



MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 13, 2024

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

**Absent with Regrets:**

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

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1. **Call Meeting to Order**

Warden Danny Muise called the meeting to order at 6:35 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 with the addition of 12.b. Projet du film au CMA and 10.h. Executive Council End of June.

4. **Presentation(s)**

a. **Yolande Donaldson, Veterans Project**

Yolande Donaldson gave a presentation on the Veterans Project; this project is about the men and women who served in the war and did not make it back home to be buried. The goal for this project was year-round remembrance for the fallen.

The cost for a large poster (36 x 26) is \$175 plus tax and for a smaller poster (30 x 22) is \$125 plus tax. The posters are made of fire-resistant materials. Garian Construction will donate one poster to the municipality.

It should be noted that this is not a fundraiser for the Wedgeport Legion the price per poster covers only the cost for production of the poster.

Yolande is requesting that Councillors have a poster placed in each of the community halls in their districts.

Councillors agreed that the Municipality should display an English and French version of this poster.



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*It is MOVED by Councillor Diggdon and SECONDED by Deputy Warden Nicole Albright to accept the donation of a poster from Garion Construction and purchase one from the Wedgeport Legion to have a French and English version on display in the Municipal Building.*

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

b. **Vaughne Madden, CMA 2024 Update**

Vaughne Madden along with Pier-Luc Brousseau were present to give an update to Council on the Congrès Mondial Acadien (CMA) 2024.

The presentation is attached to the agenda.

The information contained in this presentation can also be found on the CMA website.

5. **Adoption of Minutes**

a. **May 23, 2024 – Executive Council Meeting Minutes**

By consensus, the Minutes from May 23, 2024, are approved as presented.

6. **Recognizing Argyle**

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**
- b. **REMO Executive Meeting**
- c. **Mariners Management Authority**
- d. **Mariners Centre Expansion Board (MCEB)**

Deputy Warden Nicole Albright reported that the MCEB received approval for the continuation of GIBC funding, which was held back pending approval of a scope change internally. The Class A estimate is expected within a couple weeks, with the hope that the figure is within our budget. The plan is to issue a tender by July.

- e. **Yarmouth and Acadian Shores Tourism Association**
- f. **Yarmouth County Solid Waste Park**
- g. **Yarmouth International Airport Corporation**

Councillor Guy Surette reports on the YIAC meeting stating that there are ongoing discussions with the Department of Environment and other departments about a potential contaminant that are in the east side of the airport property.

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

Deputy Warden Nicole Albright reported that the ARC had their AGM, and raised awareness for residents and Council that there is funding available through the ARC for families that may not be able to afford for their children to join sports or activities.

- l. **Police Advisory Board**
- m. **Doctor Recruitment**

Deputy Warden Nicole Albright reported that more and more doctors are being recruited, there are still vacancies in family medicine. Housing is still an issue for new doctors coming in. Nova Scotia health is getting a recruiter for Yarmouth.

- n. **Waste check**

Councillor Guy Surette reported from a recent Waste Check Committee meeting, audit done in 2017 for garbage done all over NS and then another audit in 2023, discovering that 54% of our garbage is recyclable. There is plenty of work to do in the upcoming years to try and bring that number down.

Councillor Ted Saulnier reports that they also discussed the topic of how to get rid of Japanese Knotweed. There are 2 invasive species including Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Blackberry, a lot of the spread is caused by ditching.

- o. **Sewer Committees**

## 9. **7-day Notice**

- a. **Article C9 – Property Auctions and Tenders**

Council received 7-day notice to pass the amendments made to Article C9 – Property Auctions and Tenders.

- b. **Article C14 – Healthy Eating in Recreation Settings**

Council received 7-day notice to pass the amendments made to Article C14 – Healthy Eating in Recreation Settings.

- c. **Article P26 – Workplace Wellness**

Council received 7-day notice to pass the amendments made to Article P26 - Workplace Wellness.

## 10. **For Decision and Discussion**

- a. **Article C17 – Involuntary Destruction of Property**



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*It is MOVED by Councillor Richard Donaldson and SECONDED by Councillor Guy Surette to approve the amendments made to Article C17 – Involuntary Destruction of Property.*

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

b. **Article C18 – Growing Communities Scholarship**

*It is MOVED by Councillor Guy Surette and SECONDED by Deputy Warden Nicole Albright to approve the amendments made to Article C18 – Growing Communities Scholarship.*

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

c. **Article C36 – Audit Committee**

*It is MOVED by Councillor Kathy Bourque and SECONDED by Deputy Warden Nicole Albright to approve the amended Article C36 – Audit Committee with addition of an amendment to section 4.1 3 Council Members, replacing 2 Council Members (plus one alternate).*

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

d. **Municipal Public Announcement – Councillor Saulnier**

Councillor Ted Saulnier spoke on the recent concerns on the lack of effective engagement with our residents regarding the Aquaculture Development Area. He cites the need to improve our messaging to help get messages out there. The Lobster Bay Shopper is being utilized by neighbouring Municipalities.

