

Call to Order The meeting was called to order with Warden Thurber in the chair at 6:01 p.m.

Attendance

Councillors present:

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

Staff present:

- Linda Fraser, Chief Administrative Officer
- Gordon Wilson, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
- Cora Lee Bremner, Executive Secretary

Prayer

Warden Thurber welcomed everyone to the meeting, read the Municipality's mission statement and then asked everyone to pause to seek guidance for the meeting.

Agenda

Wharf Rat Rally Request was added as New Business #7.

MOVED by Councillor Gregory, seconded by Councillor Amero that the agenda be approved as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

Presentations

Debi Karrel, VP Client Service, Property Valuation Services Corp.

MOVED by Councillor Gregory, seconded by Deputy Warden MacAlpine that Ms. Debi Karrel from Property Valuation Service Corp. come before Council to make a presentation.

MOTION CARRIED

Ms. Karrel gave a presentation outlining the changes that have been taking place with Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC). The organization is owned by fifty-five municipal units and is represented by a Board of Directors appointed by UNSM. The mission of PVSC is to provide market valuation and other property related services to municipalities, clients, and the Province of Nova Scotia. Ms. Carol went on to explain what PVSC is responsible for, and how their processes work. A question and answer session followed the presentation. Warden Thurber thanked Ms. Karrel for her presentation.

Weymouth Waterfront Development Committee – Bob Langeland

MOVED by Councillor Amero, seconded by Councillor Gregory that Bob Langeland from Weymouth Waterfront Development Committee come before Council to make a presentation.

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Langeland came before Council to outline Phase 2 of "Lights in the Forest", a play about New France, The Electric City. The production is scheduled for August 26 & 27, 2009, and there will also be other scenes and vignettes being done as a

part of annual summer activities on the Waterfront in Weymouth during the summer of 2010. Mr. Langeland believes that this is a major cultural, heritage and tourism attraction for this County. The Weymouth Waterfront Development is asking the Municipality for a sum of \$1,500 towards this project. He noted that they are considering holding the play at other times and locations, providing they can get the volunteers together to make it happen. Warden Thurber thanked Mr. Langeland for the presentation and advised that the request will go forward to the budget process.

Minutes

February 23, 2009

MOVED by Councillor Amero, seconded by Deputy Warden MacAlpine that the minutes of February 23, 2009 be approved as distributed.

MOTION CARRIED

Old Business

Warden Thurber

Earth Hour

Warden Thurber noted that on March 28, 2009 from 8:30 – 9:30 pm is lights out across Canada. All municipal lighting will be turned out with the exception of essential lighting. Warden Thurber asked that everyone to do the same.

Deputy Warden
MacAlpine

No Old Business.

Councillor Gregory

Irving Oil – Acreage

Councillor Gregory expressed her concern regarding the acreage that is owned by Irving Oil that is being sold. She suggested that a letter be sent to the government outlining Council's concerns. The CAO noted that there is someone coming to make a presentation to the COTW meeting which may provide Council with additional information.

MOVED by Councillor Gregory, seconded by Deputy Warden MacAlpine that a letter be written to the appropriate government representative expressing Council's concern regarding the large amount of land in Digby County that is up for sale and request that they look at intervening on this property.

Also to be included in the letter is a question as to why the government has not put an offer in on the property, and also ask if they would consider intervening to allow the public and ATV Club access.

MOTION CARRIED

Councillor Amero

No Old Business.

Councillor Adams

No Old Business.

New Business

#1 Airport MPS/LUB
– First Reading

MOVED by Deputy Warden MacAlpine, seconded by Councillor Amero to have first reading of the Airport Municipal Planning Strategy/Land Use Bylaw.

MOTION CARRIED

#2 Digby Clare
Mental Health
Volunteers – Request
for Funding

The CAO advised that there are no funds left in the Grants For Organization budget for the 2008/2009 year.

MOVED by Councillor Gregory, seconded by Deputy Warden MacAlpine that the funding request from Digby Clare Mental Health be approved and will be included in the 2009/2010 budget.

