

## 1. CALL TO ORDER/ATTENDENCE

### 1.1 Roll Call/Regrets

Warden MacAlpine called the January 22, 2018 Council session of the Municipality of the District of Digby to Order at 6:00 pm. The meeting was held in the Municipal Council Chambers.

The following Councillors were present: Warden Jimmy MacAlpine, Deputy Warden Linda Gregory, Councillor David Tudor, Councillor Matthew Ross, Councillor George Manzer

Absent with regrets:

Staff present: Linda Fraser, Chief Administrative Officer, Jeff Sunderland, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Pat Stevens, Executive Assistant, who took the minutes of the meeting.

### 1.2 Pause to Seek Guidance

Warden MacAlpine welcomed everyone and asked that we pause to seek guidance for the meeting.

### 1.3 Reading of Mission Statement

Warden MacAlpine thanked everyone for coming and read the Municipality's mission statement.

## 2. ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROCEDURAL ISSUES

### 2.1 Approval of Agenda-Additions/Deletions

**MOVED and Seconded that the agenda for January 22, 2018 be approved as amended with the addition of 5.6 SW African Heritage Month Dinner & Dance Gala and 5.7 Update on Rural Internet under Business Items.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

### 2.2 Delegations/Presentations

**MOVED and Seconded that Harold Alexander come before Council to make a presentation.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### a) Harold Alexander – Small Private Forestry in Finland

Harold Alexander gave an in-depth overview of his tour in Finland in the fall of 2016. The group included five advocates for Nova Scotia woodlot owners. They went to Finland to observe the organization and management of small private woodlots. Finland was chosen for the tour because of forest sector similarities to NS, and because Finland is considered a world leader in the successful management of small private forests.

The newly formed Western Woodlot Services Cooperative is providing forestry services for woodlot owners for the 7 western counties in Nova Scotia. The vision of this group is to create a forest and wood products industry, rooted in the economic, social and cultural benefits in Nova Scotia. This group is trying to re-develop local markets for low grade wood through by the development of district heating systems focusing on heat distribution only and not generation of electricity. There are 800 district heating plants in Finland providing heat to homes, schools, and hospitals. Municipal governments can help by considering providing funds to the Western Woodlot Services Cooperative to hire more technical staff to help ramp up operations. Council had a few questions for Mr. Alexander and Warden MacAlpine thanked him for his presentation.

### 2.3 Approval of Minutes of November 27, 2018

**MOVED and Seconded that the minutes from Council of November 27, 2017 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

### 2.4 Unfinished Business from Minutes of November 27, 2018

#### a) North Range Tower -Equipment Update

CAO Fraser indicated she spoke to Jeff Provost, who is a manager for Bell Mobility, who advised that Bell does not have any equipment on the North Range Tower.

**MOVED and Seconded that staff arrange for Council to meet with representatives from Bell.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

## 2.5 CAO Report

### a) Meeting Reminders

The Warden highlighted the meeting dates/reminders.

### b) Action Items from Previous Meetings

The Warden reviewed the action items and asked if there were any questions from Council.

### c) Update on Capital Projects 2017-2018

A question was raised as to why was the filter was taken out from the Lift Station in Smiths Cove. Deputy CAO responded that it was thought that the odor was caused by the summer heat so the odor scrubber was removed for the winter. Unfortunately, the odor came back immediately so more investigation is needed as to the cause of the bad odor in that area.

### d) Financial Report

#### i) Payables

**MOVED and Seconded that the list of payables for November 2017 in the amount of \$375,719.56 and December 2017 in the amount of \$284,702.21 be approved.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### ii) Income and Expense Report

The Income & Expense reports for November and December 2017 were circulated.

**MOVED and Seconded that the Income & Expense reports for November and December 2017 be approved.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

## 3. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES ITEMS/UPDATE

3.1 The update on Corporate NOW Priorities was included in the package.

Most items listed on the Corporate NOW Priority list has been accomplished. The priority list will be reviewed looked at during the By-law & Policy meeting on February 5th.

