



MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2023

Council Members Present: Warden Danny Muise, Deputy Warden Nicole Albright, Councillor Richard Donaldson, Councillor Gordon Boudreau, Councillor Guy Surette, Councillor Glenn Diggdon, Councillor Ted Saulnier, Councillor Calvin d'Entremont, and Councillor Kathy Bourque.

Absent with Regrets: None.

Staff Present: Chief Administrative Officer Alain Muise, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Scott Surette, and Executive Assistant Chantalle Newell.

1. **Call Meeting to Order**

Warden Danny Muise called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. **Invitation to Stand and Move**

Warden Danny Muise reminded Council that they are permitted to stand and move as they need to during the meeting. This is a new initiative introduced by Argyle Recreation which normalizes movement in meetings.

3. **Approval of Agenda/Conflict of Interest Declaration**

By consensus, the agenda was approved as circulated with no conflict declared at this time.

4. **Presentation – YASTA – Neil MacKenzie**

Neil MacKenzie, CEO for YASTA was present to speak to Council about what YASTA does. YASTA was founded by the Municipality of Argyle, Municipality of Yarmouth, and Town of Yarmouth. YASTA works on marketing, business development, event attraction, and destination advocacy and support to grow tourism.

Neil provided Council with an update on the Room Marketing Levy.

5. **Recognizing Argyle**

Councillor Diggdon reported on Fire Prevention Week. He thanked the firefighters for what they do in our communities. He congratulated the Eel Brook Fire Department on commencing their construction of their new building.

Councillor Saulnier reported on Sandra Fitzgerald stepping down as the President of. He indicated Verna Deviller has taken over. Birch Drive and Riverside Drive took away brush from around the area. The roof has been completed at the Plymouth Hall and Plymouth has received a new sign.

Councillor Bourque reported on Bishop Dunn spoke to the Parishers about the closures that could be happening in the area. She thanked the people for coming out and showing their support. She indicated she could give Bishop Dunn's email to any Parisher who wishes to express their concern.



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Councillor Surette talked about the Morris Island sign, there is progress being made.

Councillor d'Entremont mentioned Bay of Fundy Sea Kayak Symposium. There were 73 students, 18 coaches, a community supper as a fundraiser. There will be a good contribution to the West Pubnico Fire Department.

Councillor Donaldson thanked Warden Muise for attending the volunteer banquet on his behalf for Darryl LeBlanc.

6. **Adoption of Minutes**

a. **Special Council Meeting Minutes – September 28, 2023**

By consensus, the Special Council Meeting Minutes of September 28, 2023, are approved as presented.

7. **Wardens Report**

Warden Muise's report is attached to the agenda. There were no questions on his report.

8. **Committees Report**

a. **Yarmouth Area Industrial Commission**

NS Health has taken over Harbour South, going well 2 months in. Consulting with AM Clarke for NS Health lease. Working with consultants on Harbour Authority in Yarmouth. Hopefully in 2024, there will be a board to deal with the Harbour Authority. **REMO Executive Meeting**

b. **Mariners Management Authority**

c. **Mariners Centre Expansion Board (MCEB)**

Approved 33% drawings. Moving forward with 66% drawings. Everything is on par, on budget, etc.

d. **Yarmouth and Acadian Shores Tourism Association**

There is a meeting to go over the levy report.

e. **Yarmouth County Solid Waste Park**

f. **Yarmouth International Airport Corporation**

869 movements at the airport this year, there were 871 last year. Jet fuels 67% up. Task force is waiting for responses at the moment. A service has been making 2 trips per day bringing passengers back and forth to Halifax for medical care, rather than by ambulance.

g. **Nakile Board**

h. **Western County Regional Libraries**

Going to increase budget for wages.

i. **WREN Liaison and Oversight Committee**

j. **Argyle Recreation Committee**

k. **Police Advisory Board**

l. **Doctor Recruitment**



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Nancy Ellis is the new community navigator for 5 weeks now. Nicole attended a meeting where the community navigator went through her report.

