

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday February 25, 2020
Tusket, NS 6:30 p.m.

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

Regrets: Calvin d'Entremont
3 members of the public present

The meeting was called to order at 6:30p.m. by Deputy Warden Guy Surette.

Agenda:

On a motion by Danny Muise and seconded by Nicole Albright the agenda was approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Conflict of Interest Declaration

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

None declared

Presentations

Sonia Smith - Clean NS

Sonia Spoke about the Home Warming program. The program has been running since 2015. Funded by Province and NS Power. Applicants have to own the home, not renting. Applicants must meet income thresholds. Home Warming Program is only available for one home, one time.

Rebecca Rose – Community Navigator

Rebecca spoke about recruitment, retention and the community navigation piece of her role. She tracks medical students that are currently in our area and who might be looking into residency in our area. Rebecca is currently working on development of Credit Union place that will house medical students. Recruitment piece is on-going. Navigation piece deals with housing, explaining local customs, schools and many other things. Five new additions of physicians since she started her position. The shortage previously was 6 family medicine doctors and 4 anesthesiologists. Currently we have 1 vacancy for an anesthesiologist and 3 vacancies for physicians. Some medical residents choose to stay where they are doing their residency.

Report attached (2020022501)

Adoption of Minutes

Regular Council Meeting Minutes – February 11, 2020

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Kathy Bourque that the February 11, 2020 minutes of the Regular Council Meeting be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Business Arising from the Minutes

Unightly Vessel in Wedgeport

Councillor LeBlanc highlighted the history of the vessel. Boat owner cannot afford to remove it but landowner wants it removed. Staff will need permission/consent from boat owner to remove the vessel. Concern about the storage of the vessel.

It is moved by Roderick Murphy Jr. and seconded by Lucien LeBlanc that Council approve the cost of removing the vessel to a maximum of \$1500.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Councillor Diggdon refrained from voting due to a conflict of interest

For Decision

Structural Reform-Consolidation

CAO Muise highlighted some points of the document.

Municipality of Argyle is currently financially viable. Population in Argyle is aging and declining. We do need structural reform. Concerns and fears heard from public consists of: increased taxes, consolidation would benefit the Town only and losing our sense of identity in Argyle. Must consider what happens to Argyle if the other two partners decide to consolidate.

Councillor Donaldson explained that he is hearing from the public that they are not interested/ready in consolidation.

Warden Muise expressed his concerns about consolidation and the fears from the public. He is not convinced that consolidation is the way to go.

Councillor Diggdon feels he has not had enough information to make a decision and cannot vote for consolidation.

Councillor Bourque agrees with other councillors. Work needs to be done on regional agreements.

Councillor Albright expressed concerns about how we are doing things and what is best for us right now. Does not feel ready for consolidation.

Councillor LeBlanc expressed concerns with the issues Argyle is currently experiencing that consolidation might fix. He feels consolidation is not the right option right now, but something needs to be done to address the issues.

Deputy Warden Surette expressed concerns about the timeline that Province set out. Discussion about regional agreements. CAO Muise highlighted how the partnerships work and how frustrating they are from an administrative perspective.

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Glenn Diggdon that Council notify the Town of Yarmouth, the Municipality of Yarmouth and Municipal Affairs that the Municipality of Argyle is not ready to consolidate at this time.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Water lending program/PACE Efficiency Program

Deputy Warden Surette briefly described the history of the program. He also highlighted the PACE program. An explanation was given on the request for decision. Councillor LeBlanc expressed his frustration with the program and thinks it is just a band-aid solution to the larger problem.

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Lucien Leblanc that the water lending policy be extended to an indefinite time, allowing up to \$240,000 in lending to our residents, and that staff amend policy to reflect this decision.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

CAO Muise highlighted the PACE program.

It is moved by Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Danny Muise that the CAO or his designate lead the research on renewable energy and energy efficiency projects available to Nova Scotians, and that a report be brought to Council recommending projects with the best potential to assist us and our residents.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Article C4 – Grants to Organizations Policy

It is moved by Lucien LeBlanc and seconded by Glenn Diggdon to approve Article C4 – Grants to Organizations Policy as presented.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Article C37 – Community Halls Grant Program Policy

It is moved by Lucien LeBlanc and seconded by Roderick Murphy Jr to approve Article C37 – Community Halls Grant Program Policy as presented.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Article C16 – Tax Exemption Policy

CAO Muise explained how the calculations were adjusted.

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Nicole Albright to approve Article C16 – Tax Exemption Policy as presented.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Article P15 – Compassionate leave

It is moved by Lucien LeBlanc and seconded by Kathy Bourque to approve Article P15 – Compassionate Leave Policy as presented.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Repeal Article P15 – Leave of Absence

It is moved by Lucien LeBlanc and seconded by to Repeal Article P15 – Leave of Absence Policy as presented.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Repeal Article P11 – Storm Day Policy

It is moved by Danny Muise and seconded by Kathy Bourque to approve Article P11 – Storm day Policy as presented.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Returning Officer

CAO Muise has approached Deputy Clerk Kim Rowley to be our returning officer.

It is moved by Lucien LeBlanc and seconded by Richard Donaldson that Council appoint Kim Rowley as our returning officer for the 2020 municipal election

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Mariners Centre Proposal

CAO Muise explained the proposal. This is the next step in the strategic planning that is being proposed. Looking for 2 councillors to sit on ad hoc committee. Councillor Diggdon and Deputy Warden Surette volunteered to sit on the committee.

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Kathy Bourque to accept that Councilor Diggdon and Deputy Warden Surette sit as members on the committee.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Field Maintenance truck

CAO Muise explained the details of the memo and why one tender was disqualified.

It is moved by Roderick Murphy Jr and seconded by Kathy Bourque to accept the recommendation of the Public Works Director.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Correspondence and for Information

Thank you, letter - YMCA

No action, for information.

Successful Bid 55+ Games

No action, for information.

Summer employee budget

No action, for information.

Mariners Centre letter
No action, for information.

Financial Requests

Association des Acadiens-Metis Souriquois

Councillor LeBlanc explained the request.

It is moved by Lucien LeBlanc and seconded by Glenn Diggdon to provide a \$500 District community grant to The Association des Acadiens-Metis Souriquois
Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Agenda Topics for Next Meeting/Notice of Motion

Kathy Bourque gave a notice of motion to guide staff to list all agreements and to start the process of structural reform

Question Period

None

In Camera

None

There being no further business, it is moved by consensus to adjourn the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 8:41PM.

Recorder
Lori Murphy

Date Approved: _____

Chairman/Warden _____

Alain Muise, Chief Administrative Officer _____