

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, January 8, 2019
Tusket, NS 6:30 p.m.

Present: Warden Richard Donaldson; Deputy Warden Danny Muise; Councillors Nicole Albright, Guy Surette, Lucien LeBlanc, Kathy Bourque, Glenn Diggdon; Chief Administrative Officer Alain Muise and Recorder/Finance Officer Sheila Wilson.

Regrets: Councillor Roderick Murphy Jr. and Calvin d'Entremont

The meeting was called to order at 6:28 p.m. by Warden Richard Donaldson.

Agenda:

On a motion by Danny Muise and seconded by Nicole Albright the agenda was approved as with the addition of 10 (e) Well lending Program Bylaw.

Motion Carried

Conflict of Interest Declaration

Warden Richard Donaldson asked for any declarations of conflict of interest from the floor.

None declared.

Presentations and/or Petitions

Fire Service of NS- Dispatch Services

Paul Gould, Deputy Fire Chief of the Quinan & District Fire Dept and FSANS Alternate Director and Art Rose, Port Maitland chief and FSANS County Director, were in attendance to make a presentation to Council regarding Fire Dispatch Services.

The FSANS is the voice of the Fire Service in Nova Scotia, and Mr. Gould presented some facts and figures to better inform stakeholders of the issues facing fire dispatching in the province. He also presented a resolution and asked for Councils support.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Kathy Bourque that

Whereas the one universal requirement for emergency service delivery in Nova Scotia is efficient, accurate, prompt and reliable dispatch services;
and

Whereas both police and ambulance services in Nova Scotia have professional dispatch services provided either directly by their responsible municipalities or by the province;
and

Whereas the largely volunteer fire service of Nova Scotia, other than the fully paid services in HRM and CBRM does not enjoy similar professional and coordinated services;
and

Whereas the recently published Nova Scotia Standard for Fire Service Dispatch clearly provides guidance as to the minimum technical, structural, and operational requirements of a professional fire dispatch service;

and

Whereas the Nova Scotia Trunked Mobile Radio System(TMR2) and the legacy Nova Scotia Emergency Mobile Radio System provide the foundational infrastructure to enable most of the technical requirements found in the Standard;

and

Whereas the current arrangements for most fire dispatch in the province are based on a competitive commercial model rather than a public service model, thus limiting the interest or ability of the current service providers to invest in contemporary structures or technology;

and

Whereas despite fire protection being a municipal responsibility, the province is the common element which could coordinate a public service model for fire dispatch;

Therefore, be it resolved that:

The Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities, the Association of Municipal Administrators of Nova Scotia, the Department of Municipal Affairs and the Department of Internal Services immediately open a discussion with the Fire Service Association of Nova Scotia towards standardizing fire service dispatch across the province with the Fire Dispatch Standard as the guiding principle;

and

Be it further resolved that the proposed discussion include a comprehensive examination of the current aggregate costs of providing fire dispatch across the province (excluding HRM and CBRM)

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Presentation Attached (19010801)

Adoption of Minutes

Regular Council Meeting – December 11, 2018

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Danny Muise that the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of December 11, 2018, be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Business Arising from the Minutes

Councillors Stipends, Remuneration & Benefits Policy

CAO Muise presented the Policy for further discussion. This was brought to Council as a notice in December and a few changes were made then. Council addressed the changes for sick days that were added and discussed a few more that should be done. It was agreed to bring it back to a future meeting for approval after the changes suggested tonight are completed.

Winter Clearing Standards Policy

This policy was presented at the December 11, 2018 Council meeting for official notice and discussion.

It is moved by Lucien LeBlanc and seconded by Guy Surette to approve the Winter Clearing Standards Policy as presented to Council.
Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Councillor's Reports

Councillor Surette attended a Cannabis meeting, the Christmas party for staff and councillors, which he highly commended.

Councillor Bourque attended an Industrial Committee meeting and the Christmas staff party.

Councillor Diggon spoke of the Gingerbread house and nativity that was taken down yesterday. It was the dream of Annis Surette, and Yvette Pothier d'Entremont approached the family to keep her dream alive. The family was very supportive. Thanks to Yvette and team it was a great job.

Warden's Report

Warden Donaldson reported that he attended the following meetings:

Dec. 12th Council meeting

Dec. 14th Municipal Christmas get together

Dec. 17th YAIC meeting

Jan 8th Doctor recruitment meeting

Jan 8th Priority Session

Staff Report

CAO Alain Muise reviewed the staff report that was circulated to Council; reporting specifically that we did not qualify for one of the grants for the new building, but there are still 3 outstanding applications, an Engineering Regiment is at the airport and looking for projects, a few more applicants have been added to the Wedgeport Sewer Project, the East Pubnico Water utility tank has been replaced, Eel Brook Fire Department will be finalizing a land purchase, and the Deputy Clerk position ad is out with a deadline of January 5. Interviews will be held shortly.

Report Attached (19010802)

Strategic Priority topics

None

Other Business and for Decision

CMA 2024-Request for funding

The organizing committee for the Congres Mondiale 2024 has been working hard on the application to host the event in Clare-Argyle, or #Clargyle as they named it. As part of the application, one of the requirements is a commitment from the host municipal units to fund their portion of the event.