- m. **Waste check**
- n. **Sewer Committees**

9. **Reports**

a. **Clerks Report**

The clerk's report is attached to the agenda.

b. **Department Head Report**

The Department Head Report is attached to the agenda.

c. **Building Permit Report**

The building permit report for September is attached to the agenda.

10. **7-Day Notice to Council**

a. **Article P8 - Holidays**

Deputy CAO Surette brought forward the amendment to Article P8 – Holidays for 7-day notice. The change being proposed in this policy is adding a section outlining how employees qualify for holiday pay.

b. **Article P12 – Leave for Blood Donation**

Article P12 – Leave for Blood Donation is being brought forward to allow all employees, rather than just full-time employees to have leave for blood donation. It also amends the maximum number of times to go in one fiscal year from four times to two times.

11. **For Decision and Discussion**

a. **CMA 2024**

Deputy CAO Surette spoke about the presentation that three councils received last week. He mentioned the presentation was geared towards how it would be in the Town of Yarmouth and in the Municipality of Yarmouth. Deputy CAO Surette asked if Council would like to have another presentation that is more geared towards the Municipality of Argyle. He indicated there will be large and small events in the Municipality of Argyle, in many villages. He mentioned there will be events put on by the Congres Mondiale Acadien, and an expectation for villages to hold events as well.

Council decided to wait to have a meeting with the Congres until later.

b. **Grants to Organization Fall 2023**

Executive Assistant Newell brought the fall edition of the grants to organizations forward for council approval. There were 3 requests this round.

It is MOVED by Councillor Richard Donaldson and SECONDED by Councillor Guy Surette to approve the fall grants to organization 2023 as presented.



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c. Relief of Taxes – AAN# 10887968, 10887951

It is MOVED by Councillor Glenn Diggdon and SECONDED by Councillor Calvin d'Entremont to relieve the taxes on AAN# 10887968, 10887951 in the total amount of \$1604.06.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

d. Traffic Speed – Highway 334, Plymouth

Councillor Saulnier continues to receive concerns from his residents regarding the speed of traffic on Highway 334 near the Plymouth School.

It is MOVED by Councillor Ted Saulnier and SECONDED by Councillor Calvin d'Entremont to write a letter to the Department of Public Works to evaluate the passing lane in the school zone at the Plymouth School.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

It is MOVED by Councillor Ted Saulnier and SECONDED by Councillor Richard Donaldson to have the representative of the Joint Police Advisory Committee raise this issue to the RCMP.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12. Correspondence and For Information

a. Municipality of Digby – MPS Amendments

Council received correspondence from the Municipality of Digby regarding their Municipal Planning Strategy amendments.

b. Scotia Recycling

Deputy CAO Surette has been meeting with Scotia Recycling and receiving some feedback on how the Municipality is doing for recycling.

c. SERMGAR Update

Council received correspondence from NSFM and the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding the Service Exchange.

It is MOVED by Councillor Glenn Diggdon and SECONDED by Councillor Guy Surette to send a letter to the committee that worked on the Service Exchange Survey.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

13. Financial Requests



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a. **District Community Grant Request – Immaculate Conception Cemetery**

It is MOVED by Councillor Kathy Bourque and SECONDED by Councillor Glenn Digdon to provide a District Community Grant in the amount of \$500 to the Immaculate Conception Cemetery.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

14. **Agenda Topics for the next meeting/Notice of Motion by Councillors**

None

15. **Question Period**

16. **In-Camera – Section 22:2 (E) Contract Negotiations**

The Council went to the in-camera session at 7:57 p.m.

Consensus to come out of the in-camera session at 9:22 p.m.

It is MOVED by Councillor Guy Surette and SECONDED by Councillor Kathy Bourque to send a letter to the tri-county planning committee advising that they are no longer interested in being part of the project.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

17. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Date Approved

Chair

Clerk/Recorder