

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
Tuesday, October 29th, 2019
Tusket, NS 5:30 p.m.

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

Regrets: Lucien LeBlanc, Roderick Jr. Murphy

Presentation- Transportation and Infrastructure (TIR)

Representatives from Department of Transportation & Infrastructure included: Pamela Mehlman-Shand, Don Houston, Bill Thurston

Councillor Bourque raised the following road issues:

- The sides of paved roads are caving in, and in some cases, driveways are washed out therefore (TIR asked for civic numbers for driveways in this condition)
- Lack of appropriate grading of the Pubnico Lake Road.
- Paving of the Oak Park Road.
- Mowing and clearing of brush on side of roads, either not done or done late in the season.
- Rough section not far from the boat shop in East Pubnico due to an accident earlier in the year. *(TIR committed to looking into this issue).*

Councillor Diggdon cites the following items:

- Major problems are downed road signs, concerned for people's health and safety in case of an emergency, and the responders potentially not finding the roads. Signs mentioned include the Abbott's Harbour Road, Mark's Road, Monique's Hill, Lower West Pubnico signs. *(TIR took notes of these signs).*
- Sam's Road has ditching issues.
- Abbots Harbour Road was cut for sewer and now the road needs repairs.

Councillor Surette raised the following:

- The sign on the 103 indicating Exit 33 is damaged. *(TIR confirmed that sign has been ordered).*
- Question asked about when work to start on Morris island bridge. *(TIR doesn't have any information on that project yet).*
- Asked for clarification who is responsible for fallen trees on the road *(TIR confirmed it was their responsibility).*
- Asked clarification about grading of roads, standard is twice a year but depends on weather and traffic volumes.
- Noted that road in Morris island is in bad shape.

Councillor Albright cited the following:

- Many issues with gravel roads in Belleville, either lack of service or a need to be extended. *(TIR has plans to gravel these roads and noted the best way to contact TIR is email or cell. If you call the call center, please take the ticket number down for future reference).*
- Highway 103 Intersection in Belleville, complaints about people not feeling safe at the intersection. *(TIR confirms that they will look into intersection and talk to traffic design group.)*

Councillor d'Entremont expressed the following:

- Timely snowplowing for his community. He is hoping for, at a minimum, better communication with TIR on when and what roads are to be cleared. *(TIR clarified that 100-series and trunk highways and other high traffic road are cleared within 8 hrs after the snowing stops. Secondary routes and other medium traffic roads are cleared within 12 hrs after the snowing stops. Local paved roads and most subdivision and residential streets are cleared within 24 hrs after the snowing stops, as well as gravel roads).*

Councillor Donaldson raised the following:

- Robert's Island – ongoing maintenance and grading of the gravel road is a source of many complaints from the residents.
- The Highway 103 Exit 31 (Pubnico) turn off is a significant safety issue, as well as the Nakile Home Exit off Highway 103. *(TIR stated there was is a study regarding the Nakile Exit but were silent on the Pubnico Exit. Recommendations were made for Nakile, but no plans going forward yet).*
- Discussion about stop sign at end of Hwy 103, coming into the Town of Yarmouth. Donaldson questioned why the traffic of Hardscratch Road would be given priority over highway traffic. Recommended a round about or more safety features. *(TIR doesn't have plans to make improvements to end of Hwy 103 as this time).*

Warden Muise raised:

- Brush cutting was an issue this year in many communities.
- *Discussion about plowing issues from last year. (TIR will investigate which roads gets plowed first).*

The Warden and Council thank the TIR representatives for listening and taking back the concerns to their Department.

The Committee of the Whole meeting was called to order at 6:34p.m. by Deputy Warden Guy Surette.

Agenda:

On a motion by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Nicole Albright that Council, in accordance with subsection 22(2) clause (a) of the Municipal Government Act, the agenda is approved with the addition of 10 (b) Financial request.

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.

None declared.

Presentations

Gloria Banks - Audited Financial Statements

Gloria reviewed the consolidated financial statements attached to these minutes. The Consolidated financial statements include all of the operations of the Municipality of Argyle, which includes the operating fund, capital fund and reserves. It also includes the Municipality's share of the operations of the Yarmouth International Airport Corporation, the Yarmouth Area Industrial Commission, Yarmouth County Solid Waste Management authority and YASTA.

