

**TOWN OF DIGBY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TOWN HALL
December 1, 2014**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Ben Cleveland
Deputy Mayor Jean Brittain
Councillor Brian Manzer
Councillor Peter Turnbull
Councillor Bob Handspiker
Councillor Mike Bartlett
Councillor Danny Harvieux

STAFF PRESENT: Tom Ossinger, CAO
Matthew Raymond, Director of Finance
Leslie Young, Executive Assistant

REGRETS:

A. ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

B. PUBLIC HEARING

None.

C. AGENDA

C.1 Additions/Deletions

C.2 Agenda

Motion:

***Moved by Councillor Handspiker and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that the Agenda of December 1, 2014 be approved
Motion Carried.***

D. DELEGATION AND PRESENTATIONS

D.1 Digby Area Theatre Society

Hal Theriault spoke to Council on behalf of the Digby Area Theatre Society he just wanted to give some background history to Council on the 14 years they have been around. The group has never relied on financial contributions they are an economically stable organization. They currently occupy space at the VP Center and are looking for a home. If they were to occupy the former DALA School they have looked at making the bottom floor the Digby Area Theatre Society and perhaps are able to rent the top floor to community groups that are in

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need of a space. They are pleased to be back in the Digby area and performing at the Theatre in Digby after spending sometime at the ABCC conference center. Mr. Theriault wanted to let Council know that they are a multicultural board of people who wish to add to the beauty to the Town and create a place that Council would be proud of. Council thanked Mr. Theriault for his presentation to them and wanted to let them know that the proposals will be discussed at the Committee of the Whole meeting on December 15, 2014.

E. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

E.1 November 3, 2014

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Brittain and seconded by Councillor Bartlett that the minutes of November 3, 2014 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried.

F. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

G. REPORTS

G.1 CAO's REPORT

The CAO wanted to bring to Council tonight for consideration the need for a compliment review of the RCMP with the Department of Justice currently the Council of the Municipality of the District of Clare is making a request for a review and the CAO would like to see this Council also make the request.

Councillor Harvieux wanted to express his appreciation to the CAO for the tremendous support that he offers to Councillor Harvieux and Deputy Mayor Brittain at the Waste Check Meetings.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Handspiker and seconded by Councillor Bartlett that Council request a compliment review of the RCMP with the Department of Justice.

Motion Carried.

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G.2 DARC Report

The Report is attached. Deputy Mayor Brittain wanted to mention that the Municipality of Digby has a new citizen rep David McNutt has joined the committee.

G.3 Library Board Report

The Report is attached. Deputy Mayor Brittain wanted to mention to Council that a Strategic plan was approved and will now go to the next stage of discussion.

G.4 Waste Check Report

No written report. Deputy Mayor Brittain wanted to mention to Council that they attempted to do a video conferencing and there seemed to be a problem connecting to the Yarmouth group. Another attempt to video conference will be made in the future.

G.5 Committee of the Whole Report

a) Overtime/Standby/Call out Policy-attached

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Harvieux and seconded by Councillor Handspiker that the Overtime/Standby/Call out Policy be approved.

Motion Carried.

b) Application to the NSUARB Boundary Review Resolution

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Handspiker and Councillor Bartlett that the Application to the NSURB under section 369 of the MGA – Resolution - December 2014

Whereas the Council of the Town of Digby is elected at large and the Town Council conducted public consultation by mailing out one hundred and seventy seven (177) boundary review surveys to randomly selected residents, and made the surveys available at the Town Hall where ten (10) additional surveys were picked up, and advertised a Public Meeting to held on October 20, 2014 seeking public input from its citizens on the following: I believe Digby should have 1 Mayor and more than 6 Councillors. I believe the current number of 1 Mayor and

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6 Councillors should remain (status quo). I believe Digby should have 1 Mayor and fewer than 6 Councillors; And whereas the results of the survey indicated that 40% of the respondents favoured the status quo and 58 % favoured 1 mayor and fewer than 6 Councillors, and at the public meeting held on October 20, 2014 a copy of the boundary review survey was provided to the public so that if they wished to they could fill one out and place them in a box on their way out resulted in four members of the public were in attendance where no written or oral submissions were submitted; and 1 completed survey was received; And whereas Council reviewed the results and the comments of the completed surveys; And whereas the 2011 Census shows the population of the Town of Digby as 2,152 a 2.9% increase over the 2006 Census, and the geographic size of the town is unchanged.

And whereas a reduction in the numbers of councillors would not necessarily translate into a reduction of costs, due to demanding workloads, and time commitments of Councillors serving on regional and provincial boards or committees; and most council members have full or part-time jobs, thus reducing the number of Councillors would increase the workload and time commitment of the remaining Councillors.

And whereas a reduction in the number of councillors would reduce the possibility of having solid representation of all sectors of our population thus reducing the opportunity for potential candidates in future elections based on race, gender, senior, youth, business and service representation.

Be it therefore resolved that the Council of the Town of Digby make application to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board RE: Section 369 of the Municipal Government Act to confirm the number of Councillors at 1 Mayor and 6 Councillors.

