

Municipality of the District of Argyle
Committee of the Whole Meeting
Tuesday, January 25, 2022
Zoom, 6:30 p.m.

Present: Warden Danny Muise, Deputy Warden Nicole Albright; Councillors Glenn Diggdon, Guy Surette, Gordon Boudreau, Richard Donaldson, Ted Saulnier and Kathy Bourque, Acting Chief Administrative Officer, Kyle Boudreau, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer/Municipal Clerk, Scott Surette, Director of Finance Marsha d'Eon and Executive Assistant/Recorder Chantalle Newell

Regrets: Chief Administrative Officer, Alain Muise, Councillor Calvin d'Entremont

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Deputy Warden Nicole Albright.

Agenda:

On a motion by Guy Surette and seconded by Danny Muise the agenda was approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Conflict of Interest Declaration

Deputy Warden Nicole Albright asked for any declarations of conflict of interest from the floor.

None declared.

Presentation – Darryl LeBlanc, West Pubnico Golf Course

Darryl LeBlanc spoke to Council about the West Pubnico Golf Association. Darryl is looking into the possibility of a partnership with the Municipality of Argyle. The key points to his presentation were:

- Financially, the golf course is doing well, especially since they have switched to an Association.
- There are capital costs that are going to be coming up in the next 5-10 years.
- A clubhouse is going to need to have major repairs, as it was purchased over 20 years ago and has not had any major renovations or repairs done to it since.
- Equipment is going to need to be purchased.
- The Golf Association does not feel that financially, they will be able to purchase new equipment and do major repairs to a clubhouse.
- The Golf Association would like some sort of commitment from Council – it does not have to be this year.
- They feel they are able to take care of the operating expenses and the wages of employees.
- They have not replaced equipment in over 7 years, including tractors and mowers, as they have been well maintained.
- Darryl indicates the Association feels they have a major asset in the Municipality of Argyle, indicating they have one of the largest recreational facilities in the Municipality.

- The Association is willing to offer their recreational facility to the Municipality and the Recreation Department. Darryl indicated they could use the facilities in the winter and summer for certain activities such as hikes on the golf course, snow shoeing, cross country skiing, clubhouse for yoga classes, for seniors games nights, teen activities in exchange for commitment of annual funding from the Municipality to go towards capital projects.
- Darryl mentioned there is \$20,000 set aside in their budget for the loan they received from the Government. The Government just extended the deadline for total payment of this loan to the end of 2023. They plan to set aside \$20,000 this year in the budget as well to pay the total of the \$40,000 loan.

Councillor Surette mentioned the \$40,000 loan. He indicated that he heard there was \$10,000 forgivable on that loan. Darryl mentioned the loan was increased to \$60,000 and \$20,000 was forgivable. He indicated they have \$20,000 put aside for the loan right now, and planned on paying it off by the deadline this year. However, the deadline was extended to the end of 2023, so they will put aside \$10,000 this year and \$10,000 next year.

Warden Muise asked if the Association has looked into grants for the federal and provincial government for capital projects and repairs. Darryl said they have looked into these grants. The purpose of his presentation tonight was to put the Golf Association on Council's radar. They will also be attempting fundraising. The problem they run into with fundraising is having volunteers wanting to help out with volunteering.

Councillor Saulnier asked if their membership was down. Darryl indicated yes, they have 168 memberships total for the last few years.

Deputy Warden Albright stated that Council will put this on their radar.

Adoption of Minutes

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, November 23, 2021

It is moved by Danny Muise and seconded by Kathy Bourque that the Tuesday, November 23, 2021 minutes be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Regular Council Meeting Minutes – Thursday, January 13, 2022

It is moved by Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Ted Saulnier that the Thursday, January 13, 2022 Regular Council Meeting minutes be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Business Arising from the Minutes

Letter sent to SHYFT House regarding Coldest Night of the Year Sponsorship

A letter was sent to SHYFT House regarding Council's sponsorship to them for the Coldest Night of the Year fundraiser.

Letter sent to the Minister of Public Works regarding the condition of the Rocco Point Road

A letter was sent to the Minister of Public Works regarding the condition of the Rocco Point Road. A five-year plan was released from the Department of Public Works and Rocco Point Road is one of the roads projected to be fixed in the 2022-23 years.

West Pubnico Lift Station Pumps

Councillor Saulnier asked how many pumps there are and is wondering if they can be refurbished in any way. His concern is that one pump costs over \$10,000.

Acting Chief Administrative Officer Boudreau mentioned that these pumps are an asset and they need to be well maintained. Once they break, they are more than likely to be at the end of life.

Financial Report

Director of Finance, Marsha d'Eon reviewed the financial report for the end of December 2021 as attached to the agenda.

Some key things she pointed out to Council were:

- The Deed Transfer Tax is at \$173,354 over the prorated budget number.
- The Provincial Government unconditional transfer is at \$116,189 over the prorated budget – This is the Municipal Finance Capacity Grant otherwise known as the Equalization grant. This is the platform commitment made by the new government to double this grant until the new memorandum of understanding was negotiated.
- These 2 line items alone make up \$289,343 of the surplus.

Attachment 220125

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Guy Surette to approve the financial statements as presented.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

For Decision and discussion - None

Correspondence and for Information

Letter from MLA Colton LeBlanc wishing to meet with Council

MLA Colton LeBlanc will be attending the next Regular Council Meeting on February 8, 2022.

Signed Bell Agreement

No action. For information.

Letter sent to Warden Muise

Warden Muise received a letter from Neil Mackenzie. There is a seniors curling tournament in December. They will be coming to the Municipality for some funding. There is a breakdown in the letter and what they are looking for is \$10,000 per YASTA partner. Warden Muise is going to send this letter to Council.

Financial Requests - None.

Agenda Topics for Next Meeting/Notice of Motion

None.

Question Period

There was a question from the public asking if the pumps can be rebuilt or not. Acting Chief Administrative Officer Boudreau indicated that depending on the problem yes. However the bigger issue is the lack of ability to maintain these pumps. He indicated at the Tusket plant, they are smaller and less expensive pumps, therefore they are able to maintain spares and get regular maintenance on them. The West Pubnico pumps are more expensive to have and keep on hand and maintain.

In Camera – Contract Negotiations and Personnel Matter

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Ted Saulnier to recess the Committee of the Whole meeting and go In-Camera to discuss contract negotiations and personnel matters at 7:19 p.m.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Council agreed to return to the Committee of the Whole meeting to make a motion at 9:04 p.m.

It is moved by Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Guy Surette to extend the Facilities and Maintenance Supervisor in the Acting Chief Administrative Officer role until the Chief Administrative Officer returns from leave or the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer is able to fill in the Acting Chief Administrative Officer position.

Motion Carried. (8 in favour, 0 against)

There being no further business, it is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Ted Saulnier to adjourn the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 9:06 p.m.

Executive Assistant/Recorder
Chantalle Newell

Date Approved: February 8, 2022

Chairman/Warden Original Signed

Scott Surette, Deputy CAO Original Signed