MOTION CARRIED

#3 Chantelle Barnaby
– International Work
Experience Project –
Request for Donation

It was agreed that the donation request from Chantelle Barnaby for the International Work Experience Project does not fit the criteria.

#4 Municipality of the
District of Barrington
– Request for support
to have 2009 declared
as the Year of the
Lobster

There was a short discussion of whether Council wished to support the request from the Municipality of the District of Barrington to have 2009 declared the Year of the Lobster. It was agreed that Council do not do proclamations, therefore, would not be supporting this request.

MOVED by Deputy Warden MacAlpine, seconded by Councillor Gregory that a letter be sent to the Municipality of the District of Barrington advising that it is the policy of the Municipality of Digby not to do proclamations, but advise them that Council do supporting the fishing industry in Southwest Nova, and would like to see the growth of the industry in this area.

MOTION CARRIED

#5 Southwest Eco-
Energy – Letter of
Support

MOVED by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Gregory that a letter of support be sent to Southwest Eco-Energy.

There was a discussion regarding the need to obtain further information before making a decision as to whether Council would like to support this initiative. It was suggested that a presentation be made to Council and that the Regional Development Agency be contacted for advice.

Councillor Adams and Councillor Gregory both agreed to withdraw the motion.

The CAO will invite Southwest Eco-Energy to make a presentation to COTW.

#6 Councillor
Gregory

Purchasing Policy

Councillor Gregory advised that she would like a purchasing policy to be developed and brought forward to the Policy and Bylaw Committee. The CAO advised that she has a Purchasing and Tendering Policy in draft format that can be taken to the committee.

MOVED by Councillor Gregory, seconded by Deputy Warden MacAlpine that the Purchasing and Tendering Policy be taken to the Policy and Bylaw Committee for consideration.

MOTION CARRIED

Update on UNSM and
FCM on use of tap
water

Councillor Gregory wanted to advise Council that the UNSM is encouraging Municipal Units to cut back on their bottled water usage.

#7 – Wharf Rat Rally
Request

MOVED by Councillor Gregory, seconded by Deputy Warden MacAlpine that the request from the Wharf Rat Rally be tabled to the COTW meeting in April.

MOTION CARRIED

Administration

Request for
decision/direction

Resolution –
Weymouth Library

MOVED by Councillor Amero, seconded by Deputy Warden MacAlpine that the Municipality of the District of Digby agrees with the terms and conditions of the Canada-Nova Scotia Building Canada Fund program, that the Municipality will conduct an open tendering process, manage the construction of the new Weymouth Library, fund the municipal share of the construction costs, fund ongoing operation and maintenance, and follow any mitigation measures as required by the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*.

MOTION CARRIED

CAO Report

The CAO report for the month of March 2009 was included in the meeting package.

It was mentioned that Minister Casey returned to work on March 20, 2009 so it is hoped that a meeting can be set up with her soon regarding doctor recruitment.

Payables

MOVED by Councillor Gregory, seconded by Councillor Amero that the payables in the amount of \$261,021.45 for the month of February 2009 be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

Financial Report The Financial Report for the period ending February 28, 2009 was attached to the meeting package.

Council Committees

Committee of the Whole NIL

Bylaw & Policy Review

Appointment to Digby Harbour Port Association Board of Directors **MOVED by Deputy Warden MacAlpine, seconded by Councillor Amero that Councillor Gregory be appointed as a voting member to the Digby Harbour Port Association Board of Directors.**

MOTION CARRIED

Approval of Inter-municipal Agreement for REMO **MOVED by Councillor Gregory, seconded by Councillor Amero that Council accept the inter-municipal agreement for Regional Emergency Measures Organization (REMO).**

MOTION CARRIED

First Reading of REMO By-law **MOVED by Deputy Warden MacAlpine, seconded by Councillor Gregory to have the first reading for the Regional Emergency Measures Organization (REMO) by-law.**

MOTION CARRIED

Low Income Tax Exemption for 2009-2010 **MOVED by Councillor Gregory, seconded by Councillor Amero that pursuant to The Low Income Tax Exemption Policy # 2010, the Municipality hereby grants an exemption from taxation, operating as a reduction in the 2009-2010 taxes otherwise payable to the Municipality in respect to a property in the amount of \$ 125.00 for owners of property whose 2008 income for from all sources does not exceed \$18,500.**

It was noted that the income that Veterans receive from their War Veterans Allowance does not get included towards the household income.

