



MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2024

Council Members Present: Warden Danny Muise, Deputy Warden Nicole Albright, Councillor Gordon Boudreau, Councillor Guy Surette, Councillor Glenn Diggdon, Councillor Ted Saulnier, and Councillor Richard Donaldson

Absent with Regrets: Councillor Calvin d'Entremont, and Councillor Kathy Bourque

Staff Present: Chief Administrative Officer Alain Muise, and Deputy CAO Scott Surette

1. **Call Meeting to Order**

Deputy Warden Nicole Albright called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

2. **Invitation to Stand and Move**

Deputy Warden Nicole Albright reminded Council that they are permitted to stand and move as they need to during the meeting. This is an initiative by Argyle Recreation which normalizes movement in meetings.

3. **Approval of Agenda**

By consensus, the agenda was approved as presented.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

a. **July 25, 2024 – Special Council Meeting Minutes**

By consensus, the July 25, 2024, Special Council Meeting Minutes, are approved as presented.

5. **For Decision and Discussion**

a. **Argyle J Class Subdivision Road Submission 2025-26**

Discussion was held regarding the list of roads, questions were asked about the cost shares, are they only for co-owned roads and what classifies a J-Class Road.

CAO Muise stated that there are no roads that are co-owned, the province owns the J-Class roads, but the Municipality maintains these roads. J-Class Roads were classified in 1999. They classify them based on the nature of the road, side road, main road etc.

It is MOVED by Councillor Guy Surette and SECONDED by Councillor Ted Saulnier for staff to assess the condition of the remaining subdivision streets included in their road list and prioritize a list for Council's consideration for its September Regular Council meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. **Mariners Centre Capital Plan Recommendation**



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Discussion was held regarding the current Mariners Centre, the roof needs repair, it is leaking. They are looking at doing a quick \$15,000 repair. They are also looking at grant applications to find out how much it is going to cost to repair the ice on Arena 2.

CAO Alain Muise stated this money was already allocated into the budget and came in below the estimated amount.

It is MOVED by Councillor Glenn Diggdon and SECONDED by Warden Danny Muise that the Municipality of Argyle allocate \$42,500 for the 2024-25 fiscal year to the Mariners Center in support of their capital project request.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

c. **MCEB Request for Decision – Contingency Funding**

The budget for the Mariners Centre is 38 million, including municipal, provincial, federal and fundraising contributions. The issue with the budget is that if the lowest bid comes in at 38,200,000 the MCEB cannot approve it, nothing more than 38 million can't be approved. A memo has been prepared by the CAO to explain the request and is attached. There are two things that the MCEB is looking for, the first item being a conditional grant of up to 1, 630,000 to ensure the project does not go through any unnecessary delays. This amount, if approved, would ensure that a bid that exceeds budget by 15% shall receive approval from this Council, avoiding undue delay on the selection of the best bid. The request for decision was explained in detail by the Deputy Warden and the CAO.

It is MOVED by Councillor Richard Donaldson and SECONDED by Councillor Guy Surette to approve a conditional grant, for the Mariners Center expansion project for contingency purposes, up to \$500,000. The grant shall be conditional on a tender bid cost overrun exceeding 10%.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

It is MOVED by Councillor Gordon Boudreau and SECONDED by Warden Danny Muise to approve a temporary financing commitment of up to \$2,000,000 (\$613,400), to support potential cost overruns on the Mariners Center expansion project, to be reimbursed by fundraising funds as received.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

d. **PAC – Heritage Advisory Committee**

This has been previously brought to the table. The PAC has met and was given a presentation on what taking on the Heritage Advisory Committee will mean. The PAC has decided this is something they can and are willing to do.

