

**-MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday January 14, 2020
Tusket, NS 6:30 p.m.**

Present: Warden Danny Muise; Deputy Warden Guy Surette; Councillors Glenn Diggdon, Nicole Albright, Roderick Murphy Jr., Lucien LeBlanc, Richard Donaldson, Kathy Bourque, and Calvin d'Entremont.; Chief Administrative Officer Alain Muise, Solicitor Real Boudreau and Municipal Clerk/Recorder Lori Murphy.

Regrets: None

3 members of the public present

The meeting was called to order at 6:29p.m. by Warden Danny Muise.

Agenda:

On a motion by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Calvin d'Entremont the agenda was approved with additions.

Councillor Diggdon would like a letter to be sent to TIR for conditions of snow removal in Pubnico area during last snowstorm. Under 10i. Warden Muise has a letter from NDP requesting a meeting. Under 10J.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Conflict of Interest Declaration

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

Presentations

Rising Tide Project – Miguel D'Eon

Miguel presented his project idea to promote and re-brand the Municipality of Argyle. It is a 12-month community branding project. Miguel introduced the project team: Jeff Clairmont and Mike Smith. He explained the details of the project and what he feels is most important to the Municipality.

Project Proposal attached (2020011401)

Adoption of Minutes

Regular Council Meeting Minutes – December 10, 2019

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Calvin d'Entremont that the December 10, 2019 minutes of the Regular Council Meeting be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Business Arising from the Minutes

Dangerous and Unsightly Premises Policy

CAO Muise explained the changes made to the policy based on conversation from previous Council meetings. Explained the wording changes in the Policy. In consultation with solicitor Boudreau, decided to remove the wording around loan and replace it with repayment plan. Provision regarding incentive for residents to clean their own property was added to policy. It relates to the 220kg of material allowed per week. Charges for materials over this weight could be waived by Administrator/CAO.

TLC program has two levels of assistance to it, the repayment plan which provides for a longer-term payment plan at a reduced rate of interest of 4% and the TLC relief which provides a forgiveness of a portion of the costs of clean up. The transnational period has been changed to December. Question by Councillor Diggdon regarding the 220kg per household per week. Could each household get a wavier of fees for one time per year. CAO Muise suggested that the question be brought to Solid waste management authority. Deputy Warden Surette will bring this request up at the next Solid Waste Authority meeting

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Kathy Bourque to accept the Dangerous and Unsightly Premises Policy as presented.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

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Councillors' Report

Councillor Diggdon: Quite over the holidays

Councillor Bourque: Quiet over the holidays

Councillor LeBlanc: Working on a list of deficiency with TIR, attended a meeting with the liaison oversite committee of the WREN

Councillor Surette: Work on bridge in Morris Island is ongoing

Councillor Donaldson: Quiet over the holidays

Councillor Murphy: Quiet over the holidays

Councillor Albright: Attended Splash pad meeting

Councillor d'Entremont: Concerns about a smell in the community, suspects it's coming from the old lobster pound. Will keep Council updated.

Warden's Report

December 13 Meeting with MLA Zack Churchill with update on Web.com situation. Provincial government is actively involved in talking with other companies to establish

here. They are working with ACOA, NSBI, Department of labour etc. They are optimistic that a replacement will be found.

January 1 Attended the municipality of Yarmouth/Town New Year levy. They get together and alternate the location between town hall and municipal office in Hebron. This year was Hebron. It's catered by TW catering and always very well attended.

January 9 Meeting in Halifax with, Minister Colwell, along with CAO Muise, CAO Victoria Brooks and Councillor Trevor Cunningham. Council was briefed on what the meeting was about

This is a short report as there haven't been a lot of meetings held since our last council meeting. Other than a few complaints from residents, mostly roads related, and filling out Grant forms for residents, December has been relatively quiet

Staff Report

CAO Muise gave a brief highlight of the staff report attached to these minutes. Municipal Admin Building tender package is in final draft. Will be issuing updates to residents regarding the new building. A Facebook live with Warden Muise and CAO Muise will be Thursday Jan 23 at 6pm. They will answer questions of where we are with the new building and what we have been working on. Request for proposal in early draft for the potential sale and development of lots in Tusket property. Might be a funding opportunity for the water utility in East Pubnico. Councillor Diggdon asked about the sewer truck and how to resolve the ongoing issues. Made direct contact with expert that was brought in by the company. All in agreement that the truck is not running as it should. CAO Muise will provide a further update at the "in camera" meeting.

