

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING/BUDGET MEETING

Tuesday, May 10, 2022

Council Chambers, Tuskent, NS 6:30 p.m.

Present: Warden Danny Muise, Councillors: Calvin d'Entremont, Gordon Boudreau, Glenn Diggdon, Kathy Bourque, Richard Donaldson, Ted Saulnier, Guy Surette; Chief Administrative Officer Alain Muise, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Scott Surette, Director of Finance Marsha d'Eon, and Executive Assistant/Recorder Chantalle Newell.

Regrets: Deputy Warden Nicole Albright

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Warden Danny Muise.

2. Approval of Agenda/Conflict of Interest Declaration

a. Agenda

On a motion by Councillor Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Councillor Ted Saulnier the agenda is approved as circulated.

Motion Carried. (8 in favour, 0 against)

b. Conflict of Interest Declaration

Warden Danny Muise asked for any declarations of conflict of interest from the floor.
None declared.

3. Presentation – Gérald Boudreau, Litter Clean Up

Gérald is presenting to Council on behalf of the concerned residents on Highway 308 from Tuskent to Morris Island. He is looking to seek a solution from Council, as this is unsightly. He also indicated that the garbage is a harm to the environment. Gérald has some solutions he would like to share with Council. One solution he has is to hire or give grants to people who volunteer to pick up the garbage from the ditches. He indicated that this is not a full solution, the problem starts with the people throwing the trash out. Gerald is suggesting staff could hire summer students with a written pledge, asking people to pledge to not throw garbage in the roads. He indicated this would be a good way to involve everyone in the environment.

Councillor Donaldson asked if there was education around how to discard your garbage from Waste Check. Councillor Surette mentioned that Waste Check goes into schools, hospitals and other institutions.

Councillor Surette will bring Gérald's suggestions to Waste Check.

CAO Muise mentioned the Community Litter Clean up Program that the Municipality has and how we were unable to send groups out due to COVID for 2 years. CAO Muise mentioned that staff can send a poll to other municipalities to see what they are doing.

Warden Danny Muise thanked Gérald for his presentation.

It is moved by Councillor Guy Surette and seconded by Councillor Calvin d'Entremont to have staff put out a poll to other Municipalities to see what they are doing for Litter Cleanup.

Motion Carried. (8 in favour, 0 against)

4. Adoption of Minutes

a. Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes – April 26, 2022

It is moved by Councillor Richard Donaldson and seconded by Councillor Kathy Bourque to approve the April 26, 2022 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes as presented.

Motion Carried. (8 in favour, 0 against)

5. Business Arising from Minutes

a. Flag Protocol Policy – Awaiting information on location

Warden Muise advised Council that staff is awaiting information to bring back to Council before they pass the Flag Protocol Policy.

6. Financial Approvals – Operating Fund 2022-2023

a. Fire Operating Budget

It is moved by Councillor Richard Donaldson and seconded by Councillor Kathy Bourque to approve the Fire Operating Budget as presented.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Attachment 051001

b. Grants to Organization – Spring 2022

Deputy CAO Surette explained the attached spreadsheet. He mentioned that we came to an average of \$50,850 which left \$2150 left in the budget. Deputy CAO Surette took the \$2150 and divided it into the groups in Argyle as per the policy. This brought the total to \$53,000 which is what was budgeted for the Spring grants.

It is moved by Councillor Gordon Boudreau and seconded by Councillor Guy Surette to approve the Community Hall Grants as presented.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

It is moved by Councillor Guy Surette and seconded by Councillor Richard Donaldson to approve the grants to organizations as presented.

Motion Carried. (8 in favour, 0 against)

Attachment 051002 and Attachment 051003

c. Special Events and Extraordinary Grants

It is moved by Councillor Richard Donaldson and seconded by Councillor Kathy Bourque that Council approve a 5-year commitment for capital projects to the West Pubnico Golf Course at \$8000 per year commencing the 2022- 2023 fiscal year and to be revisited in the 2027-2028

fiscal year.

