyle.

*Presentation Attached (18032702)*

Société Touristique Bon Temps d'Argyle - Tim Doucette

Mr. Tim Doucette, President of the Société Bon Temps d'Argyle, was in attendance to present to Council regarding the Municipality's Starlight certifications.

Mr. Doucette provided an overview of the Municipality's starlight reserve and tourism destination certification. He explained YASTA's work in creating a Tourism Destination Management Plan and the importance of the night sky within that plan, the specifics of light pollution and the ecological, health and the scientific impacts of certain types of lights. He provided proof of the increasing light pollution in the area and gave examples of low impact lighting options that exist. He concluded with a reminder that the area's certification is up for renewal and recommendations on how to protect the dark skies into the future.

*Presentation Attached (18032703)*

**Adoption of Minutes**

Emergency Management Organization Planning Committee Meeting – November 1, 2017

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Nicole Albright that the minutes of the Emergency Management Organization Planning Committee Meeting of November 1, 2017, be approved as circulated.

*Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)*

Regular Council Meeting - February 13, 2018

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Glenn Diggdon that the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of February 13, 2018, be approved as circulated.

*Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)*

Committee of the Whole Meeting - February 27, 2018

It is moved by Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Nicole Albright that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of February 27, 2018, be approved as circulated.

*Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)*

## **Business Arising from the Minutes**

### West Pubnico Golf & Country Club Financial Request

Deputy Warden Muise noted that a meeting had been scheduled for April 11<sup>th</sup> with the board of the West Pubnico Golf & Country Club and that no decision would be made before then.

Council discussed the potential conflict of interest of certain council members who were shareholders of the golf course. Solicitor Boudreau indicated that there may be a conflict of interest according to the Municipal Government Act and indicated he would provide advice in the form of a memo to Council before the meeting.

### Mariners Centre Concert Proposal

*Council opted to discuss item 13b with this item as it related to the same topic.*

CAO Muise explained the proposal received from the Mariners Centre which requested financial support to purchase additional chairs and a contingency fund to host concerts at the Centre. He also explained the budget recommendations received from the Mariners Centre which included a \$73,000 municipal contribution from each municipal unit and \$311,500 in capital expenditures.

CAO Muise also reminded Council of the specifics of the Mariners Centre funding agreement with the Municipality of Yarmouth and Town of Yarmouth.

Council discussed the need for the chairs to host concerts and large events such as graduations and dance recitals, the increasing operational deficit and the importance of the Mariners Centre to the residents of Argyle.

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Nicole Albright to approve the anticipated operational deficit in the amount of up to \$73,000.

*Motion Carried (5 in favour, 1 against – Guy Surette)*

It is moved by Nicole Albright and seconded by Kathy Bourque to approve a financial contribution in the amount of \$15,000 - \$10,000 for the chairs and \$5,000 for a one-time concert contingency fund – to the Mariners Centre.

*Motion Carried (5 in favour, 1 against – Guy Surette)*

## **Councillor's Reports**

Councillor Diggdon reported on his attendance at an EMO meeting, a West Pubnico Fire Department meeting and a quilt expo. He also noted he would be hosting a community meeting to try and create a community development meeting.

Councillor Bourque reported on her attendance at various meetings including the Yarmouth Area Industrial Commission, Council's priority sessions and a joint council meeting.

Councillor Surette reported on his attendance at a joint council meeting, a presentation on the WREN'S Connector Program and a meeting regarding the installation of a doppler radar.

Councillor Albright reported on her attendance at a meeting with the Eel Brook Fire Department regarding their new fire hall and the AGM of the Argyle Soccer Club.

Deputy Warden Muise reported on his attendance at a variety of meetings, his interview with Live at 5 at the Tuskett Falls Brewing Company, his meeting at the Western Counties Regional Library and highlighted the beginning of their adopt a book campaign.

### **Warden's Report**

Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> - Avalon Meeting (Tin Mine)

Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> - Regular Council

Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> - YASTA consultant Meeting

Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> - EMO Committee Meeting

Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> - Inter Municipal Conference Call (Internet)

Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> - Priority Workshop

Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> - YAIC Meeting

March 8<sup>th</sup> - Building Committee

March 12<sup>th</sup> - Priority Workshop

### **Staff Report**

CAO Alain Muise reviewed the staff report that was circulated to Council; reporting specifically on the budget work at the Yarmouth Airport, Waste Check and the progress of the new municipal administration building project.

CAO Muise and Council had a discussion on municipal modernization and the impacts it could have on municipal government.