Report Attached (2020011402)

Strategic Priority Topics

Priorities progress update.

CAO Muise highlighted some areas of the report

For Decision

Resolution – Municipal Reform

- Warden Muise explained what is being asked. It is not a decision or commitment to consolidate. Today it is a decision to have a discussion facilitated by the Province. Warden Muise states that something has to change with how business is being conducted with the 3 units and the Regional services we deliver.
- Deputy Warden Surette believes we should have a conversation involving the 3 units. There are a lot of unknowns and the way to gain information is to attend the meeting to ask questions.
- Councillor Bourque would like more information on the topic. Residents want to be informed after the meeting with the Province takes place.
- Councillor Albright states that we need this fact-finding meeting to present to the public.

- Councillor Donaldson has been receiving questions that he can't answer based on the lack of information.
- Councillor LeBlanc agrees that we need to gain information and can only do so by having the meeting. Brought up residents concerns about new administration building and the timing.
- Councillor Diggdon had over 150 residents responded to the topic of consolidation. Most in his district felt councillors should not participate in the meeting.
- Councillor d'Entremont commented that some business owners in West Pubnico want the meeting to happen. If there was a way to be more efficient then we should look into it.
- CAO Muise addressed the question about the new building and what would happen around the current municipal structure. He stated that there will always be a need for local services in Argyle. CAO Muise explained that the consolidation topic started with the Province. There are things we cannot do alone. There may be a better, more efficient solution to working together and that might not include consolidation, but more information is needed.

Whereas the Councils for the Municipality of the District of Argyle, the Municipality of the District of Yarmouth and the Town of Yarmouth recognize the critical importance of regional cooperation to the growth and prosperity of the region;

Whereas Council values the importance of building on past efforts for regional cooperation and understands that further collaboration potentially benefits all residents of the region;

Whereas Council recognizes that municipal cooperation and collaboration shall be improved dramatically with structural and governance reform;

Whereas Council recognizes that there are alternatives to structural and governance reform, one of which includes a full consolidation of two or more units - and wishes to learn more about these options;

Whereas the Councils for the three municipalities agree that discussions should take place with each other to explore opportunities for structural reform, and that these discussions would be most productive if coordinated and facilitated by representatives of the Province of Nova Scotia;

Whereas while municipal structural and governance reform is required for growth and prosperity, the Municipality of the District of Argyle is home to many Acadian residents, in communities that require special consideration for the preservation of minority language and culture.

Whereas the Municipality of the District of Argyle has taken a firm position on the preservation of our provincial riding, and that a court of law has requested that the Province return our Provincial riding to its original boundaries in the interest of protecting and preserving Acadian minority language rights.

And Whereas communication and public engagement is critical to any successful review of structural change, regardless of its form, and Argyle residents have traditionally been actively engaged in municipal government;

Now therefore be it **resolved** that

1. That the Municipality of the District of Argyle submit a formal request to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing for the Province of Nova Scotia to coordinate a facilitated session between the Councils for the Municipality of the District of Argyle, the Municipality of the District of Yarmouth and the Town of Yarmouth to discuss structural reform, including a discussion on a potential consolidation of the three Municipal Units, such session to be held within the next 45 days.
2. That the Municipality of the District of Argyle submit a formal request to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to include the lens of francophone Acadian minority rights in their facilitated discussion, and to consider the preservation of those rights in their presentation on municipal structural and governance reform.
3. That the Municipality of the District of Argyle ensure that any and all discussions result in open and transparent communication to the public, and that the communication may be coordinated with the other two units or be independent of the units.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Nicole Albright to accept the resolution number 2020-01 as presented.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 1 against)

MOU Fisheries & Aquaculture

CAO Muise briefly explained the attached MOU. It relates to aquaculture, specifically oyster and other sea marine. The regulations are still within the responsibility of the Province. This MOU clears some of the regulatory tape in advance. This will speed up the application process. The MOU is an understanding but is not a legal binding contract.

