



MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2024

Council Members Present: Warden Danny Muise, Deputy Warden Nicole Albright, Councillor Gordon Boudreau, Councillor Glenn Diggdon, Councillor Ted Saulnier, Councillor Guy Surette, Councillor Richard Donaldson, and Councillor Kathy Bourque.

Absent with Regrets: Councillor Calvin d'Entremont

Staff Present: Chief Administrative Officer Alain Muise, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Scott Surette, and Executive Assistant Chantalle Newell

1. **Call Meeting to Order**

Deputy Warden Nicole Albright called the meeting to order at 6:54 p.m. and indicated there were regrets from Councillor Calvin d'Entremont.

2. **Invitation to Stand and Move**

Deputy Warden Nicole Albright reminded Council that they are permitted to stand and move as they need to during the meeting. This is an initiative by Argyle Recreation which normalizes movement in meetings.

3. **Approval of Agenda**

By consensus, the agenda was approved as presented.

4. **Presentation – Grant Thornton Audited Financial Statements**

Gloria Banks was present to provide Council an overview of the Audited Financial Statements from March 31, 2023.

The audited financial statements include all the operational and capital statements as well as the partially owned entities such as YASTA, Yarmouth Area Industrial Commission, Yarmouth International Airport Corporation, Yarmouth County Solid Waste Park, and new this year, Mariners Centre. Revenues were up around 2% and Expenses were down 1% from the prior year.

5. **Approval of Minutes**

a. **Regular Council Meeting Minutes – February 8, 2024**

By consensus, the Regular Council Meeting minutes of February 8, 2024, are approved as presented.

6. **Staff Reports**

a. **Department Head Report**

The department head report is attached to the agenda. There were no questions on the report.

b. **Clerks Report**



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The Clerk's Report is attached to the agenda. There were no questions on the report.

c. **Building Permit Report**

The building permit report is attached to the agenda. There were no questions on the report.

7. **7-Day Notice**

a. **Article C22 – Fees and Penalties Policy Amendments**

Council received notice for the amendments to the Fees and Penalties Policy.

8. **For Decision and Discussion**

a. **Approval of Audited Financial Statements**

It is MOVED by Councillor Kathy Bourque and SECONDED by Councillor Ted Saulnier to approve the Audited Financial Statements for March 31, 2023.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. **Street Light Request – Highway 3 and Camp Cove Road**

Councillor Richard Donaldson received a concern from a resident regarding the lack of streetlight on Highway 3 and Camp Cove Road. Staff will review the policy and follow the proper protocols.

c. **Windmill Revenue**

Councillor Ted Saulnier raised this item on the agenda. Councillor Saulnier is requesting the money that the windmills will generate strictly for bettering Argyle. He is asking staff to propose funding models to stay within the municipality.

It is MOVED by Councillor Ted Saulnier and SECONDED by Guy Surette to request staff to propose funding models for the potential windmill revenue to be spent within the Municipality to return to Council for decision.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

d. **Low Income Property Tax Exemption Amounts for 2024**

Council has to approve the Low Income Property Tax Exemption Amounts for 2024. They were presented with 2 options from staff. One is for 2 thresholds and the other is for 3 thresholds.

It is MOVED by Councillor Glenn Diggdon and SECONDED by Councillor Richard Donaldson to implement the following low income property tax exemptions, in accordance with the policy for the 2024 tax year:

- \$0-\$28,000 exempt for \$300
- \$28,001-\$55,999 exempt for \$200
- \$56,000-\$63,499 exempt for \$100.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

e. **Article C23 – Phase 1 and 2 Wedgeport Sewer**



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It is MOVED by Councillor Guy Surette and SECONDED by Councillor Kathy Bourque to approve the amendments to Article C23 – Phase 1 and 2 Wedgeport Sewer Policy.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

f. **Article C52 – Phase 3 Wedgeport Sewer**

It is MOVED by Councillor Richard Donaldson and SECONDED by Councillor Gordon Boudreau to approve Article C52 – Phase 3 Wedgeport Sewer Policy.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

g. **Article P2 – Anti Discrimination and Anti Harassment Policy**

It is MOVED by Councillor Guy Surette and SECONDED by Warden Danny Muise to approve Article P2 – Anti Discrimination and Anti Harassment Policy.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

h. **Article P7 – Overtime Policy Amendments**

It is MOVED by Councillor Ted Saulnier and SECONDED by Councillor Kathy Bourque to approve Article P7 – Overtime Policy Amendments.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

i. **Minor Amendments to Wedgeport Wind Farm Development Agreement**

There have been minor amendments requested to the Wedgeport Wind Farm Development Agreement and site plan for minor route access changes to the site. One PID is not part of the original Development Agreement and therefore needs to be included.

It is MOVED by Councillor Ted Saulnier and SECONDED by Warden Gordon Boudreau to add PID 90093113 to the Development Agreement as a minor alteration of the contract, and that minor amendments to site plans be managed and approved by the Development Officer in accordance with the agreement.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. For Correspondence and Information

a. **Correspondence from Department of Public Works**

Council received correspondence from the NS Department of Public Works indicating they have received council's requests for the Creamy Treat Intersection and the painting of the Wedgeport Crosswalk.

b. **Meeting with Juanita Spencer, NSFM**

There will be a meeting with Juanita Spencer from NSFM on April 3, 2024, and all of Council is invited.



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c. Update on Funding Opportunities

CAO Muise gave Council an update on funding opportunities that Argyle has applied for.

10. Financial Requests

a. WSP Invoice for Approval

An invoice for WSP needs to be approved by Council, as it is over budget. WSP did extra work for the Wedgeport Wind Farm Development Agreement.

It is MOVED by Councillor Guy Surette and SECONDED by Councillor Kathy Bourque to approve the WSP Invoice in the amount of \$9,625.50, which is over budget.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. District Community Grant Request - Abrams River School House Society - District 1 - \$500

It is MOVED by Warden Danny Muise and SECONDED By Councillor Gordon Boudreau to approve a \$500 District Community Grant for the Abrams River School House Society.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

c. Western Counties Regional Library Funding Request

Western County Regional Libraries is looking for additional funding for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

It is MOVED by Councillor Guy Surette and SECONDED by Councillor Kathy Bourque to approve the one time funding request of \$3,200 to the Western Counties Regional Library for the budget year ending March 31, 2025, and write a letter supporting the Library Board's intentions to negotiate a new funding formula.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11. Agenda Topics for the next meeting/Notice of Motion by Councillors

12. Question Period – None.

13. In-Camera

The Council went to the In-Camera session at 8:07 p.m. to discuss a legal matter and contract negotiations as per MGA Section 22:2.

There were no motions required to be made after the in-camera session.

14. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.



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Date Approved

Chair

Clerk/Recorder

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