



Municipality of the District of Argyle

Item: RFD – Pubnico Library
Branch – Western Counties
Regional Library

Date: June 3, 2019

VISION

We see Argyle as home to a healthy and thriving rural population. Our municipality promotes and supports economic and social opportunities for the region and engages in the active expression of our unique Acadian heritage. We are a place of choice for rural living and are widely recognized for our warm hospitality and joie de vivre. Surrounded by fresh air and cool ocean breezes, we work and play in the great outdoors. People choose to live in Argyle because of our commitment to each other, to our community and to our neighbors. Argyle is a place we are proud to call home.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is founded on the belief that our community assets are plentiful, none more precious than its people, and that Argyle's assets possess the answers to our most difficult challenge. As such, Argyle will:

- Provide affordable traditional municipal services for our citizens.
- Engage with the business community to understand their needs, and facilitate economic growth.
- Invest in innovative ways to foster growth both for community and industry
- Create an environment where our residents seek our partnership in the projects that matter most and provide the expertise to our community to ensure successful projects.
- Support and instill cultural pride and a sense of place in our communities.

Background:

CAO Alain Muise, Municipal Clerk Eilidh Canning, and Community Development Officer Charlene LeBlanc attended a meeting with Western Counties Regional Library (WCRL) Director, Erin Comeau on April 30, 2019 to discuss the issues that the Pubnico library are currently facing in their current location. The main issue is lack of public use of the Pubnico library (due to lack of technology, parking, and location), and staffing. The WCRL is of the belief that the current location of the library in Pubnico head, paired with the aging building, do not make it an attractive place to go for the public, nor does it make it an attractive place to work therefore creating issues when trying to staff vacancies. The other issue is that the current location of the library does not meet Provincial accessibility standards.

The proposed solution will be to research available space within the Pubnico area that would allow the WCRL to potentially share a space with an existing business, where resources can be shared, and services can be improved. Some ideas of upgraded services include being open regular business hours, ability to have high speed internet, iPads available for the public to use while at the library, upgraded sitting areas for the public to read while at the library. Also, from a safety perspective, sharing a location also minimizes the risk of violence in the workplace as there will always be more than one employee working at any given time in a shared location. Programming options can also be expanded to include genealogy, community history sessions, among many other programming options currently offered by WCRL.

If expansion of an existing business within the Municipality is needed to accommodate the current Pubnico library, there are funding opportunities available to Western Counties Regional Library via ACOA.

Attachments/Additional Information:

The potential new location has to be 25 km from Yarmouth and 25km from Barrington to meet Western Counties Regional Library standards. According to the WCRL, the position is funded as a bilingual position, that is to serve a francophone community. As long as the location is in the Pubnico Area, this would suit WCRL requirements.

Budget and Cost Considerations:

Staffing and personnel management is the responsibility of the Western Counties Regional Library. The maintenance and upkeep of the Pubnico library building is the responsibility of the Municipality of Argyle.

Currently, the Municipality budgets \$75,863.00 (\$21,850 + \$54,013) for the Pubnico library. The \$54,013 is for regional operations of the WCRL and would not be impacted by this decision. The \$21,850 represents building maintenance, upkeep and utilities. The WCRL pays for the staff librarian as part of their operations.

In our meeting with staff of MODA and WCRL, there was an understanding that this investment would be useful to support another non-profit organization with a similar mandate as the library.

CAO's Recommendation:

Based upon the current and past expense to the Municipality to maintain the existing Pubnico library, paired with the potential opportunities available for a shared location, it is my recommendation that council approves staff to identify the potential non-profit entities within the Pubnico area that may be able to share a space with the Western Counties Regional Library, and that this result be brought back to Council to determine next steps.

Suggested Motions:

It be moved that council approve staff to identify the potential non-profit entities within the Pubnico area that may be able to share a space with the Western Counties Regional Library, and that this result be brought back to Council to determine next steps.