



MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE  
144<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 11, 2024

**Council Members Present:** Warden Danny Muise, Deputy Warden Nicole Albright, Councillor Guy Surette, Councillor Ted Saulnier, Councillor Calvin d'Entremont, and Councillor Kathy Bourque.

**Absent with Regrets:** Councillor Richard Donaldson, Councillor Glenn Digdson, and Councillor Gordon Boudreau

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

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1. **Call Meeting to Order**

Warden Danny Muise called the meeting to order at 6:31 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 – Service Line Warranties of Canada**

Morty Smolash presented on behalf of Service Line Warranties of Canada to Council. Service Line Warranties of Canada offers warranty on sewers for when repairs are needed. They have over 80 municipalities partnered with them. He explained their marketing campaigns and the benefits of their program.

5. **Adoption of Minutes**

a. **Executive Council Meeting Minutes – March 28, 2024**

By consensus, the Executive Council Meeting Minutes of March 28, 2024, are approved as presented.

6. **Appointment of Auditors**

*It is MOVED by Deputy Warden Nicole Albright and SECONDED by Councillor Calvin d'Entremont to approve Grant Thornton LLP as the auditors for the Municipality of the District of Argyle for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.*

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

7. **Appointment of Officers**



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*It is MOVED by Councillor Kathy Bourque and SECONDED by Councillor Ted Saulnier to approve the enclosed list of officers for the Municipality of the District of Argyle for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.*

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**8. RFP – Solicitor**

The selection of solicitor for the 2024-2025 fiscal year will be done by RFP this year. No motion is required.

**9. Membership to NSFM and FCM**

*It is MOVED by Councillor Guy Surette and SECONDED by Deputy Warden Nicole Albright to approve Council's membership to NSFM and FCM for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.*

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**10. Recognizing Argyle**

Councillor Saulnier recognized the community of Plymouth who received funding for upgrades to the Plymouth Hall. He was pleased to see 20 people volunteer last weekend to help with the renovations. He also recognized the volunteers that helped with the Seniors Meal put on by the Municipality.

Islands and District had their rappie pie sale that made a total of \$2,600. Councillor Surette thanked the volunteers for making and delivering the rappie pie.

Village Historique de la Nouvelle Ecosse put on their dinner theater, and Councillor d'Entremont thanked Kathy Nickerson for putting it on and directing it.

Warden Muise attended the Lieutenant Governors Community Spirit Award ceremony at the Greenville Hall. He reported on how well attended it was and congratulated the recipients.

**11. Wardens Report**

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

**12. Committees Report**

- a. Yarmouth Area Industrial Commission
- b. REMO Executive Meeting
- c. Mariners Management Authority

Councillor Surette reported on the leaking roof at the Mariners Centre. They are doing an assessment on the roof.

- d. Mariners Centre Expansion Board (MCEB)

Deputy Warden Albright advised that there will be a meeting next week and more will be reported at the next meeting.

- e. Yarmouth and Acadian Shores Tourism Association



- f. Yarmouth County Solid Waste Park
- g. Yarmouth International Airport Corporation

Councillor Surette advised that the Spiri Robotics 5 year contract has been signed. They are coming to visit the airport on April 27<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. Councillor Surette extended the invite to all of council.

- h. Nakile Board

Councillor Bourque reported on the meeting with new administrator, and advised that good feedback is being received.

- i. Western County Regional Libraries
- j. WREN Liaison and Oversight Committee
- k. Argyle Recreation Committee

Deputy Warden Albright advised that soccer registration opened April 2 and will close on May 3. Day camp jobs have been posted and there are only a few days left to apply.

- l. Police Advisory Board
- m. Doctor Recruitment

Deputy Warden Albright reported on site visits that are happening in the area, and 6 doctors are looking for housing.

- n. Waste Check
- o. Sewer Committees

Councillor d'Entremont reported that the budget and rate for the year for the West Pubnico Sewer was established and the rate has remained the same this year.

Councillor Saulnier advised that Wedgeport Sewer Committee meeting occurred, and the rates were brought down for the year.

Warden Muise stated that the Tusket Sewer Committee had their meeting, and the rate was raised for the year.

13. 7-day Notice

14. For Decision and Discussion

- a. First Reading – Amendments to By-Law 27A – Solid Waste Resource and Management

Council is receiving first notice of amendments to By-Law 27A – Solid Waste and Resource Management By-Law. The amendments reflect the elimination of black garbage bags being permitted during pick ups, and better align with the other municipalities by-laws for consistency purposes.

*It is by MOVED Councillor Guy Surette and SECONDED by Councillor Kathy Bourque to give first reading to the amendments to By-Law 27A – Solid Waste and Resource Management.*



**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**b. Tax Exemptions for Non-Profit Organizations Review**

Council has to review the list of non-profit organizations that receive partial or full exemption of taxes each year.

*It is MOVED by Deputy Warden Nicole Albright and SECONDED by Councillor Kathy Bourque to approve the enclosed list of exemptions for the 2024 tax billing year.*

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**c. Letter to Minister of Public Works re: Duck Lake Bridge**

Deputy Warden Nicole Albright is concerned with the condition of the Duck Lake Bridge located in Belleville. The bridge has been closed twice in the last month. She is looking for council's support to write a letter to the Minister of Public Works asking if they can explore a plan for the John Murray Road that is passable for everybody. She indicated the bridge was deemed safe, and is not a priority. However, it was argued that the bridge keeps closing due to the rising water, therefore, the bridge is not safe.

*It is MOVED by Deputy Warden Nicole Albright and SECONDED by Councillor Guy Surette to write a letter to the Minister of Public Works asking them to explore a plan for the John Murray Road for when the Duck Lake Bridge closes.*

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**15. Correspondence and For Information**

**a. Queens Solid Waste Management Facility Tipping Fees**

Council received a letter regarding Queens Solid Waste Management Tipping Fees.

**b. Letter from Honourable John Lohr re: Service Exchange**

A letter was received from Honourable John Lohr regarding the service exchange.

**c. New Provincial Department of Emergency Management**

Council received a letter from the Government of NS indicating there is a new Provincial Department of Emergency Management.

**d. Courthouse Painting Tender**

Council received a letter to the CAO from the Director of Operational Services advising them of the status of the tender for the Courthouse Painting.

*It is MOVED by and SECONDED by to approve the recommendation of Castone Contruction in the amount of \$47,925+HST for the Courthouse Painting.*



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**16. Financial Requests**

None

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

None

**18. Question Period**

None

**19. In-Camera – Section 22:2 (C) Personnel Matter and Section 22:2 (E) Contract Negotiations**

Council went in camera at 7:39 p.m.

*It is MOVED by Deputy Warden Nicole Albright and SECONDED by Councillor Kathy Bourque to amend the agreement with Eel Brook Fire Department to eliminate the loan portion of the agreement and execute the grant portion.*

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**20. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

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Date Approved

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Chair

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Clerk/Recorder