

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday February 9th, 2021
Zoom 7:00 p.m.

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

Regrets: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:04p.m. by Warden Danny Muise

Agenda:

On a motion by Nicole Albright and seconded by Kathy Bourque the agenda was approved as circulated.

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.
None declared.

Presentation- Jamie Stephen and Renee Landry-Wood pellet heat

Jamie spoke about why wood pellets are good for Argyle. It's an approach to reducing energy costs for our residents. Mr. Steven explained what Bioheat is and explained the difference between residential and commercial pellet boilers. The issue with wood pellet furnaces is that they are much more expensive than the oil burning furnaces, but the pellets are locally sourced, and far less expensive than the oil. Mr. Stephen would like to have Argyle host a pilot project for this renewable energy option, with a focus on residential homes. The best suited homes are the large single detached family home. Should Argyle be interested, a proposal would be prepared on our behalf by the company, and the deadline for application is at the end of April.

Presentation attached (020901)

Adoption of Minutes

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes – January 26, 2021

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Nicole Albright that the January 26, 2021 minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Special Council Meeting Minutes – February 1, 2021

It is moved by Nicole Albright and seconded by Richard Donaldson that the February 1, 2021 minutes of the Special Council Meeting be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Accessibility Advisory Committee minutes

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Calvin d'Entremont that the Accessibility Advisory Committee minutes be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

ARC Minutes

It is moved by Nicole Albright and seconded by Kathy Bourque that the ARC minutes be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Business Arising from the Minutes

Sidewalk Policy review

CAO Muisse briefly spoke about the review he conducted for sidewalk construction. The MODY policy attached to these minutes is very comprehensive. There is criteria in the policy that would be a starting point. Also spoke with Stacey Muisse about traditional and non-traditional sidewalks. There are typically 2 designs, urban as well as rural design. The cost is approximate cost is \$1 Million per km for urban, and about one third of that for rural design, depending on the materials used.

While the rural design is less expensive, it requires the community landowners to sign a right of way, as the construction would utilize part of the residential property as opposed to the Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal Right of Way. There is an example of this in Rockville/Kelly's Cove area in Yarmouth County. This one is gravel, not concrete or asphalt.

Gravel is cheaper to build but maintenance cost is higher for gravel sidewalks and would not be accessible to everyone.

All in agreement that we need to have a sidewalk policy regardless of if we decide to build sidewalks. It will be brought forward at the priority session.

Strategic planning

CAO Muisse spoke about the targeted deadline regarding the SWOT matrix and the values presented. The Core team will be meeting soon to talk about these documents. Possible meeting with facilitator by end of March.

Councillors' Report

Councillor Saulnier: Received information from Clerk and CAO on sidewalks. In the 2016 Active Transportation Plan it mentions that Plymouth was not consulted in the report.

CAO Muisse will investigate why Plymouth was not included.

Councillor Boudreau: Did brush cutting at intersections in his area, working with Hans on wastewater project. Had a complaint from residents that school bus was using their driveway to turn around which wasn't an issue but it was causing damage. With help from CAO Muise, received gravel to fix problem and resident is happy.

Deputy Warden Albright: Splash park has made presentations to MODY and TOY. Will be coming to Argyle to present and will be asking for financial contribution. Attended recreation meeting regarding rails to trails. The signage pilot project is up and running on the trails. Volunteer banquet is coming up and Feb 12 is deadline to submit names. Park de jeunes received a \$4,789 grant from Community Health Board to make the Wedgeport playground more accessible. There is a sub-committee created for the Glenwood project. Looking for beach volleyball area, boat launch for non-motorized boating, widening swim area and playground. Attended meeting with Eel brook fire department, they are still looking for extra funding. Also attended Tri-unit meeting with GSAR and white caps as well as a meeting with deputy minister of TIR. Talked to TIR about gravel roads and Rocco point road.

Councillor Donaldson: Coverage map is out for rural internet. Majority, if not all, of district 6 is covered. Bell has come out with high-speed internet service option until fibre-op is an option.

Councillor Diggon: Attended REMO meeting. Had a meeting with the West Pubnico fire protection. Sat in on Mariners Center expansion meeting. Would like invitation to sit in airport meetings. Spoke about ambulance wait times in Pubnico.

It is moved by Glenn Diggon seconded by Kathy Bourque that council write a letter to emergency health services to ask why the paramedic base in Pubnico is often unstaffed.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Councillor Bourque: Attended YAIC meeting. Volunteer for CAPEB and they are putting on a breakfast on Feb 16. Attended Nakile meeting as well as the recreation meeting. Attended a finance management session that was very interesting. Attended the tri-unit meeting with white caps and GSAR. Also was at TIR meeting and talked about road issues in Pubnico as well as Intersection 32.

