

1. CALL TO ORDER/ATTENDENCE**1.1 Roll Call/Regrets**

Warden Gregory called the March 22, 2022 Council session of the Municipality of the District of Digby to order at 5pm. The meeting was held in Municipal Chambers.

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

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

1.2 Pause to Seek Guidance

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

1.3 Reading of Mission Statement

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 March 22, 2022 be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

2.2 Delegations/Presentations**1) Digby Business Association**

MOVED and seconded that Mike Bartlett and Al Dupuis come before Council to present.

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Bartlett and Mr. Dupuis gave an in-depth overview explaining how the Digby Business Association funds were spent over the years and are excited for the upcoming year creating fun family events and playing music in the Town of Digby for both Town and Municipal residents.

Warden Linda Gregory advised that the Digby Business Association request for continued support will be discussed at the upcoming budget process.

2) Transport De Clare

MOVED and seconded that Paul Lombard, Manager of Transport De Clare, come before Council to present.

MOTION CARRIED

Warden Linda Gregory advised that the Transport De Clare request for continued support will be discussed at the upcoming budget process.

2.3 Approval of Minutes of February 22, 2022

MOVED and seconded that the minutes from February 22, 2022 be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

2.4 Unfinished Business from Minutes of February 22, 2022**a) Tideview Terrace Lift Station**

The Manager of Municipal Services explained the three options available to address the lift station power outage issue at Tideview Terrace.

MOVED and seconded to respond to the letter from Tideview Terrace informing them of our discussion and the decision of Council to leave it as is at this time.

MOTION CARRIED

- b) Lobster Trap Program
MOVED and seconded to approve the cash contribution of \$3500 if FGAC are able to secure the other 9 municipalities and the lead.

MOTION CARRIED

2.5 CAO Report

- a) Meeting Reminders
Warden Gregory went over the meeting dates/reminders.
- b) Action Items from Previous Meetings
All action items have been addressed to date.
- c) Update on Capital Projects 2021-2022
The Warden reviewed the updates on the Capital Projects 2021-2022.
- d) Financial Report
 - i) Income & Expense Reports
The February Income & Expense report was circulated.

3. **STANDING COMMITTEE ITEMS**

By-Law & Policy Recommendations

- 1) Dog Control By-Law
MOVED and seconded to approve the First Reading of the Dog Control By-Law.
MOTION CARRIED
- 2) Low Income Tax Exemption
MOVED and seconded to approve the increase of an additional \$1000 to the criteria for qualifying for the 2022-2023 Low-Income Tax Exemption as well as the increase of an additional \$25 per category for exemption.
MOTION CARRIED
- 3) IT Contract
MOVED and seconded to approve the IT Contract.
MOTION CARRIED
- 4) Sewer System Fees
MOVED and seconded to approve the Universal Sewer Rate of \$225 and Universal Frontage Fee of \$75.
MOTION CARRIED
- 5) Manager of Municipal Services Salary
MOVED and seconded to accept the new salary scale for the Manager of Municipal Services as presented.
MOTION CARRIED
- 6) Staff Salaries
MOVED and seconded to approve the staff salaries for 2022/23.
MOTION CARRIED
- 7) Tideview Doors
MOVED and seconded to contribute the costs for five True Doors, at \$190 per door, to Tideview Terrace.
MOTION CARRIED

COTW Recommendations

- 1) Budget Surplus

MOVED and seconded to approve the transferal of \$583,616 to the capital reserve for future planning.

MOTION CARRIED

2) Dangerous & Unsightly Administrator

MOVED and seconded that Cathy Barr be appointed as the administrator for Dangerous & Unsightly under the Municipal Government Act as of April 1, 2022.

MOTION CARRIED

3) Enforcement Officer

MOVED and seconded that Cathy Barr be appointed as the enforcement officer for the Noise By-Law as of April 1, 2022.

MOTION CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Sewer By-Law

MOVED to approve the Final Reading of the amended definitions in Sewer By-Law No. 2007-01 and No. 2007-02.

MOTION CARRIED

2. Public Transportation for Digby Neck & Islands

MOVED and seconded to respond to Melissa Merritt's letter regarding her concerns with the transportation on Digby Neck & Islands. The letter will inform her of the current study with Kings Transit that the municipality is going to participate in.

MOTION CARRIED

3. Universal School Food Program

MOVED and seconded That the Municipality of Digby endorse the efforts of the Coalition for Healthy School Food to advocate for a universal, cost-shared healthy school food program.

MOTION CARRIED

MOVED and seconded that the Municipality of Digby call on the Federal government to begin to implement a universal, cost-shared, healthy school food program for all K-12 students in the country and to sign onto the global School Meals Coalition Declaration, as per the Coalition's 2022 Pre-Budget Consultation Submission

MOTION CARRIED

4. Cap on Property Assessments

Staff were directed to look into getting more information on the Cap.

MOVED and seconded to send a response letter to the Digby and Area Community Health Board to advise them about the position of the provincial government on the Cap and to note some of the negative effects on residents due to the Cap

MOTION CARRIED

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

5.1 Correspondence

There was discussion on the correspondence received this month.

5.2 Advisory Committees Minutes/Reports

1) Heritage Advisory

A proposed motion and January 2022 minutes were circulated.

MOVED and seconded to file with the Land Registry in Lawrencetown the Notice of Heritage Registration for the Bear River Lighthouse PID 30247670.

MOTION CARRIED

- 2) PAC
February 2022 minutes were circulated.

5.3 Other Council Committees

5.4 Joint Intermunicipal Committees Minutes/Reports

- 1) DARC
January minutes, February and March 2022 Recreation Director, Facility Manager and Active Living Manager reports were circulated.
- 2) Kings Transit
The January General Manager, February 2022 minutes, Ridership and Financial reports were circulated.
- 3) Waste Check
March meeting notes were circulated.

5.5 Outside Boards/Committees Minutes/Reports

- 1) South West Biosphere
Signage was circulated.

5.6 Councillor District Activity Report

Councillor Tudor gave an update to Council on various district activities such as the meal program at school, the dental program ended, helping the Nurse Practitioner on Islands get to know the area, assisting with care giver benefit, funding for food bank, MLA coming to the Islands in the near future, job searching with residents and media content with salmon concerns.

Councillor Manzer gave an update to Council on various district activities such as meeting with minister of municipal affairs and MLA Jill Balser, a meeting with RBC in Weymouth about closing the branch, dog related calls, road concerns and helping seniors.

Councillor Thurber gave an update to Council on various district activities such as attending webinars concerning health care workers on behalf of the Warden, tuning into FCM course, attending new France AGM and regular phone calls from citizens.

Deputy Warden Ross gave an update to Council on various district activities such as meeting with MLA, John Lohr, phone calls, raising of Ukrainian flag, community groups and meetings, reminded council that if they know anyone struggling with inflation of costs to reach out as councilors can help with resources.

Warden Gregory gave an update to Council on various district activities such as virtual meeting with ministers and CAO, attended DARC senior day, and flag raising for Ukrainians. Warden advised about upcoming Electric City meal fundraiser.

6. IN CAMERA ITEMS

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 6:27pm.

MOTION CARRIED

Warden Gregory

Jeff Sunderland, CAO