

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, December 11, 2018
Tusket, NS 6:30 p.m.

Regular Council Meeting

Present: Warden Richard Donaldson; Deputy Warden Danny Muise; Councillors, Guy Surette, Kathy Bourque and Glenn Diggdon; Chief Administrative Officer Alain Muise, Solicitor Réal Boudreau and Executive Assistant/Recorder Kimberly Rowley.

Regrets: Lucien LeBlanc, Calvin d'Entremont, Roderick Murphy Jr. and Nicole Albright.

The meeting was called to order at 6:28 p.m. by Warden Richard Donaldson.

Agenda:

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

Motion Carried

Conflict of Interest Declaration

Warden Richard Donaldson asked for any declarations of conflict of interest from the floor.

None declared.

Presentations and/or Petitions

None.

Adoption of Minutes

Regular Council Meeting – November 13, 2018

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Kathy Bourque that the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of November 13, 2018, be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (5 in favour, 0 against)

Special Council Meeting-November 20, 2018

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Kathy Bourque that the minutes of the Special Council Meeting of November 20, 2018, be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (5 in favour, 0 against)

Committee of the Whole Meeting – November 27, 2018

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Guy Surette that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 27, 2018, be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried (5 in favour, 0 against)

Business Arising from the Minutes

Asset Management Policy

CAO Muise notes that there were no changes to this document since notice was given at the last meeting. Staff and the Deputy Warden continue to work with AIM in developing the tools to assist staff and council make capital asset decisions in the future.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Danny Muise that the Asset Management Policy be approved as presented.

Motion Carried (5 in favour, 0 against)

Service Awards Policy

CAO Muise discussed the purpose of this policy is to ensure that staff years of service are recognized by the Municipality of Argyle in a consistent manner and in a way agreeable to Council. This policy applies to full time, salaried permanent employees that have been employed a minimum of 5 years. A certificate, monetary gift & a special day off will be given as appreciation.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Kathy Bourque that the Service Awards Policy be approved as presented.

Motion Carried (5 in favour, 0 against)

Councillors stipends and Council remuneration and Benefits Policy

CAO Muise presents the policy, and notes that it is the notice period at this time. The idea of the policy is to set stipends for Council by policy, while taking into account the recent changes in Federal Taxation law that eliminates a 1/3 non-taxable portion of stipends. There has been no adjustment in stipends in seven years. Also included in the policy is accountability for councillors who do not attend meetings. Council made suggestions to the CAO regarding sick day provisions and other changes. The policy will be reconsidered at the January 8th 2019 meeting

Councillor's Reports

Councillor Diggdon - MC Cake parade, Co Sponsored the second annual Diggdon Christmas party, Attended Annis' ginger bread house and tree lighting (West Side Improvement Society), worked on nativity scene for St. parish church

Councillor Bourque - Attended, Yarmouth Area Industrial Commission meeting, Nakile Meeting, Tree lighting ceremony for the Municipality.

Deputy Warden Muise - Attended public hearing for the aquaculture development in Argyle, and the Christmas tree lighting ceremony in Tusket.

Councillor Surette – Attended Public hearing for the aquaculture development in Argyle, attended a course, “Leading in the Grey” in Halifax and attended Waste Park meeting.

Warden's Report

November 13th Council Meeting;
November 15th FCM funding announcement (new administrative meeting);
November 19th YAIC (Yarmouth Area Industrial Commission) Meeting;
November 20th Special Council Meeting;
November 22nd EMO advisory Meeting;
November 22nd Experience Argyle;
November 23rd Carleton River Waste Water Committee Meeting;
November 26th EMO Joint County Meeting;
November 27th Committee of the Whole Meeting;
November 30th AFN – Winners World Grand Opening;
November 30th Athletics Awards;
December 2nd Argyle Christmas Tree Lightning;
December 5th Waste Park Meeting;
December 5th Brads Retirement;
December 6th Aquaculture Pubic Hearing Meeting;
December 7th Municipality of the District of Yarmouth, Tree Lighting.

Staff Report

CAO Alain Muise reviewed the staff report that was circulated to Council; discussed, in particular, the Wedgeport Septic tank project, new funding announcement for the municipal administrative building. Also mentioned was an application for \$400,000 for additional federal funding for the building for innovative wood design. There are two accessibility grants still outstanding. Finally, Eel Brook fire dept has verbally confirmed that a deal was struck with the land owner for the selected location for the new Fire Station.

