



MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2024

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

Absent with Regrets: Deputy Warden Nicole Albright and Councillor Calvin d'Entremont

Staff Present: Chief Administrative Officer Alain Muise, and Executive Assistant Julie Atkinson

1. Call Meeting to Order

Warden Danny Muise called the meeting to order at 7:30 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 an initiative by Argyle Recreation which normalizes movement in meetings.

3. Approval of Agenda

By consensus, the agenda was approved as presented.

4. Presentation – Yarmouth Curling Association

Richard Hurlburt, Charles Bourque and Aaron Sweeney were present from the Yarmouth Curling Association to give a proposal on the arena upgrades for the Yarmouth Curling Club. The Yarmouth Curling Club is a vital asset for the community, it is crucial for holding events such as the provincial women's curling tournament. The arena is showing its age and in order to meet provincial standards it is in need of significant repairs and upgrades. The estimated renovation costs are approximately 2,801,038. User data shows that 38% of the usage of the Yarmouth Curling Club is coming from the Municipality of Argyle. Some of the upgrades include, Interior Enhancements, Electrical and Fire Safety, Storage Expansion, Exterior Improvements, and Net-Zero Retrofitting. There are plans in place for attaining funding such as, Collaborative Municipal Funding, Federal and Provincial Support as well as community support.

There were a few questions following the presentation. Councillors wondered how many members in total does the curling club have. Aaron Sweeney stated that there are over 100 members, they also have bookings from the community and schools. Councillors stated that the amount requested is a significant amount of money, and wondered how much the province and federal government would give. Richard Hurlburt stated that the provincial and federal governments have stated if there is community engagement they are on board. The Municipality of Yarmouth has given \$300,000 to this project. Councillors raised concerns on if not all funding is received will the project be able to be done partially.



MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2024

Aaron Sweeney stated there are parts of the project that are higher priority than others and would be able to be done. The Town of Yarmouth has made a motion to support the project and would be bringing it to their Council to further discuss. The amount being requested from the Municipalities and Town of Yarmouth is \$300,000, \$100,000 over the course of 3 years. Accessibility questions were asked, Aaron Sweeney said they are looking at adding a lift to the stairs and changing the entrance, accessibility is important, there is the ability to have wheelchair curling and there is a ramp to get onto the ice, the issue is when needing to get people up to the second floor. With the election coming up, Councillors are unsure about making a decision tonight as this is the last meeting with this Council. There are a few options, Council can make a conditional funding commitment or a motion to bring this by the new Council.

Councillors raised concerns on making a fast decision on this request. There are no major risks

It is MOVED by Councillor Guy Surette and SECONDED by Councillor Richard Donaldson to fund the Yarmouth Curling Club upgrades in the amount of \$300,000, at \$100,000 a year for 3 years starting in the fiscal year 2025-2026, with the condition of Provincial and Federal funding and provide a letter of conditional support to the Yarmouth Curling Association.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Approval of Minutes

a. September 26, 2024 – Council Meeting Minutes

By consensus, the September 26, 2024, Executive Council Meeting Minutes were approved as presented.

6. Recognizing Argyle – Council Announcements

Councillor Kathy Bourque thanked the volunteers and organizations that helped during the Congress Mondial Acadien in August.

Councillor Gordon Boudreau thanked all the fishermen and volunteers for this year's Tuna Tournament, it was the 20th anniversary. An economic impact study was done

Councillor Ted Saulnier recognized and thanked the volunteers working on the Plymouth Hall

Councillor Glenn Diggdon thanked our retiring Councillors, Guy Surette, Richard Donaldson, and Calvin d'Entremont for their guidance and support over the years.

7. Warden's Report

The Warden's Report for the summer months and September 2024, was attached to the agenda, there were no questions on this report.

8. Committee Reports

- a. Yarmouth Area Industrial Commission**
- b. REMO Executive**

- c. **Mariners Centre Management Authority**
- d. **Mariners Centre Expansion Board**
- e. **Yarmouth and Acadian Shores Tourism Association**
- f. **Yarmouth County Solid Waste Park**
- g. **Yarmouth International Airport Corporation**

Councillor Guy Surette stated there will be a letter going out to the 3 Municipalities to ask for a letter of support for the Airport.

- h. **Nakile Board**
 - i. **Western County Regional Libraries**
 - j. **WREN Liason and Oversight Committee**
 - k. **Argyle Recreation Commission**
 - l. **Joint Police Advisory Board**
 - m. **Doctor Recruitment and Retention**
 - n. **Waste Check**
 - o. **Substance Use Awareness Project**
9. **7-day Notice – None.**
10. **For Decision and Discussion**
- a. **Offshore Wind Farm – Councillor Gordon Boudreau**

Councillor Gordon Boudreau stated that this was brought to his attention, that the Provincial and Federal Governments are proposing offshore wind farm sites off our coast, and this could have huge economical impact on our coastal communities. Proposed areas include Middle Bank and Sable Island Bank for now and more to come in the future. A buffer zone would be put in place therefor restricting fishermen access. The issue with this is that we have local fisherman that fish these banks for snow crab, halibut and other species of fish. Also, we have a local fish plant that relies on these banks for seas cucumber harvesting and at peak season employ 100 people.

In today's fisheries 25 kilometers off the coast is where fishing begins, putting windmills there will affect most of our fishermen.

Councillors feel there needs to be more communication long before this happens and at a time where the fishers can attend and not held in peak fishing season. The information is not secretive, it can be found when being looked into it.

It is MOVED by Councillor Gordon Boudreau and SECONDED by Councillor Glenn Diggdon to send a letter raising our concerns on the proposed offshore wind farm to our MP and MLA.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2024

b. Review of Area Rates and Cost of Fire Protection Services

CAO Muise an action plan has been submitted from Sea Hawk consulting, one of the discussions being had is the concept of a regional fire department. The other issue is that all 9 fire departments believe they all need a certain amount of equipment, no fire departments have ever been let down by the mutual aid agreement or if they have let anyone down and the answer was no. Today if nothing changes at all, the average is 8.48 or 8.56. Internally the list is being looked at the to see priority of the list, what can be done in 12 hours, 12 days or 12 months.

c. Cost Sharing – J Class Roads

It is MOVED by Councillor Richard Donaldson and SECONDED by Councillor Gordon Boudreau that no J-Class subdivision road be submitted for cost sharing for 2024-25.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11. For Correspondence and Information

a. Letter re: Heritage Site Application

A request to designate St. Micheal's Church in Wedgeport as a Municipal Heritage Site was received. A letter was sent to the applicant providing an update on the status of the request.

b. Letter to Minister of Justice from Shelburne County Mayors/Wardens

Council received a copy of a letter sent to the Minister of Justice from the Mayors & Wardens of Shelburne County requesting an Organized Crime Unit in Southwest Nova Scotia.

c. Correspondence from Southwest Paddlers Association re: Grant

Council received correspondence from the Southwest Paddlers Association thanking Council for the grant they received in June that assisted with their Big Canoe Project.

d. Certificate of Recognition – NSFMM

Councillor Kathy Bourque received a certificate from the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities in recognition of 15 years of service to Municipal Government.

12. Financial Requests – None.

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

14. Question Period – None.

15. In-Camera – None.

16. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.



MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2024

Date Approved

Chair

Clerk/Recorder

DRAFT