

Call to Order The meeting was called to order with Warden Thurber in the chair at 6:04 p.m.

Attendance

Councillors present:

- Jim Thurber, Warden
- Jimmy MacAlpine, Deputy Warden
- Randall Amero, Councillor
- Linda Gregory, Councillor

Regrets

- Angela Lombard, Councillor

Staff present:

- Linda Fraser, Chief Administrative Officer
- Gordon Wilson, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

Prayer

Warden Thurber asked everyone to pause to seek guidance for the meeting.

Warden Thurber also recognized the passing of Parker Thurber a former Councillor for the Municipality and Daniel B. Kenney a life long resident and employer in the Municipality. Both men contributed to their communities and will be sadly missed.

Agenda

MOVED by Councillor Amero, seconded by Councillor Amero that the agenda be approved with the following additions:

Other New Business:

Deputy Warden MacAlpine – added New Business # 8, Education Opportunities for certification of Building Inspectors and Waste Water Operators.

Warden Thurber added an In Camera Item (Contractual issue).

MOTION CARRIED

Presentations

Team Weymouth –
Merrell Moorhead,
Project Coordinator

MOVED by Deputy Warden MacAlpine, seconded by Councillor Gregory that Merrell Moorhead from Team Weymouth come before Council to make a presentation.

MOTION CARRIED

Merrell Moorhead gave a presentation on the activities of Team Weymouth and the development of the Weymouth Waterfront as a priority as outlined in the Weymouth Community Economic Development Strategy. Mr. Moorhead pointed out the benefits of a collaborative development of the Weymouth Waterfront and the proposed new Weymouth Library. Team Weymouth would like to see the new library built on the property where the Sissiboo Landing is situated as the land is available for purchase; and it is highly visible in the downtown area.

In response to a question raised regarding flooding of the area, Mr. Moorhead indicated that the Sissiboo Landing Building was built 3 to 4 feet above the ground elevation.

There are engineered plans available which will be shared with the Municipality and which can be given to our consulting engineers for their comments.

Minutes

November 19, 2007

MOVED by Councillor Gregory, seconded by Deputy Warden MacAlpine that the minutes of December 10, 2007 be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

Old Business

Second Reading of
Amendment # 7 to Tax
Exemption By-law.

MOVED by Councillor Gregory, seconded by Deputy Warden MacAlpine to approve the second reading for the Tax Exemption Bylaw Amendment # 7.

MOTION CARRIED

Bay of Fundy
Discovery Centre –
Request that the
Municipality consider
purchasing property
they own in Freeport
for green space.

Discussion ensued on the request from the Bay of Fundy
Discovery association.

MOVED by Deputy Warden MacAlpine, seconded by Councillor Amero that a letter be written to the Bay of Fundy Discovery Association indicating that Council is in the process of developing an Open Space Plan. The Municipality is not interested in purchasing any land at present. However, if the land is still available, and the purchase of additional land for open space is a priority in the Open Space Plan, Council may reconsider their decision.

MOTION CARRIED

Warden Thurber

No Old Business

Deputy Warden
MacAlpine
Councillor Gregory

No Old Business

Councillor Gregory indicated that some residents of Digby Neck held a garbage pick up on the Marsh Road and were wondering when the bags could be picked up. The CAO reported that she has been in touch with Greg Thomas who is aware of the bags being there but is waiting for road conditions to improve.

Councillor Amero

No Old Business.

Councillor Lombard

No Old Business.

New Business

1 Category One
Application – Energy
Inventory & Audit

MOVED by Councillor Gregory, seconded by Deputy Warden MacAlpine to approve the resolution to proceed with an energy use and greenhouse gas and air pollutant emissions inventory and audit report.

MOTION CARRIED

New Business (con't)

2 ADEDA – CED
Application for
funding to engage
consultant to identify
economic
opportunities in Digby
and Annapolis
Counties.

Discussion ensued on the request from the ADEDA for funding in the amount of \$ 5,000 from each of the Digby and Annapolis County Councils.