It is moved by Lucien LeBlanc and seconded by Glenn Diggdon that the MOU between the Province of NS and the Municipality of Argyle respecting the development of an Aquaculture Development Area be approved as presented, and that staff work alongside our provincial counterparts to move this initiative forward.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Volunteer Fire Fighters/Dept of Education & Early Childhood Development

Warden Muise explained the letter of support requested from The Municipality of Barrington.

It is moved by Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Kathy Bourque to send a letter of support to the Municipality of Barrington for the Volunteer Fire Fighters/Dept of Education & Early Childhood Development

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Emergency Fund

Warden Muise explained that we are looking to increase the amount from \$400 to \$500. Staff do not require proof from applicants, rely on Councillors and community members.

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Lucien LeBlanc to approve the increase of the Emergency Fund to \$500

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Mariners Centre Vision & Mission Statement

CAO Muise presented the Mariners Centre Vision & Mission Statement to Council. Municipality is not an owner but a funder for the Mariners Centre.

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Kathy Bourque to approve the Mariners Center Vision & Mission statement as presented

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Standing Committee of Council

Warden Muise explained that members of the community saw a need to improve training for volunteer firefighters. It would standardize the training.

It is moved by Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Lucien LeBlanc that a standing committee be struck and that the CAO develop a draft terms of reference for Council's consideration, which will outline the nature of the work to be done, membership, deadlines and other requirements.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Nomination for Order of Canada

Deputy Warden Guy Surette highlighted the details of the application and gave some background of the applicant Gerald Boudreau.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Kathy Bourque to approve the Nomination of Gerald Boudreau for the Order of Canada

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

REMO – Selection of Executive Committee Members

As explained in the agreement, the Warden and one Councillor shall be appointed to the committee. Councillor Diggdon would like to be on the committee.

It is moved Richard Donaldson and seconded by Guy Surette that Warden Danny Muise and Councillor Glenn Diggdon be appointed as members of the REMO executive committee, and that the selection be communicated to our partners.

Motion carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Letter to TIR

Councillor Diggdon brought his concerns about the snowstorm on Jan 8 and issues with how bad the roads were 24 to 36 hrs after the storm. Requesting a letter be sent to TIR.

It is moved by Glen Diggdon and seconded by Calvin d'Entremont to approve that a letter be sent to TIR and MLA Colton LeBlanc requesting that they look at their policies regarding snow removal and salting in the West Pubnico area after storms.
Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Letter from NDP

Warden Muise received a letter from Gary Burrill of the NPD asking for a meeting with Council to hear various perspectives and concerns.
Council expressed no interest in having this meeting.
No motion made.

Correspondence and for Information

Municipal Affairs and Housing

No action, for information.

Argyle Municipal Fire Fighters Association Minutes

No action, for information.

2019 Bay of Fundy Sea Kayak Symposium – Final Report.

No action, for information.

Internet for NS -Update

No action, for information.

Mariners Center – November Financial Statement

No action, for information.

Western REN – Quarterly Report

No action, for information.

Ad Campaign for compost education

No action, for information.

Women's Winterlude ad for Vanguard

No action, for information

Financial Requests

None

Agenda Topics for Next Meeting/Notice of Motion

- 220 KG on major cleanups
- CAO Muise will provide an update on Grants to Organizations

Question Period

None

In Camera

It is moved by consensus to go in-camera to discuss the Mariners Centre Funding Agreement at 8:44pm

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and Kathy Bourque to approve that the CAO request the partnering units accept a 1-year extension of the existing Mariners Centre Funding Agreement.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

There being no further business, it is moved by Consensus to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting at 9:22PM.

Recorder
Lori Murphy

Date Approved: _____

Chairman/Warden _____

Alain Muise, Chief Administrative Officer _____