

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
Tuesday, February 22, 2022
Zoom 6:30 p.m.

Present: Warden Danny Muise, Deputy Warden Nicole Albright, Councillors: Calvin d'Entremont, Glenn Diggdon, Kathy Bourque, Richard Donaldson, Ted Saulnier, Guy Surette, Gordon Boudreau; Acting Chief Administrative Officer Kyle Boudreau, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Scott Surette, and Executive Assistant/Recorder Chantalle Newell.

Regrets: Chief Administrative Officer Alain Muise.

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Deputy Warden Nicole Albright.

2. Approval of Agenda/Conflict of Interest Declaration

a. Agenda

On a motion by Warden Danny Muise and seconded by Councillor Glenn Diggdon the agenda is approved with the additions of 6 (d) Writing a letter to the Department of Public Works regarding their intentions on the Forbes Road and 7 (a) The flying of the Acadian Flag at the Municipal Building.

Motion Carried. (9 in favour, 0 against)

b. Conflict of Interest Declaration

Deputy Warden Nicole Albright asked for any declarations of conflict of interest from the floor. None declared.

3. Presentation – none.

4. Adoption of Minutes

a. February 8, 2022 – Regular Council Meeting minutes

It is moved by Councillor Kathy Bourque and seconded by Councillor Ted Saulnier to approve the February 8, 2022 Regular Council Meeting Minutes with the change of the Mariners Centre Motion.

Motion Carried. (9 in favour, 0 against)

5. Business Arising from Minutes – none.

6. For Decision

a. CSAP Education Act

Deputy Warden Nicole Albright explained this request. CSAP has been trying to get their own education act since 2018 without success. CSAP representatives have put in a request with Council, asking them to write a letter to Premier Houston, with copies to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood, and MLA Colton LeBlanc asking that the provincial government adopt a CSAP Education Act in conjunction with their board.

Councillor Kathy Bourque indicated that MLA Colton LeBlanc said they would be sitting down with CSAP to discuss this matter in the spring. Councillor Bourque is in favour of writing a letter to the people listed above.

It is moved by Warden Danny Muise and seconded by Councillor Guy Surette for Council to write a letter the Premier Houston, with copies to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood, and MLA Colton LeBlanc asking that the provincial government adopt a CSAP Education Act in conjunction with the CSAP board.

Motion Carried. (9 in favour, 0 against)

b. Low Income Tax Exemption

Deputy Warden Albright explained the exemptions listed in the request attached to the agenda. Staff has reviewed policies and made changes to the exemptions this year.

It is moved by Councillor Kathy Bourque and seconded by Councillor Glenn Diggdon to approve the suggested amounts given for the tax exemptions for this year.

Motion Carried. (9 in favour, 0 against)

c. Eel Brook Fire Department Rate Payers Meeting Minutes

Deputy Warden Nicole Albright explained this request. At a recent Eel Brook Fire Department Rate Payers meeting, a motion was passed to extend the existing area rate of \$0.125 per \$100 of assessment for an additional five years after the current agreed upon rate is finished. A motion is required by council to approve the minutes as presented.

It is moved by Warden Danny Muise and seconded by Councillor Richard Donaldson to approve the Eel Brook Fire Department Rate Payers meeting minutes as presented.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

d. Canadian Seniors Curling Championship

Deputy Warden Nicole Albright outlined this request. YASTA is looking for their Municipal partners to donate \$10,000 towards the Canadian Seniors Curling Championship.

Councillor Calvin d'Entremont also spoke to this request and was looking at deferring this request for this meeting. There will be other requests coming to the Municipality and he feels we should wait and evaluate these requests at one time.

Councillor Ted Saulnier stated that events like this bring a lot of revenue to the Town of Yarmouth. He is wondering if there is an impact study on the revenue brought in to the Municipality of Argyle. Councillor Calvin d'Entremont indicated he would reach out to his YASTA contacts to see if they have a report outlining that.

It is moved by Councillor Calvin d'Entremont and seconded by Councillor Ted Saulnier to defer this agenda topic until the next meeting.

Motion Carried. (9 in favour, 0 against)

e. Letter to be written to Department of Public Works regarding the Forbes Road

Councillor Richard Donaldson explained that he would like to have a letter written to the Department of Public Works asking what their intentions are for this road.

