

CALL TO ORDER/ATTENDANCE

1.1 Roll Call/Regrets

Warden Gregory called the Committee of the Whole session of the Municipality of the District of Digby to order at 5:06 pm. The meeting was held in Municipal Chambers.

The following Councillors were present: Warden Linda Gregory (via Zoom), Deputy Warden Matthew Ross, Councillor David Tudor (via Zoom), Councillor George Manzer and Councillor Angela Thurber.

Staff present: Jeff Sunderland, Chief Administrative Officer, Cora Lee Ross, Manager of Corporate Services, who took the minutes of the meeting and Tyler Pulley, Manager of Municipal Services.

1.2 Pause to Seek Guidance

Warden Gregory welcomed everyone and asked that we pause to seek guidance.

2. **ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

2.1 Approval of Agenda-Additions/Deletions

MOVED and seconded that the agenda for March 14, 2023 be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

2.2 Approval of Minutes of February 14, 2023

MOVED and seconded that the minutes of February 14, 2023 be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

2.3 Presentation/Delegation – Warden Gregory, Councillor Tudor and Terry Thibodeau presenting on the Sustainability Conference

MOVED and seconded that Mr. Thibodeau come before the committee to make a presentation regarding the recently attended Sustainability Conference.

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Thibodeau has recently attended the FCM Sustainability Conference along with Warden Gregory and Councillor Tudor. There is a large priority being put on getting households away from using oil. There was a session on disaster mitigation. There was a Clean Energy workshop, in which the PACE program was discussed. What is going well for that program and what isn't working was discussed. Some units are dropping the program and letting private business run a similar program. The conference was attended by both small and large communities. Councillor Tudor and Warden Gregory both took a moment to highlight/elaborate on sessions from the conference they enjoyed or felt could be relevant to the community.

Mr. Thibodeau, Warden Gregory and Councillor Tudor had the privilege of meeting with Soren Hermansen who was the keynote speaker for the event. Also present at this meeting was Efficiency NS, Clean Foundation, and Smart Grid Network of Canada. This meeting focused on the possibilities that could be brought back to the community.

Deputy Warden Ross asked whether NS Power has been involved and whether they are recognizing the problems with the grid currently which will be further overloaded if oil is removed and replaced with heat pumps. It was also noted that oil can also be a second source of heat and a second source of heat can potentially be required by insurance companies.

The CAO advised that Mr. Thibodeau would be coming back to Council at a later date to further explore this initiative. Mr. Thibodeau also noted that as a spin off from the conference he was able to meet with the Minister of Environment and senior officials of the Department. Mr. Thibodeau discussed with the Minister some of the barriers around 69 KV transmission line. Forming a working advisory group on climate change with representatives from the Province and Digby was also discussed. The Minister wants to come and visit with Council, after the house sits, and make a trip to Digby Neck to see what's being discussed and address Council's concerns.

2.4 Unfinished Business from Minutes of February 14, 2023 - none

2.5 CAO Report

a) Meeting Dates/Reminders

The Warden highlighted the meeting dates/reminders.

b) CAO Report

The Warden asked if there were any questions on the CAO report. - None

c) Department Reports

The following department reports were included with the CAO report.

- i) Manager of Corporate Services
- ii) Manager of Municipal Services
- iii) Trail Coordinator
- iv) Airport/Dispatch
- v) Building Inspection
- vi) Heritage Coordinator
- vii) Renewable Energy & Climate Change Coordinator

MOVED and seconded to accept the department reports.

MOTION CARRIED

3. DANGEROUS AND UNSIGHTLY PREMISES

4. BUSINESS ITEMS

4.1 Epilepsy Association of the Maritimes

MOVED and seconded that the Municipality of Digby participate in the promotion of Epilepsy awareness during the month of March to show support for the community members who live with epilepsy.

MOTION CARRIED

4.2 Gaelic Nova Scotia month

The planning committee for Mìos nan Gàidheal wants to encourage overall engagement with Gaelic culture in May 2023. A number of areas to focus were included in the letter. Councillor Thurber mentioned that there may be people in the community that may want to participate in some of the options.

4.3 NS Public Works staffing levels

At the last Transportation meeting, Council expressed their concern with the staffing levels for NS Public Works staff. Typically, when letters of concern are sent to the province, the response is advising that the Municipality contact Manager, Mr. Tony Harvey directly. The current staffing levels are the lowest that have been seen by the current Council. Deputy Warden Ross mentioned that there is a possibility that the MLA is going to invite the transportation minister to the area and suggested that potentially Council could meet with the Minister as well at that time. Councillor Manzer suggested that an in-person meeting would be more beneficial than a letter being sent.

MOVED and seconded that a letter be sent to MLA, Jill Balser's office requesting an opportunity to meet with the transportation minister for an hour if the Minister visits the area.

MOTION CARRIED

5. CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION ITEMS

There was discussion on the correspondence/information items circulated.

Councillor Thurber mentioned that the issue of gravel and roadwork shortages should be brought up to NSFM.

6. IN CAMERA ITEMS

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and seconded that the meeting adjourn at 5:45 pm.

MOTION CARRIED

Warden Linda Gregory

Jeff Sunderland, CAO