It was noted that nothing has been requested from the other Municipal units. It was also noted that there was nothing available in this year's budget.

MOVED by Deputy Warden MacAlpine, seconded by Councillor Amero that the Municipality commit \$5,000 from the 2008-2009 budget to support the application by ADEDA.

MOTION CARRIED

3 Digby and Area
Community Health
Board – Appeal to NS
government to act on
recommendation in
document entitled
“ Framing a Poverty
Reduction Strategy for
Nova Scotia”

Discussion ensued on the request from the Digby and Areas Community Health Board and their request that the Municipality appeal to the provincial government that they act on the recommendations from the “Framing a Poverty Reduction Strategy for NS”. Some of the Council felt that they do not feel comfortable asking the province to support all the recommendations as they did not have an opportunity to read the entire document. In general terms, Council agreed that the provincial government should do all it can to help reduce poverty.

MOVED by Deputy Warden MacAlpine, seconded by Councillor Gregory to table issue until February COTW meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

4 Bear River Board
of Trade

Request that King's
Transit service be
extended to include
Bear River

Discussion ensued in regards to service being extended to Bear River. Council has always felt that they would like to see a shuttle going into communities such as Bear River, Digby Neck, etc. which would meet up with Kings Transit Bus schedule. However, the operational costs of having such a service would be very high and would such a service be viable in terms of the numbers, who would actually use the service. Council agreed that we need to discuss this issue with Kings Transit.

MOVED by Deputy Warden MacAlpine, seconded by Councillor Gregory to ask for a meeting with Kings Transit to discuss shuttle service to connect with the Kings Transit bus route.

MOTION CARRIED

MOVED BY Deputy Warden MacAlpine, seconded by Councillor Gregory that a letter be written to the Bear River Board of Trade advising them of Council's discussion.

MOTION CARRIED

New Business (con't)

5 Councillor
Gregory

Letter of Support –
Community Signage

MOVED by Councillor Gregory, seconded by Deputy Warden MacAlpine to write a letter to the Minister of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal requesting that the province include in their community signage wording recognizing the Counties of Digby, Annapolis, Shelburne, Queens and Yarmouth as being part of the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve.

Copies to be sent to the Minister of the Department of Natural Resources and Tourism.

MOTION CARRIED

It was suggested that in the near future at a Council meeting to have a presentation on the Southwest Nova Biosphere so that Council and the general public can get a better understanding of what being a Biosphere means for the community.

#6 Councillor Gregory

Discussion on the Top
12 items to be targeted
for stewardship as
wells as Terms of
Reference

Councillor Gregory noted that at the Regional Chairs everyone was asked to go back to their respective Councils to get their thoughts on top items to be targeted for stewardship. Discussion took place on the fact that the province needs to deal with some of the current stewardship agreements such as E-Waste before looking at other items. This issue will be brought up at the next Waste Check meeting.

#7 Deputy Warden
MacAlpine

Discussed under item #4.

Feeder Bus Service

#8 Training
Opportunities

Deputy Warden MacAlpine noted that at the Rural Caucus meeting it was brought up that only Municipal employee's can have access to training opportunities for building inspector or waste water operator certification. Staff was directed to follow up on this issue and to bring back a report at the next COTW meeting.

Warden Thurber

No New Business.

**Deputy Warden
MacAlpine**

No New Business.

Councillor Gregory

No New Business.

Councillor Amero

No New Business.

Councillor Lombard

No New Business.

Administration

Request for
decision/direction

N/A

Payables

MOVED by Councillor Gregory, seconded by Councillor Amero that the payables in the amount of \$505,006.35 be approved as presented.

PASSED

CAO Report

Deputy Warden MacAlpine noted he was pleased to see that the Province has finally agreed to support the Senior Safety Program.

In response to a question the CAO reported that a meeting to discuss the Westport Library has not yet been scheduled.

The CAO was directed to contact Paul Stone to determine if the Traffic Supervisor, Joe Crowell has looked at the speed limit issue in Weaver Settlement.

The CAO was also asked to find out about the passing zone in Barton.

