



**Council Minutes
Council Chambers
May 28, 2024**

1. **IN ATTENDANCE:** Warden Linda Gregory (joined via zoom), Deputy Warden Matthew Ross, Councillor Angela Thurber, Councillor David Tudor, and Councillor George Manzer.

STAFF PRESENT: Jeff Sunderland, CAO, 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.

ALSO PRESENT: One member of the public and Von Madden and Pier-Luc Brousseau to provide a presentation to Council.

CALL TO ORDER: Deputy Warden Ross called the May 28, 2024 Council meeting of the Municipality of the District of Digby to order at 5:01pm.

PAUSE TO SEEK GUIDANCE: Deputy Warden Ross welcomed everyone and asked to pause to seek guidance.

2. **ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROCEDURAL ISSUES**

2.1 Approval of Agenda-Additions/Deletions

MOTION #C2024-05-28-01

It was regularly moved and seconded that the agenda for May 28, 2024 be approved as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

Warden Linda Gregory joined VIA zoom at 5:03pm

2.2 Delegations/Presentations:

MOTION #C2024-05-28-02

It was regularly moved and seconded that Von Madden and Pier-Luc Brousseau, Congres Mondial Acadien 2024 come before Council to present.

MOTION CARRIED

Von Madden joined Pier-Luc Brousseau in the presentation. Von gave a quick overview of the events during the Congres Mondial Acadien 2024 that take place Aug 10-18th in the South West areas. Pier-Luc Brousseau brought forward the request for sponsorship and support from the Municipality of Digby.

2.3 Approval of Minutes of April 23, 2024

MOTION #C2024-05-28-03

It was regularly moved and seconded that the minutes from April 23, 2024 be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

2.4 CAO Report

a) Meeting Reminders

Deputy Warden Ross 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 2023-2024

Council reviewed the update on the capital projects.

d) Financial Report

i) Income & Expense Reports

The April Income & Expense report was circulated.

MOTION #2024-05-28-04

It was regularly moved and seconded that the April Income & Expense report be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

3. STANDING COMMITTEE ITEMS

By-Law & Policy Recommendations

1) 9th Annual Richard Ellis Memorial Golf Tournament-Tee Box Sponsorship

MOTION #C2024-05-28-05

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council approve the request to sponsor a tee box for the Richard Ellis Golf Tournament in the amount of \$150.00.

MOTION CARRIED

2) Defibrillators on Long & Brier Islands

MOTION #C2024-05-28-06

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council agree to write a response to the Island's Women's Institute, and will also send a letter to the Minister of the Department of Public Works in support of defibrillators at the Long and Brier Island ferry locations and will copy to MLA Jill Balsler.

MOTION CARRIED

Committee of the Whole Recommendations

3) Clare Blue Grass Festival Sponsorship

MOTION #C2024-05-28-07

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council approve the sponsorship request from the Clare Blue Grass Festival in the amount of \$100 for a business card ad in the program booklet.

MOTION CARRIED

4) Splash Pad Reserve

MOTION #C2024-05-28-08

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council agree to keep \$30,000 in internal reserve to be used for future operations and/or capital costs for the splash pad.

MOTION CARRIED

Heritage Advisory Recommendations

5) St Matthews Anglica Church- Weymouth Falls

MOTION #C2024-05-28-09

It was regularly moved and seconded that there was no public opposition to the recommendation made by Council to register St. Mathew's Anglican Church in Weymouth Falls as a Municipal Heritage Property, Council moves to file the final Notice of Heritage Registration with the Land Registry.

MOTION CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ITEMS

4.1 Operating Budget

Cora Lee Ross, Manager of Corporate Services, reviewed the statement of estimates and provided Council with an in-depth overview of the draft 2024-2025 Operating Budget.

MOTION #C2024-05-28-10

It was regularly moved and seconded to approve the 2024-2025 Operating Budget in the amount of \$12,383,337.

MOTION CARRIED

4.2 Tax Rate Resolution

MOTION #C2024-05-28-11

It was regularly moved and seconded to approve the Tax Rate Resolution for 2024-2025. (See attached)

MOTION CARRIED

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

5.1 Correspondence:

- a) Letter from Minister Lohr-Financial Measures Act
Reviewed and noted.

- b) Invitation to Dugua de Mons- Port Royal 1605-1613 Art Exhibit
Reviewed and noted.

5.2 Advisory Committees Minutes/Reports:

- a) PAC Minutes – April 10, 2024
 - b) PAC Minutes – May 1, 2024
- The Advisory Committee minutes and reports were reviewed.

5.3 Other Council Committees: None

5.4 Joint Intermunicipal Committees Minutes/Reports

- a) Waste Check Authority Package – Feb 13, 2024
- b) Waste Check Authority Package May 14, 2024
- c) Waste Check AGM Meeting Package May 14, 2024
- d) DARC April 2024 Meeting Pkg
- e) DARC Facility Report May 2024
- f) DDA Industrial Commission Meeting Package May 1, 2024

The Joint Intermunicipal Committees minutes and reports were circulated and reviewed.