Application to the NSUARB Boundary Review Resolution discussion ensued among Council. Deputy Mayor Brittain gave a lot of thought to her decision made at the Committee of the Whole taking into consideration the public survey and after speaking to a resident and giving more consideration for the

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public input Deputy Mayor Brittain will be changing her vote to reflect a decrease in the number of Councillors. Councillor Bartlett is staying with his decision of status quo with only 2 percent of the population responding to the survey he feels this is a very small percentage to base his decision also with the CAO system in place now it creates less hands on work for Council. Councillor Harvieux also has been giving his decision a lot of consideration and talking to folks this week as well as the public opinion from the survey Councillor Harvieux has also decided to change his vote. Councillor Turnbull feels the same the citizens are speaking and we need to listen to them. Mayor Cleveland wanted to express his concern with asking the staff to deal with less and as leaders we have to look at Council doing with less as well also the average income for citizens in this area is \$21,000 the \$28,000 savings is a lot of money.

Ayes

Councillor Bartlett

Nays

Deputy Mayor Brittain
Councillor Turnbull
Councillor Manzer
Councillor Harvieux
Councillor Handspiker
Mayor Cleveland

Motion Defeated.

The CAO also has drafted a resolution for Council in the event that the status quo resolution not be accepted.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Handspiker and seconded by Deputy Mayor Brittain that the application to the NSURB under section 369 of the MGA- Resolution December 2014

Whereas the Council of the Town of Digby is elected at large and the Town Council conducted public consultation by mailing out one hundred and seventy seven (177) boundary review surveys to randomly selected residents, and made the surveys available at the Town Hall where ten (10) additional surveys were picked up, and advertised a Public Meeting to held on October 20, 2014 seeking public input from its citizens on the following: I believe Digby should have 1 Mayor and more than 6

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Councillors. I believe the current number of 1 Mayor and 6 Councillors should remain (status quo). I believe Digby should have 1 Mayor and fewer than 6 Councillors; And whereas the results of the survey indicated that 40% of the respondents favoured the status quo and 58 % favoured 1 mayor and fewer than 6 Councillors, and at the public meeting held on October 20, 2014 a copy of the boundary review survey was provided to the public so that if they wished to they could fill one out and place them in a box on their way out resulted in four members of the public were in attendance where no written or oral submissions were submitted; and 1 completed survey was received;

And whereas the results and the comments of the completed surveys, show a majority in favour of 1 Mayor and fewer than 6 councillors;

And whereas the 2011 Census shows the population of the Town of Digby as 2,152 a 2.9% increase over the 2006 Census, and the geographic size of the town is unchanged.

And whereas a reduction in the numbers of councillors may translate into a reduction of costs;

And whereas a review of the level of participation currently required in committees/boards/agencies, with a view of reducing participation in non-Town business committees, and reviewing the appointments to committees to ensure an equitable distribution of time commitments and workloads amongst the Council members.

Be it therefore resolved that the Council of the Town of Digby make application to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board RE: Section 369 of the Municipal Government Act to reduce the number of Councillors at 1 Mayor and 4 Councillors.

Ayes

Deputy Mayor Brittain
Mayor Cleveland
Councillor Turnbull
Councillor Handspiker
Councillor Harvieux
Councillor Manzer

Nays

Councillor Bartlett

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Motion Carried.

c. Feedback on the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal Review

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Brittain and seconded by Councillor Bartlett that Council accept the Feedback on the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal Review.

Motion Carried.

H. CORRESPONDENCE

H.1 Letter from Apple Blossom Festival

The Letter received is a call for expression of interest in hosting one of the larger events for Apple Blossom on May 27, 2015. Council feels that with the 125th celebrations for the Town of Digby we will pass on hosting one of the larger events but will still hold the Royal Tour Dinner. Direction was given by Council for the CAO to draft a letter declining interest in holding the opening ceremonies or Valley Tea.

H.2 UNSM-Court Challenge MGA/Halifax Chapter

Discussion ensued however the Town of Digby does not have any large parcels of land except near the Pines Hotel where this could be of concern.

H.3 UNSM-Local Prosperity Conference

The CAO included this in the package just as an information item for Council for the upcoming conference in April 8-12, 2015.

I. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

None.

J. NEW BUSINESS

J.1 Digby Community Energy Trust

Discussion ensued on the importance the trust will have for the region however the Mayor does not want to see the trust seeking financial

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contribution. The DDA currently has a surplus of \$17,000 that could be utilized.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Harvieux and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that the Town of Digby along with the Municipality of the District of Digby and the Municipality of the District of Clare proceed with the establishment of the Digby-Clare Energy Authority (DCEA) in order to identify its mandate and proposed scope of business and prepare a business plan with detailed expenditure and revenue estimates and that such findings be used to determine the implementation of the business plan; the cost of this work will not exceed the amount remaining from funding secured through the 3 municipal units and ACOA for the project titled "Establishment of the Digby Community Energy Trust".

Motion Carried.

K. IN CAMERA

K.1 Personnel

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor Manzer that Council move to In Camera.

Motion Carried.

Council moved out of In Camera.

L. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting adjourned on motion of Councillor Handspiker and Councillor Manzer at 7:45 p.m.

MAYOR

CLERK