Council would like to organize a tour and grand opening of the Transfer Station when it is completed.

Financial Report

MOVED by Councillor Gregory, seconded by Councillor Amero to accept December 31, 2007 financial statements as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

Council Committees

1 Committee of the Whole

No motions

2 By-law & Policy review

Councillor Amero declared a conflict of interest and left the meeting.

Weymouth School to include the following condition in the purchase agreement for that portion of the Weymouth School being used by the NS Mink Breeders Association:

MOVED by Councillor Gregory, seconded by Deputy Warden MacAlpine that in the event that the NS Mink Breeders Association decide to sell the building and land currently used as an AD Lab, that the sale and proposed use of the building and land would have to be approved by the Municipality of the District of Digby. This requirement would pertain to all future owners of the property and for as long at the remaining property was used as a school.

MOTION CARRIED

Councillor Amero returned to the meeting.

Advisory Committees

1 EMO
Management Planning
Committee

A meeting is schedule for sometime in February.
Nov 28-07 Minutes attached

- # 2 Heritage Advisory Committee Councillor Amero noted he thought there were more recent minutes of the Heritage Advisory Committee and that he would check.
May 28, 07 Minutes attached
- # 3 Planning Advisory Committee Next meeting scheduled for February 5th 2008.
Jan 8, 07 Minutes attached
- Regional / Joint Committees**
- #1 Annapolis Digby Economic Development Agency Minutes from November 22, 2007 were presented
- #2 Digby Annapolis Development Corp Warden Thurber noted it was time to set up a meeting of DADC. The CAO noted that a suggestion has been made that the Digby Council should have a joint meeting with the Annapolis County Council to discuss common issues.
- #3 Digby Area Tourism Association No update available
- #4 Digby Area Recreation Committee Councillor Gregory noted that community groups, not just sport groups should nominate volunteers for the Volunteer Recognition to be held on April 30, 2008.
Deadline for submissions is February 29th.
Nov 21, 2007 Minutes attached.
- #5 Fundyweb Broadband Deputy Warden MacAlpine noted that East Link is working on getting high-speed internet service to all of rural Nova Scotia by 2009.
Aug 29, 2007 Minutes attached
- #6 Industrial Commission A discussion was held on ADEDA role in marketing the industrial park.
- #7 Tideview Terrace Planning is still on-going for the new facility. In response to a question Warden Thurber indicated that the old Tideview facility would either be sold or demolished. The hope is that it can be sold with the help from the province. This would not be done until 2010 or 2011 when the new facility is completed. Any debt associated with the old facility is to be rolled into the new debt.
- #8 Wastecheck Councillor Gregory noted that the Conway Workshops at 63 Shreve Street, is the E-Waste drop off site, Residents can drop of computers, monitors, TV's at no cost.
- #9 Western Counties Regional Library No update.

Council Reports

Warden Thurber Warden Thurber noted that meetings with the Minister of Fisheries and the Minister of Tourism are being set up to discuss the Digby to Saint John Ferry issue. Meetings with Federal politicians and ACOA need to be set up so that a resolution to this issue can be made now.

Deputy Warden MacAlpine Deputy Warden MacAlpine provided an update on Rural Caucus meetings and the UNSM Board meeting he attended.

Councillor Gregory Councillor Gregory circulated a report on the Council Committees she sits on. (See attached).

Councillor Amero No Report

Councillor Lombard No Report

Recess **MOVED by Deputy Warden MacAlpine, seconded by Councillor Amero that the meeting adjourn for a 2 minutes recess.**

MOTION CARRIED

MOVED by Deputy Warden MacAlpine, seconded by Councillor Amero that the meeting reconvene.

MOTION CARRIED

In Camera **MOVED by Councillor Gregory, seconded by Councillor Amero that the Council go In Camera to discuss contractual issue.**

MOTION CARRIED

Regular session resumed.

Adjournment **MOVED by Councillor Amero seconded by Deputy Warden MacAlpine that the meeting adjourn at 9:15 PM.**

MOTION CARRIED

WARDEN

CLERK