

**DIGBY TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY June 10, 2019
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
6:00 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Brittain
Councillor Mike Bartlett
Councillor Peter Turnbull

STAFF PRESENT : Tom Ossinger, Chief Administrative Officer
Leslie Brinton, Executive Assistant
Matthew Raymond, Director of Finance

REGRETS: Mayor Ben Cleveland
Councillor Danny Harvieux

A. CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Mayor Brittain called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS

B.1 None.

C. AGENDA

C.1 Additions/Deletions
None.

C.2 Approval
Motion

*Moved by Councillor Turnbull and seconded by Councillor Bartlett that the
Agenda of June 10, 2019 be approved as presented.*

Motion Carried.

D. DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

D.1 None.

E. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

E.1 May 6, 2019

Motion:

*Moved by Councillor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that the Minutes of May 6,
2019 be approved as presented.*

Motion Carried.

F. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

F.1 The CAO is still trying to arrange a date with the Planner Chris Millier once we confirm that date with the Planner we can let Mr. MacAlpine know of that date.

G. REPORT

G.1 Chief Administrative Officer Report

The CAO report was distributed for Council review. The CAO wanted to mention that the June 17th Meeting of the Committee of the Whole has been cancelled for the month of June the Audit Committee Meeting will still happen at 5:00 PM. The 2018 Financial Condition Index is now on the Digby Cloud for viewing on this report this report is broken down by green, yellow and red indicators at this time we have no red indicators however we have five yellow indicators however in some of these yellow indicators we are very close to a green. The CAO attended the Digby and Area Board of Trade Awards Dinner at the Digby Pines there were 10 recipients of the Award of Excellence. The Nova Scotia Tourism Human Resource Council recognized the Town of Digby Visitor Information Centre with a National Business Recognition award this is an annual event to recognize businesses who have a Commitment to Excellence because the Visitor Information Centre has met or exceeded National Criteria for implementing emerit Professional Certification for staff the CAO accepted the award on behalf of the VIC and Staff. A table top exercise was conducted by REMO at the Town EOC Center on June 4 all EOC staff were in attendance except for the CAO who was attending the award ceremony in Halifax. A Regional Planning Discussion with CAO's from Digby to Shelburne in Yarmouth to discuss a regional approach on planning and building inspections there will be more information to come however this is likely to be slow moving forward.

G.2 Digby Area Recreation Commission Report

The report was included in the package for Council review. Councillor Turnbull added that the recent Hall of Fame induction ceremony was held with about 45 folks in attendance Bruce Rainee was the guest speaker.

**G.3 Budget Committee Report
Estimates of Revenues and Expenditures**

Moved By Councillor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor Turnbull THAT Council accepts the following estimates of the sums required by the Town of Digby for the fiscal period ending March 31, 2020, prepared in accordance with Section 72 of the Municipal Government Act:

Revenues	
Taxes	3,114,581
Grants in Lieu of Taxes	332,045
Services Provided to Other Local Gov't	194,869
Sale of Services	133,265
Other Revenue from Own Sources	129,926
Unconditional Transfers	392,258
Conditional Transfers	8,618
Other Transfers	3,000
Total Revenues	4,308,562

Expenditures	
General Government Services	739,987
Protective Services	1,368,408
Transportation Services	675,764
Environmental Health Services	630,256
Public Health Services	70,000
Environmental Developmental Services	133,571
Recreation and Cultural Services	361,581
Finance and transfers	328,995
Total Expenditures	4,308,562

General Tax Rates

Moved By Councillor Turnbull and seconded by Councillor Bartlett that

WHEREAS total estimated expenditures for the fiscal period are \$4,308,562 and

WHEREAS total estimated revenues, other than taxes to be levied are \$1,193,981 and

WHEREAS the general tax revenue of \$2,620,802 required, must be rated;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT for the Town of Digby for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2020:

The general tax rates are as follows:

Residential / Resource \$1.86 per \$100 of assessment

Commercial \$4.15 per \$100 of assessment

Taxes to be billed by way of interim tax bill (issued in April, due May 31, 2019) and

Final tax bill (issued in September, due the October 31, 2019); and

Interest on overdue amounts to be charged at a rate of 18% per annum.

