

**DIGBY TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 5, 2008**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Frank Mackintosh
Deputy Mayor Sherri Lewis
Councillor Mike Bartlett
Councillor Ben Cleveland
Councillor Bob Handspiker
Councillor Jean Brittain
Councillor Danny Harvieux

STAFF PRESENT: Tom Ossinger, Town Clerk
Matthew Raymond, Deputy Clerk
Susan Rice, Recording Secretary

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Mackintosh called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

B. AGENDA

B.1 Additions/Deletions
None.

B.2 Approval of the agenda

Moved by: Councillor Handspiker
Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Lewis

That the agenda of August 5, 2008 be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.

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C. DELEGATION

C.1 Faye Haley and Dona Tidd – Tri-County Regional School Board

Faye Haley and Donna Tidd updated Council regarding Tri-County Regional School Board funding and also presented a report. Faye and Donna stated that they wanted to update Council regarding all the media attention going on with the budget cuts and the loss of teachers and administration staff. As of June 30, the government gave funding of \$500,000 to the Board. There are 12 teachers not coming back because of the student enrolment is down, 12 teachers that were going to lose their jobs has been reinstated as well as 10 office staff. Faye spoke about the different school boards in the province and how two boards have been overfunded.

Council brought up about the bussing of children and why don't they bus the elementary and high school children together to save on fuel and maintenance costs and start the schools at the same time. One issue is the different age groups and their attitudes towards other children. Council asked if we still get isolation funding for the Islands but Donna stated only when we were Digby District School Board we got it. Council also suggested that the in-services are always in Halifax so it is an additional expense for the school board they should look at having them in different locations so teachers don't have to travel all the time.

The Mayor stated that we just passed a budget of approximately \$4 million and out of that \$400,000 is education.

Donna stated that teacher's salary is paid by the province and the salaries are negotiated by the Nova Scotia Teachers Union. The school board has only 15% of their budget to work with the other 85% is salaries and benefits.

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Faye and Donna thanked Council for letting them update them on the school board and would like Council to write a letter. The Town Clerk and Faye Haley will meet to draft up a letter to send out next week.

Faye stated that the grant that was given from the government is a onetime solution and we have to look at doing something because next year we will be in the same situation.

C.2 Wharf Rat Rally – Peter Robertson and Julie MacLean

Julie MacLean and Peter Robertson updated the Committee on the events happening for the Wharf Rat Rally. The Wharf Rat Rally Committee is asking permission from the Town if S/Cst. Richard Parry could help with traffic control during the Wharf Rat Rally. Council agreed to let S/Cst. Parry help out. Peter asked about the Digby Centre parking lot being closed from August 28 at 8 p.m. Council had agreed to close it for August 29. Discussion ensued with changing the date.

Moved by: Bob Handspiker
Seconded by: Ben Cleveland

That Council close the two Digby Centre parking lots on Thursday, August 28, 2008 at 8 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED.

C.3 Ted VanTassell – Rezoning of 34 Third Avenue

Ted VanTassell asked Council why they refused his rezoning of 34 Third Avenue from R1 to R2. Ted stated that he met all qualifications to rezone and he did start out with a duplex but when he was working on it the basement was big and thought that they should make it into a 4 plex. Ted stated that he over met the qualifications and also agreed to build a fence between the properties to be cost shared with the neighbours.

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Council stated that they had a public hearing to rezone the property in question and the neighbours were not in favour of it.

Mr. VanTassell stated to Council that he had no problems with Deb Thomas she never said anything to him about the property.

Council mentioned that they are looking for certain types of growth in residential areas.

Mr. VanTassell asked what his options are and the Town Clerk stated that he quickly perused the MGA to see and also made a call into the consultants but they were on vacation. Town Clerk stated that he has never dealt with a refusal of zoning before.

Mr. VanTassell stated that he never received the minutes until a month and a half later because they were not approved until then and then it was too late to appeal the decision and he said that he would have appealed the decision.

Mr. VanTassell can contact the Utility and Review Board to appeal the decision of Council or wait until October for a new Council.

The Town Clerk made a recommendation to Council regarding the rezoning and then Council has to make the decision.

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D. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

D.1 July 7, 2008

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Lewis
Seconded by: Councillor Harvieux

That the minutes of July 7, 2008, be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.

D.2 Special Council July 21, 2008

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Lewis
Seconded by: Councillor Harvieux

That the minutes of the special council meeting of July 21, 2008, be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.

E. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes of July 7 and July 21, 2008.

E.1 Joint Council Meeting – July 30, 2008 – REMO

Moved by: Councillor Brittain
Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Lewis

That Council accept the concept of REMO in principal.

MOTION CARRIED.

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F. REPORTS

**F.1 FINANCE COMMITTEE/ADMINISTRATION
COMMITTEE**

a) Accounts Payable

Moved by: Councillor Cleveland
Seconded by: Councillor Handspiker

That the accounts payable in the amount of \$544,542.99 be approved for payment for the month of July.

