

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
Tuesday, March 29, 2022
Council Chambers, 6:30 p.m.

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

There was also one member of the public, Roland Bourque in attendance for a portion of the meeting.

Regrets: none.

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 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 Ted Saulnier the agenda is approved with the following changes:

- Addition of 7 G – the echo in Council Chambers
 - Move 10 A, Twin Village Social Club Emergency Request under 3 B.
- 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 – Phil DeMille, Coal Shed Music Festival

Phil DeMille explained how the Coal Shed Music Festival came about. He explained that everyone is welcome to this event. Phil indicated that there is no admission fee for this event. The majority of the money goes to schools in the area, including schools in the Municipality of Argyle. Phil mentioned that budgeting is an issue. It costs \$250 an hour to operate the festival and \$23,000 for the whole festival. The Coal Shed Music Festival is requesting \$2500 from the Municipality of Argyle.

Councillor Donaldson asked if this would fall under our regular Grants to Organization or if it will be considered a special event. CAO Muise indicated that it will likely go through the Grants to Organization, however Council can decide if they would like to consider it as a special event.

Councillor Donaldson indicated he would like to see this go under the special event grant.

Councillor Saulnier thanked Phil for what he does. Councillor Saulnier mentioned that when he was involved in volunteering, most of the money would come from fundraising. He asked if any

businesses in Yarmouth contribute to the event. Phil responded saying some businesses do sponsor them and they advertise them on posters for the event.

Councillor Surette asked about the liability insurance. Phil mentioned that when he first started volunteering for this event, he asked the question about the liability. He was told that the area has an umbrella clause for special activities. He mentioned that he never questioned it again and it was brought up a few months ago, indicating he was to have his own insurance for this event.

Warden Muise's question is regarding not having an admission fee and asked where the revenue comes from to donate to the school breakfast programs. Phil mentioned that the money they donate is through sponsorships and donations at the event as well.

Councillor d'Entremont asked about the relationship between YASTA and the Coal Shed Music Festival and Phil mentioned that they do have a good relationship. Councillor d'Entremont indicated he would have a conversation with the Director of YASTA to see if they can assist the Coal Shed Music Festival with getting more sponsors.

Deputy Warden Nicole Albright thanked Phil for being present and indicated that Council will be in touch once the deadline is over for the Grants to Organization.

b. Twin Village Social Club – Emergency Request for Funding

Councillor Surette explained this request. He also acknowledged that Roland Bourque was present at this time. The volunteers of the Twin Village Social Club have been pumping water out of the basement for a while due to the lack of water draining. Within the last two weeks, the pump in the artesian well has broken as well. Councillor Surette has indicated that they are currently flushing the toilets with buckets of water during their events to fundraise. Warden Muise and Councillor Diggdon mentioned how important the community halls are and that Council should assist them in any way possible.

CAO Muise advised that Council can approve this grant retroactive with the 2021 Community Hall Grants or they can consider it for the 2022 Community Hall Grants.

It is moved by Councillor Guy Surette and seconded by Councillor Ted Saulnier to approve the Community Hall Grant Application for Twin Village Social Club in the amount of \$10,000 retroactive to the 2021 Community Hall Grants.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

4. Adoption of Minutes

a. March 8, 2022 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

It is moved by Councillor Kathy Bourque and seconded by Councillor Glenn Diggdon to approve the March 8, 2022 Regular Council Meeting Minutes as circulated.

Motion Carried. (9 in favour, 0 against)

b. March 18, 2022 Special Council Meeting Minutes

It is moved by Councillor Guy Surette and seconded by Councillor Gordon Boudreau to approve the March 18, 2022 Special Council Meeting Minutes as circulated.

Motion Carried. (9 in favour, 0 against)

c. March 21, 2022 Special Council Meeting Minutes

It is moved by Warden Danny Muise and seconded by Councillor Ted Saulnier to approve the March 21, 2022 Special Council Meeting Minutes as circulated.

Motion Carried. (9 in favour, 0 against)

5. Business Arising from Minutes

a. Letter of support sent to the Prime Minister regarding a Universal School Food Program

No action. For information.

b. Letter of support sent to Invenergy supporting their project

No action. For information.