Report Attached (18100901)

Strategic Priority Topics

None.

For Decision

Reduction of opening bids-Tax Sale February 2019

Our tax collector has identified 3 properties for the upcoming tax sale to consider the reduction of opening bids.

It is moved by Danny Muise and seconded by Glenn Diggdon to reduce the opening bids on 2019 Tax Sale, properties 2956 HWY 203 East Kemptville reduce to \$5,500, 2778 HWY 334 Wedgeport reduced to \$3,800 & 24 Newell Road, Plymouth reduce to \$350.

Motion Carried (5 in favour, 0 against)

Amendment of Mariners Center Agreement

The three municipal units of Yarmouth County agreed they wanted a closer connection to the Mariners Center governance. Thus, an amended document was created to include three council members as members, one from each municipal unit. This decision would

eliminate three public members as they would be replaced. Council discusses the selection of a new member of the Mariners Center Board, but it was determined this would be done in January 2019.

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Kathy Bourque to accept the amendment to the Mariners Centre Agreement, resulting in one council member from each unit becoming voting members of the board.

Motion Carried (5 in favour, 0 against)

Nakile Home for Special Care-request for tax exemption

A letter from Nakile Home for Special Care requesting consideration for a continued partial tax exemption is circulated to council.

It is moved by Danny Muise and seconded by Kathy Bourque that the request for exemption be granted and taxes be capped at \$25,000 for Nakile Home for Special Care.

Motion Carried (5 in favour, 0 against)

Infrastructure funding-call for applications

CAO Muise presents a document that assesses all capital projects on our Capital Investment Plan or urgent matters rising from subsidiary municipal organizations. Only two projects appear to fit the eligibility criteria – the Water main replacement for the Yarmouth Area Industrial Commission (shared project) and the Wedgeport Septic Tank project – phase three of installations.

It is moved by Glenn Diggdon and seconded by Guy Surette that Staff, based on Council priorities, prepare an application for the Wedgeport Phase Three project for Council's consideration, and reach out to our partners in the Yarmouth Area Industrial Commission to assess interest in a regional application for funding for the Domtex potable water project.

Motion Carried (5 in favour, 0 against)

Other Business

New Policy-Winter Clearing Standards

This is official notice of a new policy guiding staff on the priorities for winter clearing, and the standards to be met for when streets and sidewalks are to be cleared. Council questioned whether we were receiving complaints, and Director of Public Works Hans Pfeil indicated that we were not receiving complaints; the policy is intended to clarify staff responsibilities, and of course our service would be measured against it if desired. The policy will be brought to January 8, 2019 meeting for approval.

Correspondence and for Information

WREN CEO Report

No action was requested by Council.

RCMP-new staff introduction

A letter was circulated introducing a new RCMP Officer

Tax and another receivables-comparison-November 2018

The monthly report was circulated to Council. No action required

WCRL Board Minutes-October 4, 2018

No action required by Council

Amendments to NS Building Code – request for comment

CAO Muise noted that our building official, John Sullivan, recommended we support the changes that impact cabin construction and small house construction- the changes make it easier to construct both in Nova Scotia.

It is moved by Glenn Digdson and seconded by Kathy Bourque to write a letter of support for the changes to the Nova Scotia Building Code
Motion Carried (5 in favour, 0 against)

Financial Requests

None.

Agenda Topics for Next Meeting / Notice of Motion by Councillors

None.

Question Period

None.

In Camera

It is moved by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Guy Surette to recess the Regular Council Meeting and go In-Camera to discuss contract negotiations and legal advice eligible for Solicitor-Client privilege.

Motion Carried (5 in favour, 0 against)

It is moved by Warden Richard Donaldson and seconded by Danny Muise to recess the In-Camera meeting and go back to the Regular Council Meeting.

Motion Carried (5 in favour, 0 against)

There being no further business, it is moved by Warden Richard and seconded by Guy Surette to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting at 08:34 p.m.

Recorder

Kimberly Rowley

Date Approved: _____

Chairman/Warden _____

Alain Muise, Chief Administrative Officer _____