5.5 Outside Boards/Committees Minutes/Reports: None

5.6 Councillor District Activity Report

Councillor Tudor gave an update to Council on various district activities such as attending a TIR meeting on the Islands regarding tourist season and the sidewalks, accessibility efforts, NS garden club association, Tiverton issue with noise, constituent complaint about lack of services received being paid by taxes, helping a widow with forms, found a constituent a scooter, found food for food bank, dental health assistance, kid camps, marine network, gallery 217, found beds, garbage complaints, senior safety work, animal welfare call and grant proposal work.

Councillor Manzer gave an update to Council on various district activities such as he was invited to attend the school advisory council at the Weymouth school, Southville Fire Department fireman awards ceremony, he attended committee meetings and dealt with phone calls regarding roads.

Councillor Thurber gave an update to Council on various district activities such as attending the cherry carnival meetings, two audit committee meetings, NSF in Cape Breton, and road complaints.

Deputy Warden Ross gave an update to Council on various district activities such as being out in the community, Brighton Barton Fire Dept AGM, the ribbon cutting with the Brookside wilderness trail at Vantassel lake trail, delivered food to Baptist church, CBDC invitation, dessert auction youth group fundraiser, road conditions, housing issues, internet issues, low-income tax exemptions and high expense complaints from residents.

Warden Gregory gave an update to Council on various district activities such as attending paint night as a hospital staff, volunteered at Tim Hortons for cookie campaign for the Barton Brighton Fire Dept, Spring work shop, Mother's Day fundraiser for museum, west nova chamber, police service, cheque presentation for Brighton Barton Fire Dept from Tim Hortons Cookie fundraiser, resident tax concern, residents struggling with high expenses and housing issues.

6. **IN CAMERA ITEMS:** None

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION #C2024-05-28-12

It was regularly moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 6:13pm.

MOTION CARRIED

Deputy Warden Ross

Jeff Sunderland, CAO

BE IT RESOLVED THAT pursuant to the authority contained in section 72 of the Municipal Government Act, the Council of the Municipality of the District of Digby hereby adopts the Statement of Estimates in the amount of \$ **12,383,337** as presented for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2025.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that a commercial rate pursuant to section 72 (6) (a) of the Municipal Government Act be established at \$1.85 per \$100 of assessment, a residential and resource rate pursuant to section 72 (6) (b) of the Municipal Government Act be established at \$1.30 per 100 of assessment.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the following area rates pursuant to section 75 (2) be established for the provision of fire protection, street lighting and sidewalk maintenance.

Sidewalk Maintenance	Codes	
Conway Sidewalk	ARCM	4.5 cents per \$100 of assessment
Mount Pleasant	ARMM	4.5 cents per \$100 of assessment
Street lighting		
Weymouth Falls Light Rate	ARL0	4.07 cents per \$100 of assessment
Bear River Light Rate	ARL1	4.07 cents per \$100 of assessment
Digby Neck Light Rate	ARL3	4.07 cents per \$100 of assessment
Barton Light Rate	ARL5	4.07 cents per \$100 of assessment
Culloden Light Rate	ARL7	4.07 cents per \$100 of assessment
Smith's Cove Light Rate	ARL8	4.07 cents per \$100 of assessment
Weymouth North	ARL9	4.07 cents per \$100 of assessment
Fire Protection		
Digby Neck Fire District	ARF2	5.0 cents per \$100 of assessment
Smiths' Cove Fire District	ARF3	6.0 cents per \$100 of assessment
Freeport Fire District	ARF4	5.0 cents per \$100 of assessment
Tiverton Fire District	ARF5	5.0 cents per \$100 of assessment
Westport Fire District	ARF6	5.0 cents per \$100 of assessment
Barton/Brighton Fire District	ARF7	10.0 cents per \$100 of assessment
Plympton Fire District	ARF8	5.0 cents per \$100 of assessment
Weymouth Fire District	ARF9	5.0 cents per \$100 of assessment
Bear River Fire District	ARFB	5.0 cents per \$100 of assessment
Digby Fire District	ARFD	5.0 cents per \$100 of assessment
Southville/Danvers Fire District	ARF0	15.0 cents per \$100 of assessment

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Municipality will bill and collect on behalf of the Commissioners for the Village of Weymouth, Village of Tiverton, Village of Freeport and the Village of Westport an amount as determined by each Commission at duly convened meetings.

Pursuant to the authority granted by the Municipal Government Act and Policy # FIN-2500-01 Municipal Tax Collection, the Municipal Council hereby sets the interest rate on overdue taxes at the rate of **15 percent per annum**, and an interest rate of 10 percent per annum be established for overpayment on taxes due to assessment appeals.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution adopting the tax rates for the Municipality of the District of Digby passed the 28th day of May, 2024.



Jeff Sunderland
Chief Administrative Officer
Municipal Clerk