

## 1. CALL TO ORDER/ATTENDENCE

### 1.1 Roll Call/Regrets

Deputy Warden Linda Gregory called the February 24, 2020 Council session of the Municipality of the District of Digby to order at 5:59 pm. The meeting was held in the Municipal Council Chambers.

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

Regrets: Warden Jimmy MacAlpine

Staff present: Jeff Sunderland, Chief Administrative Officer, Cora Lee Ross, Manager of Corporate Services and Pat Stevens, Executive Assistant, who took the minutes of the meeting

### 1.2 Pause to Seek Guidance

Deputy Warden Gregory welcomed everyone and asked that they pause to seek guidance for the meeting.

### 1.3 Reading of Mission Statement

Deputy Warden Gregory 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 February 24, 2020 be approved as presented.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

### 2.2 Delegations/Presentations

#### a) Julian Boyle, Berwick PACE program

**MOVED and seconded that Julian Boyle come before Council to present.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Julian Boyle introduced himself and Jeremy Lutz to Council and Staff. He gave an overview of the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Financing program that Equilibrium Engineering is administering in Berwick. He is offering joint administrative services to the Municipality of Digby. The cost to the Municipality would be a one-time fee of \$2,500 for web hosting/design and initial marketing. EQ will assume any program overhead risk and charge a 5% administration fee to participants.

Deputy Warden Gregory thanked Mr. Boyle and Mr. Lutz for their presentation and advised the audience that anyone that had questions for them are to meet in the hallway.

#### b) Peter Ripple, NO Smart Meters

**MOVED and seconded that Peter Ripple come before Council to present.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Peter Ripple launched the website NO smart meters in Nova Scotia. He stated that analog meters are the best meters and last over 50 years emitting no radiation. He adamantly stressed the health hazards of smart meters.

Doug Miller spoke as well regarding the effects of electromagnetic radiation.

Deputy Warden Gregory thanked Mr. Ripple and Mr. Miller for their presentation and advised the audience that anyone that had questions for them are to meet in the hallway.

### 2.3 Approval of Minutes of January 27, 2020

**MOVED and seconded that the minutes from Council of January 27, 2020 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### 2.4 Unfinished Business from Minutes of January 27, 2020

- a) Financial support for Bella Johnston and Kenzie Vantassell  
Miss. Johnston does not reside in the Municipality so would not qualify.  
Miss. Vantassell does reside in the Municipality but the Me to We program does not fall under the criteria for the youth grant.  
The Youth Grant Policy will be reviewed at the March 16<sup>th</sup> By-Law & Policy meeting.

**MOVED and seconded to send a letter to Miss. Vantassell advising that under the current Youth Grant Policy the Me to We program does not qualify but the policy is being looked at in the near future for possible changes.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### 2.5 CAO Report

- a) Meeting Reminders  
Deputy Warden Gregory went over the meeting dates/reminders.  
She advised that she will be unavailable to attend the COTW meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup>.
- b) Action Items from Previous Meetings
- c) Update on Capital Projects 2019-2020  
CAO Sunderland advised that a company is looking into starting up the COMFIT.
- d) Financial Report  
i) Payables  
**MOVED and seconded that the list of payables for January 2020 in the amount of \$801,778.44 be approved.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

ii) Income and Expense Report

**MOVED and seconded that the Income and Expense Report for January 2020 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

### 3. **STRATEGIC PRIORITIES ITEMS/UPDATE**

- 3.1 The update on the Strategic Priorities Work Plan was circulated in the package.  
Councillor Ross advised that fiber is being installed in North and South Range and Hillgrove. This is the first stage and should be up and running by March 31<sup>st</sup>.