Councillor Surette: Meeting with TIR and the Tittle road was brought up for flooding. Actively looking at funding to attend to road issues. Airport meeting went well. Attended tri-unit meeting and the mariners center workshop.

Councillor d'Entremont: Spoke about Rock road in West Pubnico not being plowed after storms. Would like to write a letter to TIR.

It is moved by Calvin d'Entremont and seconded Richard Donaldson to write a letter to TIR to ask them why snow removal is not prompt on the Rock road in West Pubnico.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Warden's Report

January 11. Waste check meeting

January 12. Reg council
January 14. Choice housing committee
January 25,27 and 29. Finance management via zoom through AMANS
January 27. Starlight committee
February 1. Special council meeting
February 2. REMO Executive meeting
February 3. Presentation from Search and Rescue and White Caps
February 4. Interview with Hospital Foundation Radiothon, Webinar re: Capital and Operating grants, workshop re: Mariner Centre Expansion

Staff Report

The staff report is attached. CAO Muise explained that the building is still on schedule and will be ready to move in by June. Moving forward in an aggressive way with the inside. Solar panels are coming soon. Will not be using generator for use when the power goes out. Staff can work from home now so not concerned with the need for backup power.

Question for Hans regarding dewatering solution for West Pubnico sewer. The machine is currently being manufactured. Schedule is slightly delayed. Early April to install and start up.

Report Attached (020902)

For Decision and discussion

By-Law 39-Civic Addressing Signage-second reading

Warden Muise explained the attachment.

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Nicole Albright to approve the second and final reading of By-Law #39 Civic Addressing Signage.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Code of Conduct-Staff

Warden Muise spoke about the attached policy.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Kathy Bourque that Council approve the Code of Conduct staff policy as presented.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Emergency Fund Policy

Warden Muise highlighted the policy changes that were made.

It is moved by Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Calvin d'Entremont that Council approve the Emergency Fund Policy as presented.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Wastewater project

Warden Muise spoke briefly about the request. More discussion required.

For discussion, no motion made.

NSLC home delivery

Warden Muise explained the memo. There is opposition for the home delivery Health Authority wants support for the request to stop home delivery.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Ted Saulnier that Council approve a letter of support for the Health Authority to not allow home delivery from NSLC.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Middle East Pubnico water tender

Warden Muise spoke about the request for decision. There were two submissions. Anything decided today will be supported by a legal opinion. There are not negotiations with unqualified bids.

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Calvin d'Entremont that Council instruct staff to enter negotiations with the lowest qualified bidder for the Middle East Pubnico Water Systems, Garian Construction Limited, with the intention of limiting the budget overage to 15% of the project through adjustments to the project scope that meet the satisfaction of the Municipality. Should the negotiation successfully reduce the bid to meet these parameters, Council allows the CAO to approve the project be awarded on behalf of Council.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

GSAR

Warden Muise spoke about the presentation GSAR gave and what their needs are. Deputy Warden Albright thought the discussion is 3-fold. First is decision on what funding to give them for this year. Secondly is sustainable funding and third is how to help support fixing their building issues. They are working on applying for a grant from Communities, Facilities and Improvement program, and are looking for a letter of support for this grant application. Discussion about having an inspection of the building before we provide funding. All Agreed that we will wait for more information before any sustainable funding is approved.

It is moved by Nicole Albright and seconded by Glenn Diggdon that Council grant GSAR \$8,800, being the remainder of the grants to organizations budget for this fiscal year.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

It is moved by Nicole Albright and seconded Richard Donaldson that council provide a letter of support to GSAR for the grant application and include our funding contribution.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Strategic planning proposal

Warden Muise spoke about the process and how to move forward in this process. This includes hiring a facilitator. They will be doing planning and preparation. They will finalize and provide the report.

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Ted Saulnier that the Council approve the recommendation to hire a firm to move forward with the strategic planning process.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Correspondence and for Information

Municipal Affairs & Housing

No action, for information

TNR

Warden Muise spoke about the letter attached. They are just explaining the cost associated with the TNR program.

No action, for information.

YMCA letters

No action, for information.

Financial Requests

None

Agenda Topics for Next Meeting/Notice of Motion

None

Question Period

Questions were addressed during the meeting by Jamie Stephen from Torchlight Bioresources

In Camera

None

There being no further business, it is moved by Calvin d'Entremont and seconded by Guy Surette to adjourn the Regular Council meeting at 9:33p.m.

Recorder
Lori Murphy

Date Approved: _____

Chairman/Warden _____

Alain Muise, Chief Administrative Officer _____