

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, May 15, 2019
Tusket, NS 6:30 p.m.

Present: Warden Richard Donaldson; Deputy Warden Danny Muise; Councillors Nicole Albright, Guy Surette, Kathy Bourque, Glenn Diggdon, and Lucien LeBlanc.; Chief Administrative Officer Alain Muise, Director of Finance Marsha d'Eon, and Municipal Clerk/Recorder Eilidh Canning.

Regrets: Councillors Roderick Murphy Jr and Calvin d'Entremont

The meeting was called to order at 6:29 p.m. by Deputy Warden Danny Muise.

Agenda:

On a motion by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Guy Surette that the agenda was approved.

Motion Carried

Conflict of Interest Declaration

Deputy Warden Danny Muise asked for any declarations of conflict of interest from the floor.

None declared.

Presentations and/or Petitions – None

Adoption of Minutes

Committee of the Whole & Grants to Organizations Meeting Minutes – April 30, 2019

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Richard Donaldson that the April 30, 2019 minutes of the Committee of the Whole & Grants to Organizations Meeting, be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Special Council Budget Part 1 and 2 Meeting Minutes – May 7 and May 9, 2019

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Nicole Albright that the Special Council Budget Part 1 and 2 Meeting Minutes, May 7th and May 9th, 2019 be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Special Council Wild Salt Architecture Meeting Minutes – May 9, 2019

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Nicole Albright that the Special Council Wild Salt Architecture Meeting Minutes, May 9th, 2019 be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Business Arising from the Minutes (none)

Councillor's Reports

Councillor Albright attended the YMCA meeting to discuss their bridge funding needs. Councillor Albright also attended an EMO Comfort Centre meeting, a Police advisory meeting, a Nakile meeting, a number of Doctor Recruitment meetings, budget meetings as well as the Wild Salt Architecture meeting for the New Municipal Administration building.

Councillor Surette attended the budget meetings, and the Wild Salt Architecture meeting. Councillor Surette also attended the Sea Cucumber hearing May 14, 2019 for the day.

Councillor Glenn Diggdon attended the group of 9 steering committee for the Mariner Centre and the annual meeting of the West Pubnico Fire Department as well as the West Pubnico Improvement society meeting. West Pubnico sewer committee, and MC'd a fundraiser for the Yarmouth Regional Hospital, where over \$7000 was raised. Attended budget meetings and the Wild Salt meeting.

Councillor Bourque attended the Nakile meeting, the Yarmouth area industrial commission meeting, West Pubnico sewer committee, East Pubnico water utility, and budget meetings, and the Wild Salt meeting.

Councillor LeBlanc advised that many of the meetings he attended were covered by other councillors this evening. He also advised that his call volume is higher due to TIR issues (problems with the roads in Wedgeport), and he has a number of frustrated residents due to these road issues.

Deputy Warden Danny Muise attended a Mariner Centre Expansion meeting, along with the Board chair of the YMCA regarding the Mariner Centre expansion. Also attended the Nakile meeting, as well as the Sea Cucumber Trial May 14th, 2019.

Warden's Report

Warden Donaldson reported that he attended the following meetings:

- April 14th , YMCA Bridge Funding Meeting
- April 18th , Mariners Centre Expansion Steering Committee Meeting
- April 26th , Develop Nova Scotia Rural Internet Meeting
- April 29th , YAIC Meeting
- April 30th , Committee of the Whole Meeting
- May 1st , Mariners Centre Expansion Steering Committee Meeting
- May 7th , Special Council Meeting
- May 9th , Building Committee Meeting
- May 9th , Special Council Meeting

Staff Report

Report attached for information.

CAO Muisse reviewed the staff report and highlighted areas of the report that are council priorities, including the New Municipal Administration building, the Mariner Centre Expansion meeting which was held in Halifax on Friday of last week. CAO Muisse then reviewed the remainder of the staff report, highlighted the meetings with Wild Salt Architecture for the new Municipal Administration Building. The remainder of the items discussed are available in the detailed Staff Report available as an attachment to the agenda.

