

Municipality of the District of Digby
Municipal Committee of the Whole Minutes
December 14, 2009
Seabrook, Nova Scotia

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Call to Order The meeting was called to order with Warden Thurber in the chair at 6:02 pm.

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

Regrets:

- Cora Lee Bremner, Executive Secretary

Prayer

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

Agenda

- Deputy Warden MacAlpine added Canada Post Rural Mail Delivery as New Business #5.
- Councillor Gregory added Bradley Young as New Business #6.

MOVED and seconded that the agenda be approved as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

**Hearings &
Presentations**

Ashley Sprague –
Marine Conservation
Area, Digby Neck &
Islands

- The Marine Conservation Area, Digby Neck and Islands is a not for profit group working toward marine conservation in the Digby Neck and Islands area as a grassroots organization.
- National Marine Conservation Areas are created by Parks Canada to protect, promote, and assist research and tourism. 29 NMCA's across Canada are planned with 3 in place now. The Digby Neck and Islands are preferred sites with significant biological potential.

- Some consultation has occurred with local fisherman and local concerns focused on sustainability.
- NMCA's benefit for the area would be protecting the ecosystem, resources and economy.
- Parks Canada is evaluating candidate sites during the winter 2010. Through studies and consultation a site will be selected. Extensive consultation is an important part of the process in developing a site.

Minutes

November 16, 2009 **MOVED and seconded that the minutes of November 16, 2009 be approved as circulated.**

MOTION CARRIED

Business Arising/Old Business NIL

1.0 Nurse Practitioner • Warden Thurber updated Council on the status to date regarding the Island's Nurse Practitioner. Work is continuing to attempt to secure a position on the Islands.

Other Business Arising

Warden Thurber • No Business Arising

Deputy Warden MacAlpine • No Business Arising

Councillor Gregory • No Business Arising

Councillor Amero • No Business Arising

Councillor Adams • No Business Arising

New Business

#1 Deputy Warden MacAlpine – Bear • Benefits for the lighthouse were reviewed. Pictures and proximity to rail corridor were seen. Members of the Bear

River Lighthouse

River Lighthouse Preservation Society answered questions from Council as to their plans for maintaining the Lighthouse.

MOVED and seconded that Council enters into an agreement with DFO and enter into negotiations with the Bear River Lighthouse Society to lease.

MOTION CARRIED

#2 Municipality of the District of Barrington – Enjoy Nova Scotia Lobster

- Council discussed the options of participating in this initiative. Both license plates and or 4 x 8 signs are available for purchase to promote Nova Scotia Lobster.

MOVED and seconded that Council purchase license plate and Enjoy Nova Scotia Lobster signs.

MOTION CARRIED

#3 Councillor Gregory - LED Streetlights

- The opportunity to change over to LED streetlights was discussed. Cost savings and initial capital costs need researching. Funding assistance and examples of other areas switching over need to be looked into. Council is interested in investigating the possibility of converting to LED.

#4 Warden Thurber – Medical Student

- The new doctor in training is interested in the Digby area. She will not be available until 2015. The Town of Digby is aware of this offer and is potentially interested in pursuing her.
- It was also discussed that a Russian doctor would like to relocate to Digby from Halifax. Information has been passed on to the District Health Authority but not sure if contact or interest as a candidate has occurred.
- Council is interested in pursuing both candidates as potential new doctors for the area.

MOVED and seconded that Council pursue an arrangement with Ms. Magda Lenartowicz to negotiate a contract for doctor services.

MOTION CARRIED

- There was also a general discussion noting that the Municipality should keep looking for local medical students also.

#5 Canada Post Rural
Mail Delivery

- Deputy Warden MacAlpine gave a verbal presentation on the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities, Rural Caucus recent meeting with Canada Post regarding rural mail delivery issues. Concerns regarding rural mail boxes being moved are causing problems in rural Nova Scotia.

MOVED and seconded that Tina Bonner, from Canada Post come to make a presentation to Council.

MOTION CARRIED

#6 Bradley Young

- Bradley Young, son of Susan and Carl Young of Smith's Cove is carrying the Olympic torch in Ottawa.

MOVED and seconded that a letter of congratulations from the Municipality be sent to Bradley Young.

MOTION CARRIED

#7 State of the
Coastline

- Deputy Warden MacAlpine attended the launch of the State of the Coastline in Halifax. Copies of the information provided at the launch were available for Council.

#8 Atlantic Mayors
Conference

- Deputy Warden MacAlpine presented a copy of Mike Gushue's report on the Bay of Fundy Ferry that was given at the Atlantic Mayors conference. There was a general discussion on the recent transportation study carried out by the Federal Government.

Festival of Lights –
Municipal Christmas
Tree

- Council wanted to recognize the hard work that Pat Stevens and Robert Hersey did on the Christmas tree recently entered in the Weymouth Festival of Lights Competition.

**Chief Administrative
Report**

- The CAO report dated December 14, 2009 was included in the COTW Package.

Weymouth Library

- The Weymouth Library has concrete slab, in floor heat and

walls constructed. The hope is to have the building weather tight by the Christmas holiday.

Tideview Terrace

- Tideview Terrace is progressing, but seems to be moving slower than the assisted home construction in Yarmouth. It was noted that construction is on schedule with initial plans.

Weymouth Board of Trade – Paving Issues

- The Weymouth Board of Trade has received a letter on the paving issues in the Highway #1 section through the village of Weymouth.

Request for Decisions/Direction

NIL

Department Reports

Taxation

- The Taxation report for November 2009 was included in the meeting package.

Building Inspection Report/Fire Inspection Report

- The Building Inspection report for November 2009 was included in the meeting package.

Airport/Dispatch

- The Airport/Dispatch report for November 2009 was included in the meeting package.

Dog Control Activity and Financial Report

- The Dog Control Activity and Financial report for November 2009 was included in the meeting package.

Coordinator Program Development

- The Coordinator Program Development report for November 2009 was included in the meeting package.

Kings Transit

- The Kings Transit report for November 2009 was included in the meeting package.
- There were some concerns regarding the Kings Transit ridership. The downward trend is being seen across the whole of Kings Transit. Digby to Weymouth area was the last to see their ridership go down.
- A joint Council meeting with Clare to discuss public transit and other joint opportunities will be arranged by the CAO.

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- Other Business**
- Deputy Warden MacAlpine noted that there was a discussion at Waste Check regarding the awarding of a contract to a bidder that was not necessarily the low bid. The contact was in the Eastern Nova Scotia area for used tires. Clarification from RFB has been requested for this tender awarding.
- Updates from Previous meetings** N/A
- Special Projects Updates** N/A
- Strategic Priorities Update**
- The Strategic Priorities Update for November 30, 2009 was distributed prior to the meeting.
- Notice of Motion** N/A
- Comments from the Gallery** N/A
- Adjournment** **MOVED and seconded that the meeting adjourn at 7:48 PM.**

MOTION CARRIED

WARDEN

CLERK