6. Financial Summary – February 2022

CAO Muise explained the financial summary attached. He indicated there is an Operational Surplus at the end of February of \$368,242. The total revenues are up substantially and a major part of that is the Deed Transfer Tax. They are up \$208,000 due to the Deed Transfer Tax.

It is moved by Councillor Kathy Bourque and seconded by Councillor Calvin d'Entremont to accept the Financial Summary as Presented.

Motion Carried. (9 in favour, 0 against)

7. For Decision

a. Municipal Accessibility Plan Amendments

CAO Muise explained that the Director of Recreation Services, Natalie d'Entremont lead these changes. The biggest change is the chronology on the back.

It is moved by Councillor Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Councillor Ted Saulnier to approve the Municipal Accessibility Plan Amendments as requested.

Motion Carried. (9 in favour, 0 against)

b. Letter of Support Request – HOPE Dial a Ride

Warden Danny Muise explained that there was a meeting with HOPE Dial a Ride, himself, the CAO and the Deputy CAO. They are currently applying for funding for a new van that they would like to park in the Municipality of Argyle with the sole purpose of using it for the Municipality of Argyle residents. CAO Muise explained that HOPE is not looking for funding, they are simply looking for a letter of support to go with their application for funding. If they are successful with this application, there will be some operational costs to look at for the Municipality of Argyle.

It is moved by Councillor Calvin d'Entremont and seconded by Councillor Guy Surette to write a letter of support to HOPE Dial a Ride.

Motion Carried. (9 in favour, 0 against)

c. West Pubnico Fire Association Rate Payers Meeting

Deputy Warden Nicole Albright outlined the request. Councillor Diggdon mentioned it is the same rate as last year.

It is moved by Councillor Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Councillor Calvin d'Entremont to approve the area rate for the West Pubnico Fire Association of \$0.09 per \$100 for one year.

Motion Carried. (9 in favour, 0 against)

d. Letter of Support – Wedgeport Wind Farm Project – Elemental Energy

Deputy CAO Scott Surette explained this request. He explained they are looking for a letter of support like the one that we provided for Invenergy.

Councillor Gordon Boudreau asked if they should write a letter of support before or after the Open House in Wedgeport. Deputy CAO Surette explained that would be a Council decision. Warden Muise stated that it is not to approve the project, it is to support the application.

Councillor Ted Saulnier states this company should meet with Council soon to get all the information they need.

It is moved by Councillor Gordon Boudreau seconded by Councillor Ted Saulnier to write a letter of support to Elemental Energy.

Motion Carried. (9 in favour, 0 against)

It is moved by Councillor Guy Surette and seconded by Warden Danny Muise to have Elemental Energy meet with Council.

Motion Carried. (9 in favour, 0 against)

e. Boundary Review (Budget Planning)

CAO Muise outlined this request. By the end of the year, council has to decide how many councillor's should represent the Municipality of Argyle. The UARB suggests that you engage the public with that decision. CAO Muise is recommending that the Municipality hire WSP to do the public engagement piece. The next piece to consider will be the boundary lines. After that, Council may consider a Warden system or switching to a Mayorial system. The major difference between the two is that the Mayor is elected by electors. CAO Muise says the two things council needs to consider is that the boundary review is happening and for them to start thinking about it and expect it on the agenda for the next 8 or 9 months and for Council to authorize WSP to work on the public engagement piece.

It is moved by Councillor Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Councillor Calvin d'Entremont to direct staff through the CAO to undertake phase one and two for Boundary review for the Municipality of Argyle, and that they be authorized to engage the existing planner to assist in the

process where it is considered necessary by the staff team.

Motion Carried. (9 in favour, 0 against)

f. Mariners Centre/Mariners on Main Budget

CAO Muise outlined this item and requested that Council make a motion to table this discussion until budget deliberations.

It is moved by Councillor Guy Surette and seconded by Warden Danny Muise to table the Mariners Centre/Mariners on Main budget until budget deliberations.

Motion Carried. (9 in favour, 0 against)

g. Soundproofing of Council Chambers

Councillor Calvin d'Entremont is raising the issue of the soundproofing of Council Chambers and he would like to see if there are options for this. CAO Muise indicated that the Council Chambers is the only room with sound proofing. He mentioned that there are currently noise and echoing in the whole building. There are privacy issues and staff are looking into a solution for this.