## 4. STANDING COMMITTEE ITEMS

### 4.1 By-Law & Policy Committee Recommendations

#### a) Canadian Volunteer Fire Association Municipal Long Service Award

**MOVED and Seconded that the purchase of 50 Canadian Volunteer Fire Service Association Municipal Long Service Awards, at the cost of \$2,925 plus \$100 for an annual Corporate Membership, be forwarded to the budget process.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### b) Appointment of Amanda Marshall as Assistant Fire Inspector

**MOVED and Seconded the approval of the appointment of Amanda Marshall as Assistant Fire Inspector.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

c) Dangerous & Unsightly Premises Procedures Amendment

**MOVED and Seconded the approval of the proposed amendments to the Dangerous & Unsightly Premises Procedures.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

## 5. BUSINESS ITEMS

5.1 Weymouth Waterfront Development-Letter of Support

**MOVED and Seconded to send a letter in support of the Weymouth Waterfront Development in their endeavor to secure funding from the Province for the Music on the Sissiboo Summer Concert Series.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

5.2 Fundy YMCA-Robbie Burns Dinner

Warden MacAlpine declared a conflict and left the Council Chambers. Deputy Warden Gregory took over the chair. Discussion ensued regarding the request from the YMCA for the Municipality to purchase a table at a cost of \$ 600 for the Annual Robbie Burns Dinner. It was decided that any Councillor that wishes to attend will purchase their own ticket.

Warden MacAlpine returned to the chair.

5.3 Town of Shelburne-Rural NS Health Care Crisis

Discussion ensued on the request from the Town of Shelburne to have Municipal units attend a meeting to discuss the rural Nova Scotia Health Care Crisis. The Warden indicated that he felt it was very important to remain positive when working with the Nova Scotia Health Authority. He referenced the many positive things that have happened in Digby and area by working in partnership with the Health Authority. Warden MacAlpine expressed his concern that the Nova Scotia Health Coalition would present a very negative outlook.

**MOVED and Seconded that Council attends a meeting to discuss the rural Nova Scotia Health Care Crisis during the week of February 12th to 16th.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**1 OPPOSED**

5.4 Annapolis County Funding Request for Cost Study

Warden MacAlpine met with Annapolis County Warden Timothy Habinski regarding their request for the District of Digby to help fund a cost study for the Bear River Comfort Centre to deliver water from Hillsborough Water Society to the Annapolis County side of Bear River.

**MOVED and Seconded to approve \$5,500 from the 2018-19 budget as that was requested by Annapolis County to cost share to do a in a cost study for the Bear River Comfort Centre. on piping water into the core part of Bear River.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

5.5 Request for Tax Reduction Due to Property Damage

**MOVED and Seconded to approve the amount of \$143.62 be applied as a credit to AAN 01342541 and the 2018 Assessed Value be applied as \$17,000 due to the PVSC proposed revised 2018 Assessed Value of the property due to fire damage as per Council Policy # 2005 Tax Reduction for Property Damage.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

5.6 Southwest African Heritage Month Gala Dinner & Dance

The Southwest African Heritage Month Gala Dinner & Dance will be held on February 17th, 6:30 pm, at the Digby Legion. Council has been asked to fund a table at a cost of \$160.00.

**MOVED and Seconded that a table for eight, at the cost of \$160, be purchased for the SW African Heritage dinner on February 17th.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**5.7 Update on Rural Internet**

Evan Nemeth advised that there has been no announcement yet on Nova Scotia's funding under the Federal Connect to Innovate Program. An announcement was expected in November 2017. He was told that Western NS is high priority for this program. Slightly over half of the funds have been allocated.

**MOVED and Seconded to send a letter to MP Colin Fraser, MLA Gordon Wilson, WREN and interested parties to get an update on Rural Internet.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**6. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**6.1 Correspondence**

There was a discussion on the correspondence that was received this month.

The letter from the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure regarding Phase 2 of the Highway 101 Digby to Weymouth Project was forwarded to MP Colin Fraser. Warden MacAlpine and Deputy Warden Gregory met spoke with MP Fraser last week to discuss this issue.