### 4. **STANDING COMMITTEE ITEMS**

#### 4.1 By-Law & Policy

- 1) Cost of \$1,245 to construct the Maud Lewis float  
**MOVED and seconded the approval of the cost of \$1,245 for staff time and material costs to construct the Maud Lewis float.**  
**MOTION CARRIED**
- 2) Entering into land negotiations with Scotia Harvest Inc  
**MOVED and seconded the approval of entering into land negotiations with Scotia Harvest Inc regarding leasing land in behind the municipal soccer field.**  
**MOTION CARRIED**
- 3) The increase of \$1,000 in the criteria for qualifying for the 2020-2021 Low-Income Tax Exemption  
**MOVED and seconded the approval of the increase of an additional \$1,000 to the criteria for qualifying for the 2020-2021 Low-Income Tax Exemption.**  
**MOTION CARRIED**
- 4) Senior Safety funding request increase

**MOVED and seconded the approval of the Senior Safety funding request increase of \$1,500.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

5) Entering into an agreement with Bell Canada

**MOVED and seconded the approval to enter into an agreement with Bell Canada for \$100,000 to provide Fibre to the Home Footprint Expansion.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**5. BUSINESS ITEMS**

5.1 Bear River Millyard Recreation – Highway 101 signage

**MOVED and seconded to move the Bear River Millyard Recreation issue with the Highway 101 signage to the next Transportation meeting.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

5.2 Germain Langford, Langford Heritage Community Council

**MOVED and seconded the approval to add the Langford Heritage Community Council AAN #04881907 - 824 Weymouth Falls Rd to the Tax Exemption By-law.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

5.3 Village of Westport – old Westport School

Council reviewed the letter from the village and agreed the Municipality is not interested in the school.

**MOVED and seconded to allow the Village of Westport to divest themselves of the old school building at 63 Second Street, Westport.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

5.4 Returning Officer

**MOVED and seconded the approval of Nicole Hurlburt as the Returning Officer for the 2020 Municipal Election.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

5.5 Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens funding request

**MOVED and seconded to forward the Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens funding request to the Budget Process.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

5.6 Brier Island Trails – letter of support

**MOVED and seconded to provide a letter in support of the application from the Brier Island Trails Committee (BITC) to the Recreational Trail Expansion Program for help funding Phase Two of the development of the Big Meadow Bog Trail.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

5.7 Weymouth Fire Department loan

**MOVED and seconded to approve a loan of \$45,000 to the Weymouth Fire Department, as per policy FIN 2500-004 non-municipal borrowing, to purchase a Cascade Air System.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**6. INFORMATION ITEMS**

6.1 Correspondence

There was discussion on the correspondence received this month.

6.2 General Information Items

There was no general information received this month.

6.3 Advisory Committees Minutes/Reports

#### 6.4 Other Council Committees

#### 6.5 Joint Intermunicipal Committees Minutes/Reports

- 1) Digby Development Agency  
January 2020 minutes were circulated.
- 2) Digby Municipal Fire Association  
September 2019 minutes were circulated. There will be a letter coming in request for foam and another dry hydrant.
- 3) Kings Transit  
October 2019 minutes, November and December 2019 General Manager, ridership and revenue reports and the RFP's for the new buses were circulated. Ridership is continually going up.
- 4) Tideview Terrace  
November 2019 minutes were circulated.
- 5) Waste Check  
December 2019 minutes and December 2019/January 2020 Waste Check Connections were circulated. The budget process has begun.

#### 6.6 Outside Boards/Committees Minutes/Reports

#### 6.7 Councillor District Activity Report

Councillor Tudor gave an update to Council on various district functions he attended such as a tour of the fire department, working with groups with project with ACOA, business ideas, teeth project partners, met with village of Westport, writing letters for political support for the commitments that were made by Gordon Wilson for new School, ferry Approach project, entered 20 volunteer award applications, and has a meeting with the Villages of Freeport and Tiverton.

Councillor Manzer gave an update to Council on various district functions he attended such as the African NS Heritage Gala.

Councillor Ross gave an update to Council on various district functions he attended such as answering questions about economic growth and fiber internet and the breakfast at the Barton Church.

Deputy Warden Gregory gave an update to Council on the various district functions she attended such as dealing with road issues, the marketing levy at the Digby fire hall, the Barton Church breakfast, flag day at Digby Regional High, Heritage Day at Admiral Digby Museum, served at senior day and the African NS Heritage Gala.

Warden MacAlpine was unavailable to give an update to Council on the various district functions he attended.

### 7. IN CAMERA ITEMS

### 8. ADJOURNMENT

**MOVED and seconded that the meeting adjourn at 8:09 PM.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

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Deputy Warden Gregory

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Jeff Sunderland, CAO