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Kathy Bourque to accept the audited consolidated financial statement as presented.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

(Documents Attached 2910001)

CAO Muise reviewed the non-consolidated financial statement which is for internal purposes and mirrors the budget set by the Municipality. Highlights given of the Capital and Operating Reserves, along with our Operating Fund.

It is moved by Danny Muise and seconded by Glenn Diggdon to accept the non-consolidated financial statement as presented.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

(Documents Attached 2910002)

Adoption of Minutes

Special Council Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, October 1, 2019

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Glenn Diggdon that the Special Council Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, October 1, 2019 be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Regular Council Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, October 8, 2019

It is moved by Danny Muise and seconded by Nicole Albright that the Regular Council Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, October 8, 2019 be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Business Arising from the Minutes

Hospitality Policy

CAO addressed the concerns brought forward by Council at a previous meeting.

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Nicole Albright to accept the Hospitality Policy as presented

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Financial Statements

Marsha D'Eon, Financial Director highlighted some areas of the financial report and briefly reviewed the qualitative summary. Both documents are attached to these minutes.

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Calvin d'Entremont to accept the financial statements as presented

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Strategic Priority topics

None

Other Business and for Decision

2020 E-Voting Municipal Elections

CAO Muise discussed with Council the pros and cons of E-Voting and how they want to proceed. Discussion about voter turn out in past years comparing paper voting vs E-voting. Council would like to see both E-voting and paper voting.

It is moved by Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Danny Muise to approve that the 2020 election be completed by E-Voting, with paper voting on Election Day only.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal-Cost Sharing Agreement

CAO Muise explained the work hasn't started on Birch drive yet but is intended to happen this fall. Paving of Riverside drive was denied but Department of Transportation has committed to fixing the pothole on Riverside drive as part of the Birch Drive repair.

CAO Muise suggested that Council not submit a cost sharing agreement for this year.

Grants to Organizations-Amendments to Policy/Process

CAO Muise gave a presentation on the Grants to Organizations Policy. Reviewed issues with application process. Decision making is very efficient but getting to the approvals is lengthy. Staff is concerned about increases in requests and how to make the process seamless. Special meeting of Council needed to further investigate process.

It is moved by Calvin d'Entremont and seconded by Kathy Bourque to give staff permission to further investigate optional processes to address the issues stated by administration.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

(Presentation Attached 2910003)

Tax Reliefs

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Danny Muise to approve the tax reliefs as presented.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Yarmouth Splash Park Committee

Looking to have a Councillor from Municipality of Argyle to sit on Yarmouth Splash Park Committee. Discussion about liability and coverage due to it not being a sub-committee of Council. Might be an option to have a Councillor sit on the committee as non-voting observer. CAO Muise to investigate details of this request.

Notice Period

Vacation Policy-7 days notice period given

CAO Muise presented Vacation Policy as amended. CAO Muise would like to remove the 2 weeks vacation for a new hire. Would like to be able to offer new hires 3 weeks vacation.

Councillor Diggdon asked CAO to review other local units vacation policies as it pertains to 6 weeks vacation for those employed 25 years or more.

Correspondence and for Information

Western Counties Regional Library 2018-2019 Annual Report

No action, for information.

Joint Municipal Fire Services Committee Bulletin

No action, for information.

Compass Communication Briefing

No action, for information.

Letter of Completion for LWP WWT PV System

No action, for information.

Internet for Nova Scotia Update

No action, for information.

Atlantic Fisheries Fund

No action, for information.

Shared Strategies for Trails in NS

No action, for information.

NSPI Letter of Confirmation – Solar Electricity

No action, for information.

Financial Requests

District Community Grant request of \$500 – Kemptville Bicentennial Society

It is moved by Danny Muise and seconded by Nicole Albright to approve the district community grant request of \$500 to Kemptville Bicentennial Society.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

District Community Grant request of \$500 – Papillons et Pissenlits

It is moved by Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Kathy Bourque to approve the district community grant request of \$500 to Papillons et Pissenlits.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Agenda Topics for Next Meeting/Notice of Motion

Question Period

None.

In Camera

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and Nicole Albright to go in-camera to discuss airport negotiations at 8:24PM.

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

There being no further business, it is moved by to adjourn the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 8:44p.m.

Recorder

Lori Murphy

Date Approved: _____

Chairman/Warden _____

Alain Muise, Chief Administrative Officer _____