

**MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE**  
**141<sup>st</sup> Annual Council Meeting**  
**Tuesday April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
**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 6:32p.m. by Deputy Warden Nicole Albright.

**Agenda:**

On a motion by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Glenn Diggdon 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.

None declared

**Presentation**

Paul d'Entremont spoke about the Société historique acadienne de Pubnico-Ouest. He spoke about the services they offer. He also spoke about their mandate and purpose. The proposal/request from the Société historique acadienne de Pubnico-Ouest is for an annual financial contribution from the Municipality of the District of Argyle for the following:

- Part time archivist 60% - 3 days /week;
- Salary pending qualifications (Certified or on the job training):
- \$15/hr x 3 days/week x 52 weeks + merc. = \$18,252.00
- Supplies for the research center: specifically, acid free folders, archival boxes, acid-free paper, etc. : \$800.00

Deputy Warden Albright mentioned that this request will be discussed once the budget discussions begin.

**Adoption of Minutes**

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes – March 30, 2021

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Richard Donaldson that the March 30, 2021 minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved as circulated.

*Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)*

## **Business Arising from the Minutes**

None

### **Appointment of Auditors**

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Danny Muise that Council approve the firm Grant Thornton LLP as auditors of the Municipality for the fiscal year 2021-2022.

*Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)*

### **Appointment of Solicitor**

It is moved by Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Calvin d'Entremont that Council approve the firm of d'Entremont Boudreau as Solicitors of the Municipality for the fiscal year 2021-2022.

*Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)*

### **Appointment of Officers**

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Gordon Boudreau that Council approve the enclosed list of appointments as Officers of the Municipality of Argyle for the fiscal year 2021-2022

*Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)*

### **Membership to NSFM and FCM**

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Richard Donaldson that Council approve its membership to NSFM and FCM for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

*Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)*

### **Council Report**

Councillor Saulnier expressed frustration with TIR response times. Attended first accessibility meeting. Thanked those who are cleaning the ditches. He also thanked fellow councillors for providing information to the new councillors.

Councillor Surette spoke about the water situation. There will be no potable water given out to residents this year. He is excited about Celtic Air and what they can do for the Airport.

Councillor Boudreau has heard from residents that have expressed concerns about garbage and is very happy with litter clean up project.

Councillor Bourque attended committee meetings and attended mapping presentation from YASTA. This mapping project will help promote Argyle. Dealing with illegal dumping in Pubnico.

Councillor Diggdon spoke with TIR about road repairs in Pubnico. He spoke about an unsightly premise in Middle West Pubnico at the old community hall. He informed our by-law enforcement officer about the situation and an investigation has already been started. Spoke with senior safety officer about issues in his area.

Councillor Donaldson spoke about the committee meetings that he has been attending. He has had a lot of questions from residents lately about all sorts of subjects. He also thanked the group who did the garbage cleanup in Argyle last night.

Councillor Albright spoke about the Mariners Center project moving forward. Priority sessions with staff was really good. Splash park is still in the process of looking for grants. She also made a site visit at Glenwood park with staff to talk about the upgrades and where things are going to land. Two parts of the project are being worked out now. They are the boat launch and beach volleyball.

Councillor d'Entremont spoke about new dewatering system in Pubnico. It is there and are just waiting to put out tender for piping to set it up.

### **Warden's report**

March 8. Zoom meeting with Kathy Jourdain regarding the upcoming strategic planning.  
March 10. Choice Housing Committee at 9:30. Meeting with mayors, wardens and CAOs regarding fishing dispute at 3:30. YASTA meeting at 6:00  
March 16. Mariners centre steering committee member  
March 17. Nakile board meeting  
March 18. Accessibility Advisory Committee 9:00am. Interview with Norbert Leblanc from Le Courier at 12:30. Special council meeting at 3:30  
March 23. Walk through at St Stephens Church in Tusket. The congregation is looking to dispose of this property. Special Council Meeting in the afternoon  
March 24. REMO Planning Committee meeting  
March 25 - 26. Strategic Planning Session at The Argyle

### **Staff report**

Deputy Warden spoke about the staff report and asked councillors to keep in mind that when the strategy plan comes out, Council may need to think about how the agenda will shift or staff report can change.

CAO Muise briefly highlighted the report. Admin building furniture and supplies have been ordered and will be on time. The completion of the inside is moving quite quickly right now. Council & front desk is being constructed by a local guy from Bridgewater. Currently coordinating move for middle of June. Everything is within budget. Currently working on storage building in the back.