MOTION CARRIED

Conventions Policy 1007 Amendment Councillor Gregory read the amended Conventions Policy #1007. It was noted that the policy does not mention that all Council may attend the annual UNSM Conference.

MOVED by Councillor Gregory, seconded by Deputy Warden MacAlpine that the Conventions Policy # 1007 be accepted with the amendment that that all Council may attend the annual UNSM Conference.

Councillor Amero noted that he does not agree with the new conventions policy as some of the FCM conferences will be over represented and others will be under represented.

**MOTION CARRIED
1 – OPPOSED**

Staff Remuneration
Policy 1004
Amendment

Councillor Gregory read the amended Staff Remuneration Policy # 1004.

MOVED by Councillor Gregory, seconded by Councillor Amero that the amended Staff Remuneration Policy # 1004 be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

Advisory Committees

#1 EMO
Management Planning
Committee

The minutes for February 2009 were included in the meeting package.

#2 Heritage Advisory
Committee

Councillor Amero noted that there would be a meeting scheduled for the near future and he will provide an update at the next Council meeting. He also advised that they were planning to take a tour of the heritage properties in the county.

#3 Planning Advisory
Committee

The minutes for December 9, 2009 were included in the meeting package. Deputy Warden MacAlpine noted that there was a meeting on March 10 and their next meeting is scheduled for April 8. They are currently reviewing the comments from three public meetings and are about half way through. There has been a lot of good input from the community, and there will be changes in the draft.

#4 Police Advisory
Committee

The minutes for September 29, 2008 were included in the meeting package. There was a meeting on March 3. There are going to be meetings being held in the communities and it was mentioned that it would be good if the Councillor for each area could attend the meeting in their district. Deputy Warden MacAlpine noted that he attended a meeting and he asked people if they were happy with the level of service provided by the RCMP. They thought the service was minimal. Residents would like to see a presence in their communities. Councillor Gregory will take this information to the next meeting.

#5 Tri County
Housing Authority

There is no report. The reports are quarterly.

**Regional / Joint
Committees**

#1 Airport working
group

There has been no meeting since the last report. The committee has not met since the open house. There will soon be a meeting to discuss the condition of the runway.

#2 Annapolis Digby
Economic
Development Agency

The minutes from January and February 2009 were included in the meeting package along with the managing director's report. Warden Thurber advised that the Annapolis Digby Economic Development Agency is involved with a project called Test Drive the Community. It is taking place in Calgary. The event

is designed to attract new residents to Digby/Annapolis area. Warden Thurber plans to be in attendance.

#3 Digby Annapolis Development Corp There has been no meeting since the last report. There will be a meeting scheduled in a couple months.

#4 Digby Area Tourism Association The minutes from the December 2008 and February 2009 meetings were included in the meeting package. The website for Fundy Adventures was sent for Council to review. There are going to be four different tours taking place including, walks on trails, stories, and supper at the end.

There have been two meetings concerning future funding. They are hoping that the association will become self-sufficient; however, Council may get another request for funding until they make that transition.

#5 Digby Area Recreation Committee The minutes from January 2009, as well as the Recreation Manager Report were included in the meeting package. The last meeting was held on March 18. The committee has started looking at the budget. Two Provincial volunteers have been chosen, one from the Municipality and one from the Town. An update was given regarding the programs that are taking place through Digby Area Recreation Committee. There is going to be a MOPS fundraiser on April 4, 2009 at the Curling Club from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The volunteer awards dinner is scheduled for April 22, 2009.