It is moved by Councillor Calvin d'Entremont and seconded by Councillor Kathy Bourque to have staff look into a solution for the echo issue throughout the building.

Motion Carried. (9 in favour, 0 against)

8. Notice to Council

a. Flag Policy Amendment Notice to Council

It is moved by Warden Danny Muise and seconded by Councillor Glenn Diggdon to defer this discussion until the next meeting and to have staff provide Council with different options to discuss and consider.

Motion Carried. (9 in favour, 0 against)

9. Correspondence and for information

a. Letter received from the Department of Public Works regarding the status of Rocco Point Road

No action. For information.

b. Western County Regional Library Newsletter and Minutes

No action. For information.

c. Coastal Protection Act – Public Engagement Report

No action. For information.

d. Eligibility Guidelines for Fire Halls and Fire Station Infrastructure

No action. For information.

10. Financial Requests

- a. District Community Grant Request – Dennis Point Harbour Authority - \$500

It is moved by Councillor Calvin d'Entremont and seconded by Councillor Glenn Diggdon to provide a Community Grant of \$500 to the Dennis Point Harbour Authority.

Motion Carried. (9 in favour, 0 against)

- b. District Community Grant Request - Pubnico Point Trail Association - \$500

It is moved by Councillor Calvin d'Entremont and seconded by Councillor Guy Surette to provide a Community Grant of \$500 to the Pubnico Point Trail Association.

Motion Carried. (9 in favour, 0 against)

- c. District Community Grant Request – Société Bon Temps d'Argyle - \$500

It is moved by Councillor Calvin d'Entremont and seconded by Councillor Kathy Bourque to provide a Community Grant of \$500 to Société Bon Temps d'Argyle.

Motion Carried. (9 in favour, 0 against)

- d. District Community Grant Request – The Ladies Auxiliary of the West Pubnico Fire Department - \$500

It is moved by Councillor Calvin d'Entremont and seconded by Councillor Glenn Diggdon to provide a Community Grant of \$500 to the Ladies Auxiliary of the West Pubnico Fire Department.

Motion Carried. (9 in favour, 0 against)

- e. District Community Grant Request – Fédération Culturelle acadienne de la Nouvelle Ecosse - \$500

It is moved by Councillor Calvin d'Entremont and seconded by Councillor Guy Surette to provide a Community Grant of \$500 to the FéCANE.

Motion Carried. (9 in favour, 0 against)

- f. District Community Grant Request – Abrams River Wharf Committee - \$500

It is moved by Warden Danny Muise and seconded by Councillor Ted Saulnier to provide a Community Grant of \$500 to the Abrams River Wharf Committee.

Motion Carried. (9 in favour, 0 against)

- g. District Community Grant Request – Hubbards Point Community Centre - \$500

It is moved by Warden Danny Muise and seconded by Councillor Kathy Bourque to provide a Community Grant of \$500 to the Hubbards Point Community Centre.

Motion Carried. (9 in favour, 0 against)

11. Agenda Topics for Next Meeting/Notice of Motions by Councillors – None.

12. Question Period – None.

13. In Camera – MGA 22:2 (e) Contract Negotiations

It is moved by Councillor Kathy Bourque and seconded by Councillor Calvin d'Entremont to recess the Committee of the Whole Meeting and go to the In-Camera portion of the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Motion Carried. (9 in favour, 0 against)

Council returned to the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 9:14 p.m. to make the following motion:

It is moved by Councillor Richard Donaldson and seconded by Councillor Glenn Diggdon to approve the insurance policy for seven fire departments in the Municipality of Argyle.

Motion Carried (9 in favour, 0 against)

14. Adjournment

It is moved by Councillor Ted Saulnier and seconded by Councillor Gordon Boudreau to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting at 9:21 p.m.

Motion Carried. (9 in favour, 0 against)

Respectfully Submitted,

Chantalle Newell, Executive Assistant/Recorder

Date Approved: _____

Chairwoman/ Deputy Warden _____

Alain Muise, Chief Administrative Officer _____