Council discussion included the fact that Argyle is a smaller municipality, and not all smaller municipalities have a full-time communications officer.

The issue of having meetings in each district around the ADA, before it was announced, was suggested. Other projects led entirely by Argyle has similar public meetings. The onset of social media has made the need for more effective communication something that needs to be considered.

CAO Muise reminded council of its prior commitments to support housing and fire coordination, and that a broader assessment of the organizational chart is needed to recommend proper seats to be filled.

Council acknowledges that the municipality is growing, and that council needs to be mindful of the work that existing staff are carrying, and the need to protect our staff from burnout.

An alternative to hiring was mentioned, as we have local contractors that specialize in communications services.

*It is MOVED by Councillor Guy Surette and SECONDED by Deputy Warden Nicole Albright for staff to review the organizational chart and provide recommendations to Council.*

Councillor Richard Donaldson left the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

e. **ADA Status Update**

CAO Alain Muise spoke on the attachments regarding information put out on the ADA.



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Muise confirms that the province has no intention of opening up and further lease areas until further consultation.

Attachments to this topic include communications issued by Argyle and the Province of NS since the last Council meeting.

There is a question on how the 6 sites were chosen, why are there 2 in the same location with none in other locations, and why did these 6 get priority. Muise confirms this is a common question, and since the province is responsible for the issuance of all sites, we have forwarded this question and await for the response.

Councillors are aware that Argyle has received multiple FOIPOP requests, and they ask about the process.

CAO Muise explains that FOIPOP is a provincial legislation that municipalities must follow. It has 2 components, Freedom of Information (FOI) and Protection of Privacy (POP). Municipalities and the province have a responsibility to provide information to our taxpayers in a timely fashion, while at the same time protecting the privacy of third parties that may be included in such a request.

By law a \$5 fee is charged, and further costs are made clear to the applicant once the request is assessed. The larger the request, the larger the fee. The law speaks of the requirement to charge to be sure that those requesting it pay a fair fee, as the time to answer the question is time staff will apply to the request instead of other municipal business. Included in the request is a process of redaction, where personal information is blocked, but the remaining information is provided.

Deputy Warden acknowledges the amount of time and effort from staff being put into these questions, this takes time, work is being done. Thank you to staff members for the work being put into this.

It is confirmed that the municipality is prepared and often does answer resident questions without a formal FOIPOP request, as they are entitled to an answer. FOIPOP requests can take more time, if requests for information are large, and third parties are involved.

Council confirmed the importance of both parts of the request (FOI and POP) and the importance of being diligent.

f. **Relief of Taxes Request – AAN #03525899**

*It is MOVED by Councillor Guy Surette and SECONDED by Councillor Calvin d'Entremont to relieve the property tax amount of \$784.23 for AAN #03525899.*

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

g. **Letter of Support from the CDENE**

*It is MOVED by Kathy Bourque and SECONDED by Nicole Albright to provide a letter of support for a federal funding grant for the CDENE.*

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**



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h. **Executive Council Meeting End of June**

The Executive Council meeting is scheduled for June 27, 2024. There are many graduations happening that same day. This was brought to Council as the Warden and Deputy Warden will be unavailable attending these graduations. A date change for the Executive Meeting may be needed.

By consensus, the Executive Council meeting for June is moved from the 27<sup>th</sup> of June to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

11. **Correspondence and For Information**

a. **Correspondence from Minister Masland re: Pubnico Head Intersection**

Council received correspondence from Minister Masland regarding the ongoing safety concerns at the intersection of Trunk 3 and Route 335 in Pubnico. A second investigation is being undertaken to determine if additional measures can be put in place to improve the safety at this location.

b. **Correspondence from the Attorney General and Minister of Justice**

Council received correspondence from the Attorney General and Minister of Justice regarding the ongoing Nova Scotia Policing Review being conducted by Department of Justice.

c. **Electric Vehicle and Charging Station Study**

Council received a memorandum from the Deputy CAO regarding the Low Carbon Community Study for the Electric Vehicles and Charging Stations.

Deputy CAO Scott Surette spoke and gave an update on the Low Carbon Community Study.

d. **Notification of Proposed Amendment Application AQ#1400 Salt Bay, Yarmouth County**

Council received a letter of notification from the Licensing Coordinator at the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture regarding a proposed amendment to the application AQ#1400 Salt Bay in Yarmouth County.

12. **Financial Requests**

a. **District 8 Community Grants**

*It is MOVED by Councillor Glenn Diggdon and SECONDED by Councillor Calvin d'Entremont to approve a District Community Grant in the amount of \$700 for the following organizations in District 8:*

- Pubnico and Area Garden Club
- La Société historique acadienne de Pubnico-Ouest
- Les amies du Musée
- West Side Improvement Society

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

b. **Projet du film au CMA – Deferred**



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13. **Agenda Topics for the next meeting/Notice of Motion by Councillors**
14. **Question Period**
15. **In-Camera –None.**
16. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

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Date Approved

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Chair

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Clerk/Recorder

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