Report Attached (19051501)

Strategic Priority topics

None

Capital and Operations Budget 2019-2020

CAO Muisse advised council that the two documents we've included as attachments to the agenda include a report and a power point presentation. CAO Muisse and the Municipality's Director of Finance, Marsha d'Eon will review the 2019-2020 Operating and Capital Budget presentation this evening. This presentation will also be live on Facebook for those residents that are watching from home this evening.

CAO Muisse highlighted the main components of the revenues and expenses of the operating budget, along with their comparisons to last year's budget. Director of Finance Marsha d'Eon then reviewed the 2019- 2020 Budgeted Operating Expenditures Summary of how services are delivered (slide 5 of 7) in detail with council.

Council discussed some items of the budget and received additional information from CAO Muisse.

CAO Muisse then advised council of the request from Université Sainte-Anne, specifically Stéphanie St-Pierre. The ask came through formally via the Grants to Organizations, however there may have been some confusion from council that the dollar amount required via the Spring 2019 Grants to Organizations is for the same project outlined on Stephanie St. Pierre's presentation to council in March of this year. CAO Muisse then reviewed what the ask from Université Sainte-Anne is for, including the project and revamping the Acadian panels throughout the region, including the panels within the Municipality of Argyle. Approval of this funding will mean our municipality can take advantage of these panels being displayed within our region. Approval of \$800 via the Grants to Organizations will not allow Université Sainte-Anne to proceed with the project and include the Municipality of Argyle. The need in order to move forward is the full amount ask of \$7,897.02 as per Stéphanie St-Pierre's presentation to council in March of this year.

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Glenn Diggdon to approve the Centre acadien (Université Sainte-Anne) request for a one-time grant of \$7,897.02 to support Phase 1 of the Acadian heritage, culture and history project as presented by Stephanie St. Pierre to council on March 12, 2019.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Other Business and for Decision

Low Income / Property Tax Exemption 2019

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Lucien LeBlanc to approve the low income / property tax rebate program in the amount of \$17,750.00.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Approval of 2019 Provincial mileage rate of 0.4585 cents per km (effective May 15, 2019)

It is moved by Lucien LeBlanc and seconded by Guy Surette that the mileage rate of 0.4585 cents per km be approved and effective as of May 15, 2019.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Approval of Operating Budget

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Kathy Bourque to approve the 2019-2020 operational budget in the amount of \$8,447,427.00.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Operating Reserve Budget Approval

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Kathy Bourque to approve the Operating Reserve Budget with expenditures amounting to \$97,898.00.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Approval of Residential and Commercial Rates

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Lucien LeBlanc to approve the Residential tax rate in the amount of \$1.09 per \$100 of assessment.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Lucien LeBlanc to approve the Commercial tax rate in the amount of \$2.27 per \$100 of assessment.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Correspondence and for Information

Nova Scotia Event Strategy

No action, for information.

Building Co-Op Housing Update – May 2019

No action, for information.

Expanded Equipment Options for Emergency Services Provider Fund

Warden Richard Donaldson asked if the \$9,500.00 that is a line item within our budget for radios will be available through this fund. CAO Muise advised that this fund is available for Fire Departments to apply for funding every three years. CAO Muise then advised that the radios should be covered by EMO, and EMO will be approached to cover this funding that is in the budget for the amount of \$9,500.00.

Financial Requests

None.

Agenda Topics for Next Meeting/Notice of Motion

Warden Richard Donaldson advised council as well as the public that effective immediately he will be stepping down as Warden of the Municipality of the District of Argyle. He also advised that he will stay with MODA as a councillor, but will be stepping down as Warden effective immediately.

Question Period

None.

In Camera

None.

There being no further business, it is moved by Warden Richard Donaldson to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting at 7:53PM.

Recorder
Eilidh Canning

Date Approved: _____

Chairman/Warden _____

Alain Muise, Chief Administrative Officer _____