It is moved by Lucien LeBlanc and seconded by Glenn Diggdon to support the organizing committee in its bid to host the 2024 CMA and that the Municipality commit up to \$250,000 to that aim.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Offer to purchase Lot 20- Business park-Tusket

A letter from Garian Construction Limited, proposing the purchase of Lot 20 in the Tusket Business park, is circulated to Council. This property is adjacent to Garian Construction's warehouse and is just after Gardiner Lane. They do not require the entire lot and would propose a 50-foot buffer, likely in the form of green space. They plan to expand their current facility with the same use, therefore would be as of right.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Lucien LeBlanc that lot 20 be sold for \$8,300 to Garian Construction Limited, conditional on an agreement on the Tusket Business Park covenants and zoning requirements.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Community of Plymouth- Request for sidewalk near school

Neil LeBlanc, Theodore Saulnier, Krista Newell and Michael Scott, members of a steering committee representing the citizens of Plymouth, are in attendance to put forward a request for sidewalks on Highway 334 from Plymouth School to the Newell Road.

The 1-kilometer stretch has a lot of fast, heavy truck traffic and they are concerned about safety. They understand there are options available and would like Council to consider this request.

CAO Muise thanks the committee for their time and it is decided to defer to Council's priority setting sessions.

Contract-Thermo Dynamics Limited

Council previously approved the application for solar PV installation in a few locations. Subsequent to the application, we were confirmed for two locations in the Municipality and a third in a shared location on the Hardscratch road. This is to move forward with the contract.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Danny Muise that the contract between the Municipality of the District of Argyle and Thermo Dynamics Limited be approved and that the Warden and CAO sign the agreement once finalized.

Motion carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Yarmouth Hospital Foundation-Request to endorse board member appointments

The Yarmouth Hospital Foundation typically asks for approval from Council for their board members. These positions are not appointed by Council, but we are asked to accept (not approve) their nominations. CAO Muise recommends that the practice to nominate members from Council be curtailed and that the responsibility to select competent members be in the hands of the non-profit organizations.

It is moved by Lucien LeBlanc and seconded by Glenn Diggdon that we endorse the recommendations of Neil LeBlanc and Marc d'Entremont, as submitted and approved by the Board of Directors of the Yarmouth Hospital Foundation.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Danny Muise that the Board amend its bylaws to remove the requirement that a board member be nominated, appointed or approved by Argyle Council, and that, in its place, include a provision that at least one member of its board must be a resident of the Municipality of the District of Argyle for appropriate regional perspective.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Dispatch Service Agreement-Volunteer Fire Department

The Town of Yarmouth has all but discontinued the dispatch service and time is of the essence to transition. Digby dispatch has a fire dispatch agreement for the Municipality (not the 7 Departments) that is ready to be signed. Council will be responsible for the payment of the dispatch fee and then shall choose whether we bill the departments for their use of the dispatch service.

Councillor Diggdon would like to have each dept monitor calls to see how many are medical as opposed to Fire incidents and possibly recoup some of the funds as medical is on behalf of the Provincial government. CAO Muise will make inquiries for that information.

It is moved by Danny Muise and seconded Kathy Bourque that Council direct the CAO to execute the service agreement on behalf of Council to receive fire dispatch service from the Municipality of Digby operating as Digby Dispatch effective January 10th, 2019

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Nicole Albright that the cost of this service be absorbed entirely by the Municipal operating budget, eliminating this expense for the individual volunteer fire departments, and that the Municipality enter into an agreement with the seven volunteer fire departments confirming that the Municipality shall manage the dispatch service agreement on behalf of all departments.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Well lending Program

It is moved by Lucien LeBlanc and seconded by Danny Muise to rescind the following motion, passed at the November 27th meeting:

“After some discussion, it is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Glenn Diggdon to reject the request to have water quality equipment as part of eligibility criteria.”

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 1 against -Councillor Surette)

Councillor LeBlanc would like to bring this back to Council for reconsideration. We provided a loan to a customer and because of red, unusable water, he needed a water softener, but he was denied coverage for the costs of the softener even though he was within the \$15,000 cap.

It is moved by Lucien LeBlanc and seconded by Glenn Diggdon that the Well Lending By-law be amended to include all necessary additions to the water treatment system, providing the total remains under the previously discussed \$15,000 cap. These must also be recommended by the driller/digger and as well an independent third party to be decided by the Municipality. These additional systems would only apply under our well lending program that ultimately need a treatment system for the water to be used.

This shall be retroactive to all applicants already on our program.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Correspondence and for Information

Nova Scotia Association of Realtors-request to amend Deed Transfer Taxes

A letter from the Nova Scotia Association of Realtors, to amend Deed Transfer Taxes, is circulated to Council. This would require a change to the MGA in order for Municipalities to make any changes.

No action required

Municipal Affairs-Response letter to Town of Shelburne-central Dispatch

A letter from Municipal Affairs in response to the Town of Shelburne's letter regarding Central Dispatch is circulated to Council.

No action, for information.

Financial Requests

Agenda Topics for Next Meeting/Notice of Motion

Councillor LeBlanc would like to add discussion for potential in the Tusket Business Park.

Question Period

None.

In Camera

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Guy Surette to recess the Regular Council Meeting and go In-Camera to discuss negotiations for potential sale of Land.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Kathy Bourque to recess the In-Camera meeting and go back to the Regular Council Meeting.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

There being no further business, it is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Nicole Albright to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting at 9:34 p.m.

Recorder
Sheila Wilson

Date Approved: _____

Chairman/Warden _____

Alain Muise, Chief Administrative Officer _____