

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE
Regular COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday July 28th, 2020
Zoom 6:30 p.m.

Regular Council Meeting

Present: Warden Danny Muise, Deputy Warden Guy Surette; Councillors Richard Donaldson, Glenn Diggdon, Calvin d'Entremont (joined at 6:40 pm), Nicole Albright, Roderick Murphy Jr, and Kathy Bourque; Chief Administrative Officer Alain Muise and Clerk/Recorder Lori Murphy.

Regrets: Lucien LeBlanc

The meeting was called to order at 6:35p.m. by Deputy Warden Guy Surette

Agenda:

On a motion by Roderick Murphy Jr. and seconded by Glenn Diggdon the agenda was approved as circulated

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Conflict of Interest Declaration

Deputy Warden Guy Surette asked for any declarations of conflict of interest from the floor.

Warden Muise declared a conflict with 5H on the agenda.

Presentations

None

Adoption of Minutes

Special Council Meeting Minutes – July 9, 2020

It is moved by Nicole Albright and seconded by Kathy Bourque that the July 9, 2020 minutes of the Special Council Meeting minutes be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Business Arising from the Minutes

Unsightly Garbage bins

CAO Muise has received little feedback and Councillor LeBlanc is absent tonight so will table for next meeting

For Decision

2020-2021 budget operating reserve

CAO Muise explained that this item is typically passed during budget meeting, but it was not brought back to Council for approval.

It is moved by Roderick Murphy Jr. and seconded by Kathy Bourque to approve the operating reserve budget as presented

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

(Attachment 2807001)

Tax Relief

Deputy Warden Guy Surette briefly explained the request attached.

It is moved by Danny Muise and seconded by Calvin d'Entremont that Council approve the tax relief as presented

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Grants to Orgs

CAO Muise explained the attachment. He cannot confirm that the other municipal units have received the request from Yarmouth Curling Association. Suggested that council may not wish to make a decision on that specific request today. The Festival de la Barge - Chappelle request is for repairs and not specifically for a festival. Total amount approved is \$19,700.00. CAO Muise explained that council has not yet spent all the grant money. The closing for grants is Sept 15, 2020 with no decision approved until after the election.

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Glenn Diggdon that Council approve the Council recommended grants to organizations, amounting to \$19,700, as attached.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Water supply lending program

Deputy Warden Guy Surette explained the request, noting the increase of the number of requests over the years. CAO Muise highlighted the range options presented to Council.

It is moved by Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Nicole Albright that Council approve that the threshold for water loans be increased from \$240,000 up to maximum of \$320,000.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

CAO Muise is hoping to get more data from REMO this year. Explained how a coupon system would work and staff could collect data from this coupon system about people in need. Discussion about how a loan through the municipality would work. To qualify for a loan cannot be in arrears or must have a payment arrangement.

Middle East Pubnico water project

Deputy Warden Guy Surette explained the request from the Public Works Department. There are two bids for the water system upgrade.

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Calvin d'Entremont that Council approve the recommendation from Public Works Department to select WSP Canada Inc.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Deputy Returning Officer

Deputy Warden Guy Surette explained the request.

It is moved by Danny Muise and seconded by Glenn Diggdon that Council approve that Lori Murphy be named Deputy Returning Officer for the 2020 municipal election.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Department of Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal-Capital Programs

CAO Muise explained the cost sharing agreement. The re-signing of this agreement enables Council to enter into a cost sharing agreement with the Province for future paving projects. This is not a commitment for funding.

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Danny Muise that the Warden and CAO Alain Muise be authorized to sign Cost Share Agreement No. 2020-003.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Wedgeport Sewer-Engineering Services

Warden Muise declared a conflict of interest and excused himself from the discussion and the vote.

CAO Muise explained that this was brought to council in the past but decided to bring the matter for legal advice. Two bidders were considered to be disqualified at the time. The Municipality, led by our Director of PW, negotiated the price with the sole qualified bidder. It was determined that our staff could provide some of the inspection during the duration of the project, which would considerably alter the services led by EXP directly

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Calvin d'Entremont that Council accept EXP's modified bid of \$98,990 for the 2020-21 Wedgeport Septic Tank installation project be approved

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against) (Warden Muise in conflict, did not vote)

COVID Fire Department Support

Deputy Warden Guy Surette explained the request. Council had asked staff to look into how to help the fire departments because they cannot do fund raising due to COVID. CAO Muise explained that not for profit organizations have an opportunity to ask municipality for help through grants to organizations, but fire departments are excluded. The funding ranges are taken from those fire departments that did do fund raising in prior years.

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Glenn Diggdon that,

WHEREAS: The Municipality of the District of Argyle has authority to fund its municipal volunteer fire

departments in the way it sees fit; and

WHEREAS: The COVID-19 pandemic has had a negative impact on many non-profit organizations,

including our nine volunteer fire departments; and

WHEREAS: COVID-19 state of emergency stipulations has forced our volunteer fire departments to

cancel many of their traditional fund raisers, which include bottle drives, Chase the Ace lottery, banquets, yard sales and other types of fund raising; and

WHEREAS: While some fundraisers may be possible in the coming weeks and months, others will not

occur this year, and potentially not in 2021 depending on the status of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS: The Municipality of the District of Argyle values the effort of our volunteers in fundraising

to meet their operational needs and desires to partially compensate these fire departments that have consistently held fundraisers to support fire and emergency services in their community; and

WHEREAS: Not all fundraising efforts are the same, and the Municipality desires to create levels of

funding that best represent the efforts made by the Fire Departments; and

WHEREAS: The Municipality of the District of Argyle wishes to place a cap on fund raising support

knowing there will be financial pressures on the Municipality as well.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Municipality of the District of Argyle create the following four tiers of funding to support fire departments in the partial restoration of fund-raising losses due to COVID-19

Tier one – No fund raising in the most recent fiscal year - no municipal grant.

Tier two – Fund raising of \$500 - \$2,000 in most recent fiscal year – one-time municipal grant of \$1,000.

Tier three – Fund raising of \$2,001 to \$5,000 in most recent fiscal year – one-time municipal grant of \$1,500.

Tier four – Fund raising more than \$5,000 – one-time municipal grant of \$2,000.

ALSO BE IT RESOLVED THAT: This resolution be revisited in the 2021-2022 fiscal year for the possibility that the pandemic continues to impact our volunteer fire departments' ability to fundraise.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Correspondence and for Information

Yarmouth & Acadian Shores Tourism Association

No action, for information.

Municipal Profile and Financial Condition Indicators Report

No action, for information.

CAO Muise explained those items highlighted in yellow and how they could change.

Changes to the Building Code proposed

No action, for information.

Thank you letter

No action, for information

Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing

No action, for information

Financial Requests

None

Agenda Topics for Next Meeting/Notice of Motion

None

Question Period

Due to technical difficulties there are currently no questions, but CAO Muise will follow up on any questions at a later date.

In Camera
Negotiations

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Nicole Albright to recess the Regular Council Meeting to go in camera at 7:50PM.

There being no further business, it is moved by consensus to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting at 8:13 p.m.

Recorder
Lori Murphy

Date Approved: _____

Chairman/Warden _____

Alain Muise, Chief Administrative Officer _____