

**MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
Tuesday November 24th, 2020
Tusket 6:30 p.m.**

Present: Warden Danny Muise; Deputy Warden Nicole Albright; Councillors Glenn Diggdon, Guy Surette, Gordon Boudreau, Calvin d'Entremont, Richard Donaldson, Ted Saulnier and Kathy Bourque, Chief Administrative Officer Alain Muise, and Municipal Clerk/Recorder Lori Murphy.

Regrets: None

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

Agenda:

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

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Conflict of Interest Declaration

Deputy Warden Nicole Albright asked for any declarations of conflict of interest from the floor.

Councillor Diggdon thought he might have a conflict with 7b-French Lake repeater.

Adoption of Minutes

Special Council Meeting Minutes – November 10, 2020

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Glenn Diggdon that the November 10, 2020 minutes of the Special Council Meeting be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Business Arising from the Minutes

None

Financial Statement – October 2020

Deputy Warden Nicole Albright spoke briefly about the financial statement. CAO Muise gave a high-level overview of the statement provided. Deed transfer revenue is trending to be the highest we have seen. The amounts provided in the spreadsheet do not include the grant that the municipality received from the Province.

Documents attached (112401)

Notice Period-Municipal Policy

ARTICLE C21-Reimbursement for Attending Meetings & Conferences

Deputy Warden Albright explained that this policy was brought to council last year for review but was never approved. Bringing it back to Council now as the notice period.

Discussion about the section in the policy regarding NSFM conference. Clarification that council will be able to claim mileage from home to airport. Memo, attached to these minutes, states as much. Travel insurance is the responsibility of each councillor but is

reimbursed to a maximum of a certain amount. Liability insurance is generally through the municipality as an elected official. Conversation about staff booking flights and hotels for councillors when travelling for conferences. CAO Muise would like to see maximums removed from policy. If staff was booking flights and hotels it would help to reduce the risk of budget overrun. Maybe include a deadline if council or staff choose to book themselves in order to reduce the risk of overpaying. All in agreement to remove section 12 regarding FCM travel. It is covered under section 9-Travel. Staff will bring back updated policy for approval.

For Decision and discussion

ARTICLE C1-Code of Conduct-Revised

Deputy Warden Albright explained the attached policy. CAO Muise explained that the policy template came from NSFM and AMA. Decisions that are passed by council must be respected by council as a whole when it relates to media interviews. Must maintain the integrity of the decisions of the group. Suggestion that all councillors should be able to attend media training. CAO Muise clarified specific concerns expressed by council regarding changes in the policy. More clarification needed around district communication versus media. NSFM and AMA will be doing media training in the new year.

Motion tabled

Repeater for French Lake

Deputy Warden Albright gave a brief overview of the request for decision provided.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Calvin d'Entremont that Council approve the cost of the repeater at a cost of \$1215.00 to provide communication relief when MODA is in need, and that this repeater will be maintained by The Yarmouth Amateur Radio Club (YARC)

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against)

Councillor Diggon declared a conflict of interest and removed himself from the vote

Western NS Arts & Heritage Society

Deputy Warden Albright highlighted the request. Letter of support was already sent.

It is moved by Calvin d'Entremont and seconded by Richard Donaldson that Council approve the \$500 request and that they apply through the grants to organizations in future years for any funding needs.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Grants to Organizations

Deputy Warden Albright explained the spreadsheet and the process to approve the grants. Grants are usually approved twice a year but due to COVID things were different this year. Council decided to make partial payments this year with the commitment to come back to them at a later date. These partial payments are included on the sheet attached.

Discussion regarding ground search and rescue request of \$10,000 that was not included in the grant requests presented to council. CAO Muise spoke about our contribution to the ground search and rescue compared to other municipal units. Suggestion that they give a presentation to council at a future date for them give details of needs and wants. Conversation regarding that this request not be included under grants to organizations because it's an essential service. Council in agreement that they are in need but require more information. Question regarding space at the airport for them or at the new Eel Brook Fire Department building. Need further conversations.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Kathy Bourque that Council approve the grants to organizations as presented.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Facilities and water maintenance

Deputy Warden Albright highlighted the request for decision. CAO Muise explained that this request is not a new person but a shift of duties and reporting. Brought this to council because another department and resource was created. Budget not currently affected by this change, but budget impact will be felt at a future date.

Seeking to fill building inspector position a full year prior to current building inspector retirement so that municipality is not left without one. Conversation about having a building inspector regional office that would include multiple staff and it be funded by all partners.

It is moved by Richard Donaldson and seconded by Danny Muise that Council approve the Department of Facilities and Water, as recommended by the CAO, along with its supervisory position, be endorsed by Council.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

TNR

Councillor d'Entremont spoke about the trap, neuter, return request. Group in Councillor d'Entremont's area that looks after feral cats around the wharfs. Requesting that council and staff look into other options for these cats.

No motion required

Accessibility Committee Member

Deputy Warden Albright briefly explained the memo.

It is moved by Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Calvin d'Entremont that Council approve Ginette d'Entremont as a member of the Accessibility Committee

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Correspondence and for Information

Yarmouth Area Community Fund Newsletter

No action, for information

Letter from MLA

No action, for information.

Grand Pass Oyster Ltd.

No action, for information.

Financial Requests

Community Grant request \$500-Plymouth Cemetery

Defer

Community Grant request \$500-Plymouth Fencing Committee

Defer

Agenda Topics for Next Meeting/Notice of Motion

Notice of motion to provide funding for the ground search and rescue.

Conversation about trees that are being lite in the coming days throughout the municipality.

Request that a letter of acknowledgement and thanks be sent at a future date.to RCMP for work they have done in the community

Question Period

None

In Camera

Communication proposal

It is moved by Danny Muise and seconded by Calvin d'Entremont to recess the Committee of the Whole Meeting and go In-Camera to discuss Communication proposal at 8:44PM.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

It is moved by Calvin d'Entremont and seconded by Kathy that Council accept to the IRIS communications proposal for PR support regarding safe communities at an amount of \$2503.28 plus HST for 3-month term.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

There being no further business, it is moved by Gordon Boudreau and Kathy Bourque to adjourn the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 9:14p.m.

Recorder

Lori Murphy

Date Approved: _____

Chairman/Warden _____

Alain Muise, Chief Administrative Officer _____