Motion Carried. (8 in favour, 0 against)

Attachment 051004

Councillor Glenn Diggdon declared a conflict of interest for the next item, and therefore will not be voting on it.

It is moved by Councillor Guy Surette and seconded by Councillor Calvin d'Entremont that Council approve a one-time funding contribution to support the Fédération Culturelle Acadian de la Nouvelle Écosse for \$25,000 in the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Budget.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Attachment 051005

d. Sewer Budgets (Operating and Capital)

It is moved by Councillor Calvin d'Entremont and seconded by Councillor Glenn Diggdon that Council establish the following:

- An operating rate of \$340.00 per equivalent unit and the capital rate of \$206.00 per equivalent unit for the West Pubnico Sewer Charge 2022-2023 fiscal year.
- An operating rate of \$195.00 per equivalent unit and the capital rate of \$550.98 per equivalent unit for the Wedgeport Sewer Charge 2022-2023 fiscal year.
- An operating rate of \$315.00 per equivalent unit and the capital rate of \$218.38 per equivalent unit for the Tuskent Sewer Charge 2022-2023 fiscal year.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Attachment 051006

e. East Pubnico Water Utility Charge

It is moved by Councillor Calvin d'Entremont and seconded by Councillor Ted Saulnier that Council establish the following rates for the East Pubnico Water Utility:

1. Middle East Pubnico - \$3544.93 plus \$3.76 per 1,000 imperial gallons.
2. Lower East Pubnico - \$658.73 for a 1.5-inch pipe plus \$2.22 per 1,000 imperial gallons.
3. Lower East Pubnico- \$1053.35 for a 2-inch pipe plus \$2.22 per 1,000 imperial gallons.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Attachment 051007

f. Fire Area Rates

It is moved by Councillor Richard Donaldson and seconded by Councillor Kathy Bourque that Council approve the area rates set out by the fire departments as presented for the Fiscal Year

2022-2023.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Attachment 051008

g. Interest Rate/Date on Overdue accounts

It is moved by Councillor Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Councillor Gordon Boudreau that Council approve the interest rate of 13% per annum on overdue accounts and that the current year's property taxes be payable and due by July 29, 2022 and interest will accrue after that date.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Attachment 051009

h. Transfer Surplus to Capital Reserve

It is moved by Councillor Guy Surette and seconded by Councillor Richard Donaldson that an additional \$300,000 be transferred from the Operating Fund to the Capital Reserve for the year ended March 31, 2022

Motion Carried. (8 in favour, 0 against)

Attachment 051010

i. Low Income/Property Tax Exemption 2022

It is moved by Councillor Kathy Bourque and seconded by Councillor Calvin d'Entremont to approve the low income/property tax exemptions for 2022.

Motion Carried. (8 in favour, 0 against)

Attachment 051011

j. Residential, Resource, and Commercial Rates

It is moved by that Councillor Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Councillor Kathy Bourque to approve the tax rates at \$1.11 for Residential and Resource, and \$2.29 for Commercial for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

Motion Carried. (8 in favour, 0 against)

Attachment 051012

7. Operating Fund and Reserve Budget Presentation

CAO Muise started by mentioning that Council received a thorough budget presentation prior to this.

It is moved by Councillor Guy Surette and seconded by Councillor Ted Saulnier to approve the Operating Fund for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Motion Carried. (8 in favour, 0 against)

It is moved by Councillor Kathy Bourque and seconded by Councillor Calvin d'Entremont to approve the Operating Reserve for 2022-2023 Fiscal Year.

Motion Carried. (8 in favour, 0 against)

Presentation attached - 051013

8. Capital Budget Presentation

It is moved by Councillor Richard Donaldson and seconded by Councillor Gordon Boudreau to approve the Capital Reserve Budget as presented.

Motion Carried. (8 in favour, 0 against)

Attachment 051014

9. Councillor Reports

Councillor Bourque reported on her attendance at the following meetings: West Pubnico Sewer, East Pubnico Water Utility, Elemental Energy, Scott Surette Zoom Meeting, Nakile, Municipal Affairs, Yarmouth Area Industrial Commission, Committee of the Whole.