Mariners Centre expansion project is still ongoing. It is difficult to estimate how big this project will be. Will have to adjust the project to meet the budget. This project will result in a tax increase for residents.

Meeting with Eel Brooke Volunteer fire department chief, councillor, planners, project managers and architects is happening tomorrow. CAO Muise spoke about their struggles with budget.

CAO Muise spoke about water and drought. Attended a meeting with experts in this area. Will find a way to help the community. All the experts are in agreement that an on-site solution is the best, long term solution. This means the solution is at people's homes.

Conversation about tax rates and what a percent increase looks like in terms of what it will be on a yearly tax bill.

### **For Decision**

#### Pubnico Community Identity Signs

Deputy Warden Albright briefly highlighted the request. The signs are really deteriorating and does not fully showcase what the community is about. The community should have a say about what is on the sign but also follow regulations.

It is moved by Calvin d'Entremont and seconded by Kathy Bourque that Council approve a capital reserve contribution of \$24,000 to purchase these two signs in the 2021-22 fiscal year, and request funding support from Acadian Affairs for the cost of signage.

*Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)*

#### GSAR

Deputy Warden Albright explained the request for decision. They have issues with their building, and it needs immediate repairs. The other two CAO's are aware that this motion is on the agenda tonight.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Glenn Diggdon that Council approve a capital contribution of \$25,000 to be issued from 2020-21 operational surplus (reserves), and that the 2021-2022 budgets include a contribution to GSAR.

*Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)*

#### Western Counties Regional Library

Deputy Warden Albright explained the request. CAO Muise spoke about the process that the Province is supposed to lead that engages the municipalities and the libraries across NS to determine funding increases. This has not been done yet.

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Richard Donaldson that Council deny the request for funding, as the Municipality has not received its one-year notice from the Province of NS respecting funding increases.

*Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)*

#### Litter clean-up

Deputy Warden Albright highlighted the request. Staff member, Kim Rowley is the contact for this program.

It is moved by Danny Muise and seconded by Richard Donaldson that Council approve an operational contribution of \$18,000 towards the community litter pick up program for 2021-22.

*Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)*

### Capital budget

Deputy Warden Albright highlighted the request. CAO Muise spoke about the equipment being requested. This is being recommended now in order to retain the prices quoted.

It is moved by Calvin d'Entremont and seconded by Ted Saulnier that Council approve that the CAO be authorized to purchase a mower and a trailer at a combined cost not exceeding \$27,500, and that amount be included in the capital reserve budget for final approval when the budget is completed.

*Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)*

### **For Discussion**

#### Fire Service Registration Policy

Deputy Warden Albright informed council that this policy has been sent to the fire chiefs for their comments. CAO Muise mentioned that this policy was developed through AMA. This policy is trying to figure out what departments can and cannot do. This will not be on the agenda for approval until we get feedback from the fire departments.

Conversation about the mutual aids or fire commission in the area that would benefit from a presentation regarding this policy. Fire departments could also benefit from the same presentation. CAO Muise will navigate the logistics of the presentation.

#### Equipe Alpha

Deputy Warden Albright spoke about the attached request. Equipe Alpha is an organization that is looking at renting our current office space. Council is in agreement that the current building should be sold and not rented. CAO Muise mentioned that there has been no interest from buyers but we have also not advertised that it is for sale. The appraisal of the building was 240,000 in 2018.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Kathy Bourque that Council instruct staff to prepare and begin the process to sell the current admin building at 27 Courthouse Rd.

*Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)*

### **Correspondence and for Information**

#### Yarmouth County Trail Development Association Final Report

No action, for information.

#### Municipal affairs acknowledgement

No action, for information.

#### Municipality of Barrington-Letter of concern

No action, for information.

**Financial Requests**

None

**Agenda Topics for Next Meeting/Notice of Motion**

None

**Question Period**

None

**In Camera**

Mariners Centre expansion-negotiation

Light Pollution-legal matter

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Glenn Diggdon recess the Annual Council Meeting and go In-Camera at 8:49PM.

*Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)*

There being no further business, it is moved by Ted Saulnier and seconded by Guy Surette to adjourn the Annual Council Meeting at 10:30p.m.

Recorder

Lori Murphy

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman/Warden \_\_\_\_\_

Alain Muise, Chief Administrative Officer \_\_\_\_\_