



MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE  
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2025

**Council Members Present:** Warden Nicole Albright, Deputy Warden Ted Saulnier, Councillor Gordon Boudreau, Councillor Greg Foster, Councillor Darryl LeBlanc, Councillor Kathy Bourque, Councillor Glenn Diggdon, and Councillor Racheal Surette

**Absent with Regrets:**

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

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**1. Call Meeting to Order**

Warden Nicole Albright called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

**2. Invitation to Stand and Move**

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. December 12, 2024 – Regular Council Meeting Minutes**

By consensus, the December 12, 2024, Regular Council Meeting Minutes were approved as presented.

**5. Staff Reports**

**a. Department Head Report**

The department head report is attached to the agenda. There were no questions on the report.

**b. Clerks Report**

The Clerk's Report is attached to the agenda. There were no questions on the report.

**c. Building Permit Report**

The building permit report is attached to the agenda. There were no questions on the report.

**6. 7-day Notice**

**a. Review of Hospitality and Expense Claims Reimbursement Policies**

Council received 7-day notice on the Hospitality and Expense Claims Reimbursement Policies as they are required to be reviewed through the MGA.



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**7. For Decision and Discussion**

**a. Low-Income Property Tax Exemption**

Council must approve the Low-Income Property Tax Exemption Amounts for 2025/2026. They were presented with 3 thresholds.

*It is MOVED by Councillor Gordon Boudreau and SECONDED by Councillor Kathy Bourque to implement the following low-income property tax exemptions, in accordance with the policy for the 2025/2026 tax year:*

- \$0-\$29,200 exempt for \$300
- \$29,201-\$56,000 exempt for \$200
- \$56,001-\$64,100 exempt for \$100.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**b. Adoption of the Code of Conduct**

Councillors discussed the process and concerns regarding investigations involving members of the council. It was suggested that councillors should be notified if an investigation is ongoing involving them. A question was raised about whether investigators have been selected yet. Concerns were expressed about the challenge of judging a peer in the case of an investigation, with an emphasis on handling such matters professionally and without personal bias. Councillors agreed with the Municipality of Chester and their point of view. It was also noted that having 9 council members ensures decisions can still be made fairly if a conflict of interest arises.

**c. Oil Exploration on Georges Bank - Darryl LeBlanc**

Councillor LeBlanc stated that as we know the Premier made an announcement regarding more oil exploration. Council expressed support for maintaining the moratorium on oil exploration in George's Bank, emphasizing the importance of protecting the local fishing industry.

*It is MOVED by Councillor Darryl LeBlanc and SECONDED by Councillor Glenn Diggdon to send a letter to MLA Colton LeBlanc expressing Councils agreement with the provinces announcement of maintaining the moratorium of Oil Exploration on Georges Bank as outlined in the Premiers letter dated January 24th, 2025.*

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**d. Recognition of Virginia Smith - Canadian Swimming Coaches Association Hall of Fame**

Council recognized Virginia "Ginny" Smith for her induction into the Canadian Swimming Coaches Association Hall of Fame, highlighting her contributions to swimming in the community.

Deputy Warden Ted Saulnier raised a question regarding the naming of rooms in the aquatic centre at the Credit Union Wellness Centre. CAO Alain Muise stated the question will be forwarded to the project manager and MCEB. Councillor Darryl LeBlanc stated that he will make sure that Ginny's name is in the new building somewhere.



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*It is MOVED by Councillor Darryl LeBlanc and SECONDED by Councillor Malcolm Madden to hand deliver a letter of congratulations from the Municipality of Argyle to recognize Central Argyle resident Virginia "Ginny" Smith for being inducted into the Canadian Swimming Coaches Association (CSCA) in September 2024.*

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**e. Rezoning Request - PAC Recommendation**

Director of Protection Services, Rene Jeddry presented the application for a map amendment to the Land Use By-law to rezone the property at 1838 and 1842 Comeau's Hill Road (PID 90222068), Little River Harbour from the Coastal Community (CC) zone to the Coastal Community Industrial (CCI) zone to allow for the development of a new storage and heavy equipment repair shop.

*It is MOVED by Councillor Kathy Bourque and SECONDED by Deputy Warden Ted Saulnier to give first reading to consider approval of a Land Use By-law map amendment for the property located at 1838 and 1842 Comeaus Hill Road (PID 90222068), Little River Harbour, to rezone from the Coastal Community (CC) zone to the Coastal Community Industrial (CCI) zone as indicated in the planner's report. Proceed to a public hearing without a second meeting of Planning Advisory Committee unless substantial comments are received from the public; and authorize Staff to schedule a public hearing for the application.*

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**f. Second Reading - By-Law 30 Tusket Wastewater**

*It is MOVED by Councillor Malcolm Madden and SECONDED by Councillor Darryl LeBlanc to approve the second reading of By-Law 30 Tusket Wastewater.*

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**8. For Correspondence and Information**

**a. Occupational Health & Safety (OH&S) Compliance Requirement - Fire Department Review**

Council received correspondence on the OH&S compliance requirements quotes and recommendations as part of the ongoing Fire Department Review.

**b. Correspondence from NSAR – Congratulations**

Council received a letter of Congratulations on their Election from the Nova Scotia Association of Realtors.

**c. Yarmouth Region Medical Professional Recruitment Partnership - 2024 Report Summary**

Council received the 2024 Year Review from the Community Navigator Oversight Committee's Report Summary.



**9. Financial Requests**

**a. WE CARE Radiothon**

*It is MOVED by Councillor Glenn Diggdon and SECONDED by Councillor Kathy Bourque to be a silver sponsor (\$2500) for the WE CARE Radiothon.*

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**b. 2025 U15AA Hockey Provincials**

*It is MOVED by Councillor Darryl LeBlanc and SECONDED by Councillor Gordon Boudreau to provide support of \$1,000 to 2025 U15AA Hockey Provincials.*

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

**11. Question Period – None.**

**12. In-Camera**

*It is MOVED by Councillor Kathy Bourque and SECONDED by Councillor Darryl LeBlanc to move to the in-camera session at 7:33 p.m.*

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**a. Section 22:2 (e) - Contract Negotiations – RCMP**

**b. Section 22:2 (e) - Contract Negotiations - Intermunicipal Solar Agreement**

Consensus to come out of the in-camera session at 9:27 p.m.

**13. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

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Date Approved

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Chair

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Clerk/Recorder