Councillor Saulnier reported on his attendance at the Wedgeport Wind farm meeting and open house, Municipal Affairs Presentation, Wedgeport Sewer Meeting, Active Transportation open house at the Plymouth School which was well received and well attended. He also attended the Wedgeport Fire Department Meeting and a Waste Check Meeting.

Councillor Diggdon reported on his attendance at the Mariners on Main grand opening. He mentioned that he has been putting up Civic signs in the community for residents, and he attended an August 15th Acadian Day Meeting, and a West Pubnico Sewer Meeting.

Councillor Surette also reported on his attendance at the Wedgeport Wind Farm Open House, the Yarmouth Area Industrial Commission Meeting, the subcommittee meeting for clinics, with another meeting tomorrow. They are meeting with Rebecca Cassidy.

Councillor D'Entremont reported on his attendance at the West Pubnico Sewer Meeting. He mentioned he is looking for a solution for the old lobster pound at the end of the Pond Road. He is in contact with DNR, DFO, the Department of Environment, and MLA Colton LeBlanc.

Councillor Boudreau reported on his attendance at the Wedgeport wind farm open house and the Wedgeport Sewer Meeting. He has been trying to get ahold of TIR regarding issues in the village. He also reported on Nakile reaching their fundraising goal for their projector for dementia patients. Their goal was \$15,000.

Councillor Donaldson reported on his regular committee meetings, and mentioned he attended doctor recruitment meeting for Deputy Warden Nicole Albright.

10. Warden's Report

Warden Muise reviewed his report attached to the agenda.

Attachment 051015

11. Staff Report

Deputy CAO Surette reviewed the staff report as attached to the agenda.

12. Notice to Council

a. Article C48 -Proclamation Policy

This is a 7-day notice to council for the proclamation policy to be passed.

b. Fireman Recruitment Request

Councillor Saulnier outlined where this request came from and mentioned it will be part of the discussion at the next meeting.

13. For Decision/Discussion

a. Fire Services Capital Grant Program

It is moved by Councillor Guy Surette and seconded by Councillor Kathy Bourque to approve the Fire Services Capital Grant Program Policy as presented.

Motion Carried. (8 in favour, 0 against)

b. Fire Service Registration Policy

It is moved by Councillor Richard Donaldson and seconded by Councillor Glenn Diggon to approve the Fire Service Registration Policy as presented

Motion Carried. (8 in favour, 0 against)

14. Correspondence and for Information

a. NSFM Twelve-Month Notice Letter

CAO Muise indicated that this letter is not worded properly and that the letter is misused. This letter is supposed to be used as a 12-month notice with details, however, there is a lot in the grey in this letter that should be addressed. Councillor d'Entremont mentioned a good time to bring this up would be when Council has a meeting with Minister John Lohr.

b. International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia

CAO Muise indicated that this was a mass request sent to multiple organizations. He sent an email back indicating that they must fill out the form as per the policy.

15. Financial Requests

a. District Community Grant Request (Retroactive Request)

It is moved by Councillor Glenn Diggon and seconded by Councillor Gordon Boudreau to approve the District Community Grant Request retroactive fiscal year 2021-2022.

Motion Carried. (8 in favour, 0 against)

16. Agenda Topics for Next Meeting/Notice of Motions by Councillors

17. Question Period

CAO Muise provided an update on the current situation happening with a forest fire. The area of concern in our municipality is Quinan. The situation is growing and is being handled.

18. Adjournment

It is moved by Councillor Richard Donaldson and seconded by Councillor Gordon Boudreau to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting at 8:53 p.m.

Motion Carried. (9 in favour, 0 against)

Respectfully Submitted,

Chantalle Newell, Executive Assistant/Recorder

Date Approved: _____

Chairman/Warden _____

Alain Muise, Chief Administrative Officer _____

DRAFT