It is moved by Councillor Richard Donaldson and seconded by Councillor Calvin d'Entremont to write a letter to the Department of Public Works regarding their intentions for this road.

Motion Carried. (9 in favour, 0 against)

7. Correspondence and for information

a. Flag Policy

Councillor Glenn Diggdon explained that the Acadian Flag was taken down to put up the African Heritage Flag at the Municipal Office. He thinks that Council may have overlooked the policy they passed. He believes that the Acadian flag should be flown at all times, and we should purchase a new flag pole for special occasions. Councillor Diggdon believed that the three main flags that should be flown at the Municipality of Argyle are the Canadian flags, the Nova Scotia Flag and the Acadian flag. He indicated other Councillors and himself have received correspondence regarding the Acadian flag being taken down.

Councillor Guy Surette agrees with Councillor Diggdon and would like for staff to look at the flag policy and return to Council with it.

Councillor Calvin d'Entremont would like for staff to **look into** the cost of an extra flag pole and bring back to Council for consideration.

Councillor Ted Saulnier is asking if staff knows how many flags the Municipality is required to fly per year.

Acting Chief Administrative Officer, Kyle Boudreau indicated they are currently waiting for guidance from the Province regarding provincial flag policies. He also stated that a new flag pole would be between \$12,000-\$15,000.

Deputy Warden Nicole Albright indicated that she felt when she read the flag policy, she felt it showed a sign of respect for the Municipality of Argyle to take down the Acadian flag. She stated it shows inclusiveness. She also indicated she may not vote in favour of changing the flag policy as she is proud of it.

Councillor Glenn Diggdon mentioned that Acadians have fought for their land to be recognized and he feels the Acadian flag 52 weeks out of the year.

Councillor Boudreau stated that Council should wait for the flag policy from the Province and go from there.

It is moved by Councillor Gordon Boudreau and seconded by Councillor Glenn Diggdon to defer this topic for the next meeting.

Motion carried. (9 in favour, 0 against)

8. Financial Requests

a. Mariners Centre Fundraising RFP Top Up Request

At a recent Mariners Centre Expansion Steering Committee, there was a motion passed to return to each Council (Town of Yarmouth, Municipality of Yarmouth and Municipality of Argyle) to ask for an additional \$20,000 in bridge funding to cover the fundraising RFP. There will be a budget presented in the near future for the following fiscal year including this funding. Deputy Warden Nicole Albright spoke on this request.

It is moved by Councillor Guy Surette and seconded by Councillor Glenn Diggdon to approve the bridge funding request for the Mariners Centre Expansion Steering Committee for the Fundraising RFP top up. These funds will be budgeted in the 2022-23 Fiscal year.

Motion Carried (8 in favour, 0 against) – Councillor Donaldson was absent for this motion.

9. Agenda Topics for Next Meeting/Notice of Motions by Councillors

- a. Councillor Calvin d'Entremont requested the Canadian Seniors Curling Championship
- b. Councillor Guy Surette is requesting information regarding the Grants to Organizations, particularly for the festivals portion. As the cost of living has gone up, he is hoping to maybe get this number increased.

10. Question Period – None.

11. In Camera

In accordance with subsection 22(2) clause (c) and (e) of the Municipal Government Act, it is moved by Councillor Kathy Bourque and seconded by Councillor Calvin d'Entremont for Council to move to the In-Camera portion of the meeting at 7:40 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter and contract negotiations.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

Council returned to the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 9:54 p.m. to make the following motions:

It is moved by Councillor Kathy Bourque and seconded by Councillor Guy Surette to approve the Organizational Chart as presented, to be reviewed in 6 months.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

It is moved by Councillor Ted Saulnier and seconded by Warden Danny Muise to approve the staff salary increases for 2022-2023 increases as presented.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

It is moved by Councillor Kathy Bourque and seconded by Councillor Richard Donaldson to approve the budget increase as presented.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

12. Adjournment

It is moved by Councillor Ted Saulnier and seconded by Councillor Richard Donaldson to adjourn the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 9:56 p.m.

Motion Carried. (9 in favour, 0 against)

Respectfully Submitted,

Chantalle Newell, Executive Assistant/Recorder

Date Approved:

March 8, 2022

Chairman/Deputy Warden

Original Signed

Kyle Boudreau, Acting CAO

Original Signed