MOTION CARRIED

F.2 FIRE, POLICE, AND LICENSE COMMITTEE

Report for July 2008 was reviewed and accepted as presented. Councillor Handspiker informed Council that the Committee sent out letters regarding how many sandwich boards each business could have and also ask them for feedback so that the Town could update the bylaw for next year.

**F.3 STREETS, SEWER, AND PUBLIC PROPERTY
COMMITTEE**

Report for July 2008 was reviewed and accepted as presented.

(a) Aquaculture Harvest Festival

Moved by: Councillor Cleveland
Seconded by: Councillor Handspiker

That Council approve the Aquaculture Harvest Festival to use the Digby Centre tentatively on September 27, 2008.

MOTION CARRIED

F.4 TOURISM COMMITTEE

No report was presented. Councillor Brittain informed Council that there was a reception for the Rube Band from Kamloops this afternoon at the Siesta and the band was very pleased with the hospitality of Digby.

F.5 TIDEVIEW TERRACE

Report for July 2008 was reviewed and accepted as presented.

F.6 DIGBY AND AREA RECREATION COMMISSION

Report for July 2008 was reviewed and accepted as presented.

F.7 LIBRARY BOARD

No meeting.

F.8 WASTE CHECK

Report for July 2008 was reviewed and accepted as presented. Deputy Mayor Lewis stated that the second phase for the smaller electronics will be started soon.

F.9 PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

No meeting.

F.10 EMERGENCY MEASURES ORGANIZATION

No meeting

F.11 WATER COMMISSION

No report was presented.

F.12 INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

No meeting.

a) Continuation of Funding of Industrial Park

Moved by: Councillor Cleveland

Seconded by: Councillor Harvieux

That Council approve the continuation of funding to foster economic development in the Industrial Park in the amount of \$15,000.

MOTION CARRIED.

F.13 DIGBY AREA LEARNING ASSOCIATION

No meeting.

F.14 SENIOR SAFETY BOARD

No meeting.

F.15 PESTICIDE COMMITTEE

No meeting.

**F.16 ANNAPOLIS/DIGBY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AGENCY**

Report for July 2008 was reviewed and accepted as presented. Council discussed the announcement from the federal government that was on August 1, 2008, regarding the Ferry and Wharf.

F.17 CLERK TREASURER'S REPORT

Report for July 2008 was reviewed and accepted as presented. Council discussed the Waste Water Treatment Facility. The Town Clerk received a letter from Service Nova Scotia informing the Town had been approved for 50% up to a maximum of \$162,000. The net cost to the Town is \$77,000. Discussion ensued in regards to the SCADA system.

Moved by: Councillor Handspiker
Seconded by: Councillor Brittain

That the Town approve to purchase the SCADA gear in the amount of \$77,000.

MOTION CARRIED

The Town Clerk informed Council about the waste of sludge and it has been very costly to date to remove. Discussion ensued.

F.18 POLICE ADVISORY BOARD REPORT

No meeting.

G. CORRESPONDENCE

G.1 Letter from Canadian Union of Postal Workers

Moved by: Councillor Cleveland
Seconded by: Councillor Harvieux

Whereas the Canada Post Corporation Strategic Review, which was launched by the federal government on April 21, 2008, is looking at deregulating our public post office (i.e. reducing or removing Canada's Post's exclusive privilege on letters)

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Whereas it will become increasingly difficult for our public post office to provide affordable service to everyone, no matter where they live, if the government erodes or eliminates the very mechanism that funds universal postal service – the exclusive privilege.

Whereas postal deregulation in other countries had led to post office closures, less service, fewer jobs and higher postal rates for the public and small businesses

Whereas the government is not holding public hearings as part of its strategic review or adequately consulting with the real owners of the post office – the public.

Be it Resolved that the Town of Digby send a letter or submission to the Canada Post Corporation Strategic Review opposing deregulation of Canada Post and insisting that the government hold public hearings and properly consult with the true owners of Canada Post – the public.

MOTION CARRIED.

G.2 Bethany Bargin Bin Society

A letter from Bethany Bargin Bin was presented to Council asking Council to give them a deduction in taxes. Discussion ensued.

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Lewis
Seconded by: Councillor Harvieux

That we table this issue to next month and look at the financial statements online. The Deputy Clerk will provide the financial statements or give Council the website for them to look at.

MOTION CARRIED.

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H. NEW BUSINESS

H.1 Preliminary List of Electors

The Assistant Returning Officer informed Council that the preliminary list of electors has been completed.

I. QUESTION PERIOD

None.

J. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting adjourned on motion of Councillor Cleveland and Deputy Mayor Lewis.
TIME: 8:35 p.m.

MAYOR

TOWN CLERK