It is MOVED by Councillor Guy Surette and SECONDED by Councillor Richard Donaldson to accept the recommendation that the PAC Committee act as the Heritage Advisory Committee moving forward and amend the Municipal Heritage By-Law and the Planning Advisory Policy to accommodate this request.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

e. **First Reading – By-Law 30 – Tuskett Wastewater**



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There were two amendments made to By-Law 30 - Tusket Wastewater. The first amendment being the elimination of the \$1,000 connection fee. The second amendment being the addition of wording to appoint an engineer to design all new commercial and industrial connections with the developer to bear the expense.

It is MOVED by Councillor Guy Surette and SECONDED by Councillor Glenn Diggdon to approve first reading of by-law 30 – Tusket Wastewater amendments as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

f. **Letter to Department of Public Works – North Belleville/Quinan Intersection – Deputy Warden Albright**

Deputy Warden Nicole Albright stated that the intersection in Belleville where you can turn towards Quinan or turn towards North Belleville is hazardous. You cannot see incoming traffic on a clear day and when it's foggy, there is no way of knowing if cars are coming or not. Residents are concerned and would like this to issue to be brought to the attention of the Department of Public Works.

It is MOVED by Warden Danny Muise and SECONDED by Councillor Ted Saulnier to send a letter to Department of Public works regarding the safety of residents at the North Belleville/Quinan and send a copy to the Minister, MLA and MP.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

g. **New Horizon for Seniors Grant Application – Letter of Support**

The Club social des Iles is applying to the New Horizons for Seniors Program and looking for a letter to support their application.

It is MOVED by Councillor Richard Donaldson and SECONDED by Councillor Gordon Boudreau to write a letter of support for the Club Social des Iles - New Horizon for Seniors Grant Application.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. **For Correspondence and Information**

a. **Correspondence From the Commanding Officer - Nova Scotia - RCMP 2023 Year in Review**

Council received correspondence from the Nova Scotia RCMP providing a link to the web-based annual review for 2023.

b. **Correspondence on behalf of the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change**

Council received correspondence on behalf of the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change responding to the letter sent, dated January 15, 2024, regarding volunteer emergency service providers be granted an exemption from fuel charge rates under the *Green House Gas Pollution Act*.

c. **Correspondence from Honourable Kent Smith, Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture re: ADA**



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Council received correspondence from Honourable Kent Smith, Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture reaffirming their commitment to working with the Municipality of the District of Argyle on the Argyle Aquaculture Development Area Pilot Project and determining the appropriate steps for the remaining areas within the ADA.

It is MOVED by Councillor Ted Saulnier and SECONDED by Councillor Glenn Diggon have the CAO work with the province of Nova Scotia to have them start the public engagement work on the remaining 47 sites as soon as possible.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

d. **Letter to Municipalities re: Code of Conduct**

Council received correspondence from Honourable John Lohr, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to inform of an update on the municipal and village codes of conduct.

e. **Election 2024**

Council received an update on the 2024 Election with important dates to make note of in the coming months, from the Returning Officer, Scott Surette.

f. **West Pubnico Corporate Golf Event**

Council received and invitation to this years West Pubnico Golf Association Corporate Golf Scramble, held on September 14, 2024.

7. **Financial Requests**

a. **Grants to Org Memo**

An error in the reporting of grants to organizations was recently uncovered. Both the Musee de Thon de Wedgeport and the Shag Harbour Incident Society were missed in the assessment of final grants to organizations. This error was disclosed to Council at the time we noted it in June of 2024.

Since it is not in any way the fault of the applicants, we recommend that we treat them the same as we did in the prior year.

It is MOVED by Councillor Gordon Boudreau and SECONDED by Councillor Ted Saulnier to approve 1,500 and 1,000 in grants to the Wedgeport Tuna Museum and the Shag Harbour Incident Society respectively for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

9. **Question Period**

10. **In-Camera**



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Consensus to move In-Camera at 7:43 p.m.

- a. **Section 22:2 (c) – Personnel Matters**
- b. **Section 22:2 (g) – Legal Matters – Airport Corporation**
- c. **Section 22:2 (e) – Contract Negotiations**

11. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Date Approved

Chair

Clerk/Recorder

DRAFT