#6 Fundyweb Broadband There has been no meeting since the last report. Deputy Warden MacAlpine advised that there will be an upcoming meeting in the near future. The committee is currently looking for a new chair.

#7 Industrial Commission The minutes from October 2008 were included in the meeting package. There is a meeting scheduled for April 21, 2009. At the next meeting, the Industrial Commission will be working on strategic planning.

#8 Kings Transit Authority The minutes from February 2009 as well as the General Manager's Report were included in the meeting package. Councillor Amero noted that the Kings Transit board has turned over some board members. In the last couple of meetings he has noticed that new members feel that they are not in favor of smaller areas draining the core. They also feel that these areas should have no say. Councillor Amero would like to see the Federal funds come directly to our municipality for our riders. Also, it looks like Kings Transit doesn't want to expand their service any farther.

MOVED by Councillor Amero, seconded by Councillor Gregory that Council pursue having the Federal transit funds come directly to the municipality who contracts service from King Transit.

A copy of this letter is to be sent to Windsor, Hants and Annapolis.

MOTION CARRIED

Councillor Amero also gave an update regarding King's Transit's budget and their reporting procedures.

- #9 Senior Safety Committee** The minutes from January 2009, as well as the Coordinator Report were included in the meeting package. The Senior Safety Committee had a social on March 14, which Councillor Adams was unable to attend; this event was not well attended. Councillor Gregory advised that there is going to be a Senior's breakfast at the Superstore on March 25, 2009. On April 6, 2009 there will be a meeting at the Royal Canadian Legion to discuss housing grants and applications. Also, in May there will be two half day driving workshops.
- #10 Tideview Terrace** The minutes from January 2009 were included in the meeting package. Warden Thurber advised that he was unable to attend the last meeting. Councillor Gregory reported that the meeting went well and that the new building was discussed.
- #11 Waste Check** The minutes from February 2009 as well as the General Manager's Report from March 2009 were included in the meeting package. There was a meeting on March 9, 2009. A letter is being sent to UNSM regarding the RFB. Our region is #1 in province with their recycling. A letter was written to the Province asking them to be better stewards in their departments. There was a meeting with the Town and Waste Check representatives concerning the household hazardous waste depot. Funding is in place from RFB for up to 75% of the project. The 7th Annual Recycles Contest awards dinner is scheduled for April 6, 2009.
- #12 Western Counties Regional Library** There has been no meeting since the last report.

Council Reports

- Warden Thurber** Warden Thurber gave an oral presentation to Council outlining the various meetings he has attended during the past month.
- Deputy Warden MacAlpine** Deputy Warden MacAlpine gave an oral presentation to Council outlining the various meetings he has attended during the past month.
- Councillor Gregory** Councillor Gregory gave an oral presentation to Council outlining the various meetings she has attended during the past month. Councillor Gregory wanted to point out that the DC Riders Association is looking for members. A meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2009 at 7:00 pm.
- Councillor Amero** Councillor Amero gave an oral presentation to Council outlining the various meetings he has attended during the past month.
- Councillor Adams** Councillor Adams gave an oral presentation to Council outlining the various meetings she has attended during the past month.

Municipality of the District of Digby
Municipal Council Minutes
March 23, 2009
Seabrook, Nova Scotia

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Comments from the gallery

The meeting was opened up for a question and answer session. It was requested that the topics being discussed by the gallery be included in the minutes. Ms. Peach asked Council what the effects the selling of Irving lands had on tax revenues. Ms. Peach also asked for further information regarding the site that has been chosen for the Weymouth Library. The Courier representative asked Council for further information on the Wharf Rat Rally request and also asked for additional information regarding the amended Conventions Policy.

Adjournment

MOVED by Councillor Amero, seconded by Deputy Warden MacAlpine that the meeting adjourn at 8:41 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

WARDEN

CLERK