

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
Tuesday May 26th, 2020
Via Zoom 6:30 p.m.

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

Regrets: None

Councillor Roderick Murphy Jr. was present at meeting but due to technical issues, could not vote.

The meeting was called to order at 6:33p.m. by Deputy Warden Guy Surette.

Agenda:

On a motion by Danny Muise and seconded by Kathy Bourque the agenda was approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (8 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

Adoption of Minutes

Regular Council Meeting Minutes – May 12, 2020

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Glenn Diggdon that the May 12, 2020 minutes of the Regular Council Meeting be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Business Arising from the Minutes

Fire Department financial statements

Municipal Clerk explained what information was received from the fire departments.

Discussion about how to support the fire departments who are having financial issues due to lack of fund-raising activities due to COVID.

CAO Muise suggested developing a policy to support this request.

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Richard Donaldson that Council instruct staff to develop a policy to support those fire departments who might require financial help.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Fire water holes

Refer to capital budget. No motion required

For Decision

Election 2020

Deputy Warden Surette explained the attachments. CAO Muisse explained that The election is scheduled to take place in October. Returning officer training is still going forward but might look different. We have to prepare so we are not caught off guard. Council would like to support the position with the NSF. Concerns about how door to door campaigning would occur.

It is moved by Danny Muisse and seconded by Lucien LeBlanc that Council supports the position of the letter sent by NSF.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Kings lake estates landscape and sign feature

Deputy Warden Surette explained the request. No policy or process for this type of request. Discussion about promoting this type of signage. And perhaps look at putting a system in place for the future.

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Calvin d'Entremont that Council deny the contribution request in the letter.

Motion Carried (6 in favour, 2 against)

Capital budget

CAO Muisse explained the slides attached to the minutes. Highlighted project that are expected to be completed this year and projects that are underway or ongoing.

Deputy Warden Surette asked question about liability regarding fire ponds and feels we are not doing enough to address the safety issues there. Fire holes should be made a priority.

CAO Muisse explained that we will be issuing signage on the fire ponds and more money will need to be invested for improving safety. Need to start working on the most dangerous fire ponds first.

None of the money for the new building will come from operations.

It is moved by Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Kathy Bourque that Council approve the capital budget with amendments to the fire ponds safety restoration project increased to 50K

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Capital Budget slides Attached (2020052601)

Property Tax Loan Policy

CAO Muisse gave details of the policy. Policy has received legal review. The purpose of the policy is to allow for residential owners including those that own property that is rented to tenants, as well as commercial properties to apply for a tax payment program.

Residential and commercial taxpayers that have been impacted by COVID, would qualify for a tax payment plan where they would pay \$25/month for 5 months After the 5 months they would start paying the remaining balance divided by 20 months. Interest rate would be 1.35%.

There is on online application and a paper application. Added an appeal section to the policy. This is a model policy developed by NSFAM and AMA with revisions made by staff.

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Calvin d'Entremont that Council approve the Property Tax Loan Policy as presented

Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

Deputy Warden Surette declared a conflict of interest and did not vote on the motion

Wedgeport Wastewater Improvement Phase 3

Defer

Correspondence and for Information

Municipal Affairs and Housing

No action, for information

Waste collection-COVID-19 numbers

No action, for information.

Western Counties Regional Library Minutes

No action, for information.

Financial Requests

Community Grant Request of \$500 Festival Wedgeport

It is moved by Lucien Leblanc and seconded by Calvin d'Entremont to provide a \$500 community grant to Festival Wedgeport

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Community Grant Request of \$500 Pubnico & Area Garden Club

It is moved by Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Danny Muisse to provide a \$500 community grant to Pubnico & Area Garden Club

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Community Grant Request of \$500 Les amies du Musée

It is moved by Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Kathy Bourque to provide a \$500 community grant to Les amies du Musée

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Community Grant Request of \$500 La Societe Historique Acadienne de Pubnico-Ouest

It is moved by Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Kathy Bourque to provide a \$500 community grant to La Societe Historique Acadienne de Pubnico-Ouest

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Community Grant Request of \$500 Comité du 250e anniversaire

It is moved by Lucien LeBlanc and seconded by Glenn Diggdon to provide a \$500 community grant to Comité du 250e anniversaire

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Community Grant Request of \$500 Village Friends

It is moved by Nicole Albright and seconded by Richard Donaldson to provide a \$500 community grant to Village Friends

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Community Grant Request of \$500 Le Club Acadien

It is moved by Nicole Albright and seconded by Kathy Bourque to provide a \$500 community grant to Le Club Acadien

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Community Grant Request of \$500 New Horizons

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Glenn Diggdon to provide a \$500 community grant to New Horizons

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Agenda Topics for Next Meeting/Notice of Motion

Councillor LeBlanc wanted to pass along request from Councillor Murphy that staff send a letter to TIR to erect a speed limit sign or children at play sign at West Hill Road in Comeau's Hill.

It is moved by Lucien Leblanc and seconded by Kathy Bourque to send a letter to TIR to request a speed limit sign or children at play sign be erected at West Hill Road in Comeau's Hill.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Question Period

None

In Camera

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Glenn Diggdon to go in-camera to discuss Airport Negotiations at 8:48pm
Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

There being no further business, it is moved by Consensus to adjourn the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 10:01PM.

Recorder
Lori Murphy

Date Approved: _____

Chairman/Warden _____

Alain Muise, Chief Administrative Officer _____