*Report Attached (18032704)*

### **Financial Report**

Director of Finance d'Eon summarized the financial report at February 28, 2018 and indicated an anticipated surplus at fiscal year-end. She noted the considerable positive variances in the revenues; such as the deed transfer tax; and a variety of positive variances in the expenditures which resulted in the anticipated surplus as at March 31, 2018 of \$169,372.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Kathy Bourque to accept the unaudited Financial Report at February 28, 2018.  
*Motion carried (6 in favour, 0 against)*

*Financial Report Attached (18032705)*

### **Council Priorities Progress Report**

Deputy Warden Muise reviewed the progress report on Council's priorities.

### **Strategic Priority Topics**

None.

### **For Decision**

#### Administration Building Project - Request To Bring To Tender

CAO Muise provided an overview of the information included in the request for decision. He focused his overview on the goal of building a net-zero building and the associated financial impacts of that goal, the reductions made to the floor plan to reduce costs and the impact of the feedback received during community consultations on those decisions.

Council discussed in more detail the financial impacts of the net-zero design option on the municipality's Gas Tax Fund and other municipal projects.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Richard Donaldson that staff instruct Wild Salt Architecture to proceed with the proposed net zero design and increase the project budget, enabling the tendering of the project.  
*Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)*

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Nicole Abright to approve a funding application to FCM's Green Municipal Fund for the New Administration Building Project.  
*Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)*

### **Other Business**

#### Recommendations of the Commission on Effective Electoral Representation of Acadian and African Nova Scotians

Solicitor Boudreau briefly updated Council on the new legislation presented regarding the topic.

#### Mariners Centre Budget Recommendations

*This item was discussed under item 5b.*

#### UNSM Priorities

Council agreed to bring forward feedback at a future meeting.

### **Correspondence and for Information**

M.P. Colin Fraser - Tax Planning Update

A follow up from M.P. Colin Fraser on last year's tax planning consultations was circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

Precarious Housing and Homelessness Across Our Rural Communities Report

Results from the Precarious Housing and Homelessness Across Our Rural Communities Report was circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

Comparison Of Taxable Assessment And Capped Assessment

A comparison prepared by CAO Muise on the taxable assessment and the capped assessment was circulated to Council for their information. No action was requested by Council.

**Financial Requests**

Community Grants

**Drumlin Heights Breakfast Program**

A letter from Drumlin Heights Breakfast Program requesting a Community Grant of \$500 to help with costs was circulated to Council.

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Nicole Albright to give a Community Grant of \$500 to Drumlin Heights Breakfast Program to help with costs.

*Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)*

**Kemptville District Volunteer Fire Department**

A letter from the Kemptville District Volunteer Fire Department requesting a Community Grant of \$500 to help with the cost of painting the interior of the fire hall was circulated to Council.

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Kathy Bourque to give a Community Grant of \$500 to the Kemptville District Volunteer Fire Department to help with the cost of painting the interior of the fire hall.

*Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)*

**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 signage and lighting 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 signage and lighting.

*Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)*

**Ladies Auxiliary of the West Pubnico Fire Department**

A letter from the Ladies Auxiliary of the West Pubnico Fire Department requesting a Community Grant of \$500 to help with the cost of kitchen upgrades was circulated to Council.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Nicole Albright to give a Community Grant of \$500 to the Ladies Auxiliary of the West Pubnico Fire Department to help with the cost of kitchen upgrades.

*Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)*

### **La chapelle Marie de l'Assomption**

A letter from La chapelle Marie de l'Assomption requesting a Community Grant of \$500 to help with upkeep costs was circulated to Council.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Nicole Albright to give a Community Grant of \$500 to the La chapelle Marie de l'Assomption to help with upkeep costs.

*Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)*

### **Comeau's Hill & Little River Harbour Beach Committee**

A letter from the Comeau's Hill & Little River Harbour Beach Committee requesting a Community Grant of \$500 to help with the cost of preparing their beach for the tourism season was circulated to Council.

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Nicole Albright to give a Community Grant of \$500 to the Comeau's Hill & Little River Harbour Beach Committee to help with the cost preparing the beach for the tourism season.

*Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)*

### **Immaculate Conception Cemetery**

A letter from the Immaculate Conception Cemetery requesting a Community Grant of \$500 to help with the cost of maintaining their cemetery was circulated to Council.

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Guy Surette to give a Community Grant of \$500 to the Immaculate Conception Cemetery to help with the cost maintaining their cemetery.

*Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)*

### **Sponsorship**

#### **Yarmouth Hospital Foundation Spring Gala**

A letter from the Yarmouth Hospital Foundation Spring Gala requesting a sponsorship of \$1,200 for the upcoming event was circulated to Council.

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Glenn Diggdon to approve a sponsorship in the amount of \$1,200 to the Yarmouth Hospital Foundation Spring.

*Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)*

### **Agenda Topics for Next Meeting / Notice of Motion by Councillors**

None.

### **Question Period**

None.

There being no further business, it is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Guy Surette to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting at 9:12 p.m.

Recorder  
Chris Frotten

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

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

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