

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
Monday February 1st, 2021
Zoom 3:30 p.m.

Special Council Meeting

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

Regrets: Glenn Diggdon

The meeting was called to order at 3:39p.m. by Warden Danny Muise

Agenda:

On a motion by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Ted Saulnier the agenda was approved as circulated

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Conflict of Interest Declaration

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

None declared

For Decision

YMCA- Bridge Service

With COVID-19, the pool can be reopened but there will be special considerations. Fitness area can open as well but with COVID-19 restrictions impacting it as well. The process to re-open the former YMCA will take time, with many steps and decisions to be made at each step, which is to say that if Council is interested in opening a service at the former Y location, the work needs to start now. It will likely take into summer and early fall to get ready. Council had questions around who will be opening the former Y, to which there is no definite answer. The owner being the Town, they would be in a better position to answer that. Whitecaps will struggle with membership if they are still without a local pool by September. The cost to re-open the former Y is likely to exceed the YMCA request for funding and could be considerably more if other fundraising efforts are not part of the solution. The YMCA asked for \$200,000 annually to operate at its more recent request.

Other levels of government showed interest in helping with bridge. Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage has shown a strong interest in helping. Depart of

seniors also wants to help with bridge, but there is no committed amount at other levels of government.

CAO Muise expresses uncertainty of cost of doing all the repairs to get pool running. The roof definitely needs fixing, along with other internal functions, It is understood that it could cost \$20,000 simply to re-start and operationalize the pool. There was discussion on what operations would look like (types of cost, staffing etc). Unfortunately, much of the answers are part of the reopening process and cannot be answered with accuracy at this time. Council agrees that Argyle's funding portion should be limited to its use, which has been in the 20% to 25% range, representing the proportion of memberships sold to our residents compared to total memberships.

All agree that Yarmouth bought the former Y building, and it should be up to them to answer the questions regarding operations. Yarmouth has to set the rules because they own it. More specifically, Council would prefer to be a supporter and funder, and not primary lead on the project execution; they prefer their CAO apply time and energy on other projects.

There is some concern over what will happen to all this work when the Mariners Center expansion opens, and the impact of this work on a future aquatics center. The Mariners Center expansion is still going ahead regardless of what happens with the former Y. We will need to ask the provincial political partners this question.

It was general consensus that the pool is a needed and desired service that we need for all residents, and while located in the Town, it benefits a significant population in our region. Furthermore, the importance of having these types of infrastructure available to attract new residents and retain current is not to be understated.

MODY is looking at alternate forms of service as part of a potential bridge to service. Their intention is to ensure that we are not investing too heavily in the service. The discussion on MODY's position was based primarily on individual conversations and did not necessarily reflect the Council position as a majority.

Council is supportive of the bridge at the current location, as any alternate service would be impractical and not supportive of the needs of our residents. CAO Muise was asked to advise on amounts and where the funds could be derived. Argyle could allocate a portion of COVID money for this and use some of the former commitment (made this fiscal year) to support an increase. Amounts are discussed.

CAO Muise expressed that it would be important for Council to declare that their commitment to a new facility remains, and that our MP/MLA's be contacted to confirm this.

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Kathy Bourque that Council support the re-opening of the Yarmouth pool located at the former YMCA location in the sum of 75K with option to re-visit funding as the project and details are made known at a later date.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

There being no further business, it is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Nicole Albright to adjourn the Special Council Meeting at 5:31PM.

Recorder
Lori Murphy

Date Approved: _____

Chairman/Warden _____

Alain Muise, Chief Administrative Officer _____