

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday January 28, 2020
Tusket, NS 5:30 p.m.

Present: Warden Danny Muise; Deputy Warden Guy Surette; Councillors Glenn Diggdon, Nicole Albright, Richard Donaldson, and Kathy Bourque; Chief Administrative Officer Alain Muise, and Municipal Clerk/Recorder Lori Murphy.

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:31p.m. by Deputy Warden Guy Surette.

Earl Mielke – Compass NS

Earl gave a high-level overview of Compass NS. He reviewed the organizational structure, strategic direction as well as the benefits and current projects under Compass NS. He also described the Home ownership program under housing NS.

Presentation attached (2020012801)

Agenda:

On a motion by Richard and seconded by Glenn the agenda was approved as amended.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Addition of Financial request by Councillor Diggdon

Conflict of Interest Declaration

Deputy Warden Guy Surette asked for any declarations of conflict of interest from the floor.

Councillor Albright declared a conflict of interest with decision item Maintenance 2020-2021

Presentations - None

Adoption of Minutes

Regular Council Meeting Minutes – January 14, 2020

It is moved by Danny Muise and seconded by Nicole Albright that the January 14, 2020 minutes of the Regular Council Meeting be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Business Arising from the Minutes

Solid Waste Authority- 220kg fee exception

Deputy Warden Surette explained the response from the Solid Waste Authority. Waste park doesn't have the ability to give an exception. It is up to the Municipality to offer the

exception. Councillor Diggdon would like to see an exception of 1500kg once a year. Consensus from Council is that it would be too hard to monitor and track an exception.

Rising Tide Project

CAO Muise explained highlights of the project that was presented at last council meeting. It is up to council to decide how they want to proceed with this project. The cost of this project does not allow it to be approved without going to tender. All in agreement that our website is lacking. More information is needed for council to make a decision either way. Council wants to see where this project fits with the budget.

This item was tabled to a future date.

Financial Statements – December 2019

Financial Director Marsha d'Eon absent. CAO Muise reviewed the financial statements attached to these minutes and highlighted some points in the budget along with operating surplus. From a revenue perspective we are not anticipating transferring from our operating reserve. Good results from the deed transfer tax revenues. Most departments are showing positive results as far as expenses go. Staff will investigate why fire protection training is not being utilized.

Deputy Warden asked about the Library in Pubnico. The Municipality is not mandated to have it open. There are concerns about location of Library. Western Counties Regional Library has funding for bilingual position.

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Kathy Bourque to accept the financial report as presented.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

CAO Muise briefly highlighted the income statement for the reserves attached to these minutes. Explanation given for the operating, capital and gas tax reserves.

It is moved by Danny Muise and seconded by Glenn Diggdon to accept the income statement as presented.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

CAO Muise highlighted the balance sheet attached to these minutes. Description given of the assets listed on the balance sheet.

It is moved by Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Kathy Bourque to accept the balance sheet operating fund and reserves as presented.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Reports attached (2020012802)

Strategic Priority Topics

None

For Decision

Article P36 Storm & Hazardous Conditions Policy

CAO Muise gave a brief highlight of the new Policy. It is more detailed and outlines what happens in the event of a storm or hazardous event and who makes the decision to close. This policy will replace the storm policy.

This item was tabled to a future date.

Maintenance 2020-2021

Councillor Albright declared a conflict of interest and excused herself from the discussion and the vote

Deputy Warden Surette explained the tender for the vehicle. CAO Muise explained the RFD to hire an assistant maintenance coordinator.

It is moved by Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Danny Muise that the 6-month casual position of Assistant Maintenance Coordinator be created and filled prior to the approval of the 2020-21 operating budget.

Motion Carried (5 in favour, 0 against)

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Glenn Diggdon that the CAO be authorized to search for a used truck to fill the vehicle needs for the service.

Motion Carried (5 in favour, 0 against)

RFEOI – Tuskett alternative housing 2020

CAO Muise explained the request for expression of interest proposal draft. It is still a work in progress. There will be additional information provided regarding mapping. Decision will have to be made about putting this out as an expression of interest or as a request for proposal. CAO Muise will bring a final document back to council at a future date.

This item was tabled to a future date.

Grants to Organizations-City Halls

CAO Muise explained the different options for funding community halls. The grants to organizations process is currently being revamped. All grant applications will be completed on-line. Councillor Donaldson would like to see the same community hall program continue. Whatever Council decides to do with application process, clarity is very important.

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Danny Muise to approve that staff revamp the old community halls grant program to allow for \$20,000 for up to two halls (or less) and a maximum of \$10,000 per hall for 2020-21.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Solid Waste Collection Contract

CAO Muise presented the Solid Waste Collection request for proposal. The current contract is expiring at the end of March. Councillor Donaldson suggested that we stay with a 5-year contract to align with our neighboring municipalities.

It is moved by Nicole Albright and seconded by Glenn Diggdon to authorize the CAO to go to tender.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Correspondence and for Information

NS Municipal Finance Corporation Newsletter

No action, for information.

Western REN Liaison and Oversight Committee

No action, for information.

Facilitated discussion letter

No action, for information.

Municipal Profile Report

No action, for information.

Mariners Centre letter

No action, for information.

Letter from MLA Colton LeBlanc

No action, for information

Financial Requests

2021 55+ games

Deputy Warden Surette explained the request from YASTA.

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Nicole Albright to provide a \$4,000 grant to YASTA to support the hosting of the 2021 55+ Games in Yarmouth County, and that the funds be issued and paid via current year surplus.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Travel Media Association of Canada

Deputy Warden Surette explained the request from YASTA for the bid of the TMAC annual conference. CAO Muise provided details of the event.

It is moved by Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Kathy Bourque to provide a letter of support for the application to host the TMAC's annual conference, and that a \$10,000

commitment be made to support our application, payable over two fiscal years, being 2020-21 and 2021-22 conditional on a successful application.
Motion Carried (6 in favour, 0 against)

Financial request-Sound Effects South West Nova Music Society

Councillor Diggon received a financial request for \$300. Not sure if there are enough funds to approve the request. Staff to look into the request.

This item was tabled to a future date.

Agenda Topics for Next Meeting/Notice of Motion

None

Question Period

None

In Camera

None

There being no further business, it is moved by Kathy Bourque to adjourn the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 8:20 PM.

Recorder
Lori Murphy

Date Approved: _____

Chairman/Warden _____

Alain Muise, Chief Administrative Officer _____