**6.2 General Information Items**

There was a discussion on the general information that was received this month.

Warden MacAlpine noted he was pleased with the work the Western Ren has been doing.

**6.3 Advisory Committees Minutes/Reports**

a) Joint RCMP Advisory Board

September 2017 minutes were circulated.

b) Planning Advisory Committee

October 2017 minutes were circulated.

**6.4 Other Council Committees**

a) Open Spaces Committee

A recommendation from the Open Spaces Committee for Haines Lake Property was circulated.

**MOVED and Seconded that the Municipality apply for a Recreation Facility Development Grant with the Province of Nova Scotia for \$75,000, to develop the Haines Lake property, with the Municipality contributing \$25,000.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**6.5 Joint Intermunicipal Committees Minutes/Reports**

a) Digby Area Recreation Commission

November and December 2017 minutes, December 2017 and January 2018 reports and January 2017 AGM minutes were circulated.

Warden MacAlpine would like DARC to look at hosting adult hockey tournaments. These types of events bring an economic benefit to the area. Ice is being removed on April March 18th at both the rink and curling club. The volunteer dinner is on Tuesday, April 17th.

b) Digby Development Agency

October 2017 minutes were circulated.

c) Tideview Terrance

October 2017 minutes were circulated.

d) Waste Check

The October, November and December 2017 Waste Check Connections was circulated.

Deputy Warden Gregory gave an in-depth overview of a slide show on the proposed options relating to the status of banning of plastic grocery bags from usage in Nova Scotia. Three options were offered to Council:

#1 Banning single use plastic bags (based on a provincial wide ban)

#2 Incentive Program

#3 Voluntary Participation

**MOVED and Seconded that Deputy Warden Linda Gregory advises Waste Check that Council supports Option #1 Banning single use plastic bags as a province wide ban.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

e) Western Counties Regional Library

September 2017 minutes were circulated.

Warden MacAlpine advised that he has been sitting on a committee that is reviewing core services for all public libraries in the province.

6.6 Outside Boards/Committees Minutes/Reportsa) Digby Area Learning Association-

October 2017 minutes, November 2017 reports and November 2016 AGM minutes were circulated.

b) Digby Harbour Port Association

September 2017 minutes and November 2017 Manager's report were circulated.

c) Transport de Clare

September 2017 minutes were circulated. Councillor Manzer indicated that Transport de Clare have moved their office to a new location. Council expressed sadness and regret at the passing of the founder of Transport de Clare, Claredon Robicheau.

6.7 Councillor District Activity Report

Councillor Tudor gave an update to Council on various district functions he attended such as searching for housing for people, arranged donations of food for the Foodbank and attending a meeting with the Brier Island Trails Society.

Councillor Manzer gave an update to Council on various district functions he attended such as meeting with the Army Cadets at the Weymouth legion to help look into finding them a new location.

Councillor Ross gave an update to Council on various district functions he attended such as the breakfast with Santa and the breakfast at the church in Barton. There will be an open space public meeting at the Digby East Fish and Game on February 8th at 6:30 pm.

Deputy Warden Gregory gave an update to Council on the various district functions she attended such as the breakfast with Santa, the Municipal New Year's Levee, assisting with finding real estate for people in the area to buy, public housing, public aquaculture meeting, financial management for elected officers meeting and the Digby Neck woman's walk in Sandy Cove. She also manned the Salvation army kettle and advised that a letter will be coming to Council to ask for a 3-hour commitment to man the kettle in December.

Warden MacAlpine gave an update to Council on various functions he attended such as the meeting in Weymouth with the Army cadets, a meeting with MLA Gordon Wilson

and Mayor Ben Cleveland regarding health care, a meeting at PVSC regarding the new rate roll, the opening at the NS Police Bonspiel and met last week with JACABA.

**7. IN CAMERA ITEMS - None**

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED and Seconded that the meeting adjourn at 8:00 PM.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

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**Warden Jimmy MacAlpine**

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**Linda Fraser, CAO/Clerk**