Motion Carried.

Fire Protection Rate

Moved By Councillor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that

WHEREAS Council is authorized under Section 80 of the Municipal Government Act to levy a rate on the value of all assessable property assessment in the area served by a water system in the town, as defined by the council by policy, in order to recover that part of the cost of the water system that is attributable to fire protection; and

WHEREAS the cost of fire protection (water supply and Hydrants) has historically been covered in the general tax rate of non-exempt residential, resource and commercial taxable assessment; and

WHEREAS the provision of fire protection (water supply and hydrants) is beneficial to all assessable property assessment within the Town of Digby serviced by Digby Water Commission the Council wishes to levy a rate over all assessable property assessment.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that it shall be the policy of the Council of the Town of Digby as of April 1, 2019 to separate the fire protection expenditures (water supply and hydrants) from the estimated expenditures to be covered by general rate of non-exempt residential, resource and commercial taxable assessment; and apply a fire protection rate to cover the estimated fire protection (water and Hydrant) expenditures to all assessable property assessment in the area served by the Digby Water Commission in the town; and

That the Council of the Town of Digby does not exempt any assessable property assessment serviced by the Digby Water Commission from the fire protection rate; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the total estimated fire protection (water and hydrant) expenditures for the 2019/20 fiscal year of \$197,765 be covered by a fire protection rate applied to all assessable property assessment serviced by the Digby Water Commission; and

That the fire protection rate for the 2019/20 fiscal year be set at \$0.13 per \$100 of Assessment; and be applied on the final tax bill in September are due and payable by October 31, 2019 with interest on overdue amounts to be charged at the rate of 18 % per annum.

Motion Carried.

Solid Waste Management Uniform Charge

Moved By Councillor Turnbull and seconded by Councillor Bartlett that

WHEREAS Council has included in its estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2020, the amount of \$301,908 to be expended for the purpose of solid waste management, a purpose for which the Town may expend funds; and

WHEREAS there are approximately 1160 dwelling units within the boundaries of the Town of Digby; and

WHEREAS the Council may, under paragraph 75(4) (b) of the Municipal Government Act, in lieu of levying an area rate, levy a uniform charge on each property assessment in the area;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a uniform charge of \$268 be levied for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2020 on each dwelling unit within the boundaries of the Town of Digby and that these

uniform charges will be applied on the final Tax bill issued in September are due and payable by October 31, 2019 with interest on overdue amounts to be charged at the rate of 18 % per annum.

Motion Carried.

Sanitary Sewer Rates

Moved By Councillor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that

WHEREAS Council is authorized by the Town of Digby Sewer Charges By-law to set rates for sewer services;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the sewer service charge shall be \$6.29 per 1,000 gallons of water consumption; and

Residential and Commercial users shall pay:

Less than 1 million gallons annually 100% of the Sewer Service Charge, or more than 1 million gallons annually 50% of the Sewer Service Charge based on their annual water consumption of the previous year, and

Industrial Premises users shall pay:

Less than 1 million gallons annually 100% of the Sewer Service Charge, or more than 1 million gallons shall pay 10% of the Sewer Service Charge, or more than 10 million gallons shall pay 5% of the Sewer Service Charge based on their annual water consumption of the previous year; and

That the Sewer Service Charge shall be applied to the Water Utility's bi-monthly bill. All bills are due and payable under the same regulations as the Water Utility Bill; and

The sewer service charge is a lien on the whole of the property subject to the sewer charge in the same manner and with the same effect as rates and taxes under the Assessment Act.

Motion Carried.

Tax Certificate Fee

Moved By Councillor Turnbull and seconded by Councillor Bartlett that

WHEREAS Council is authorized to set a fee for a tax certificate pursuant to section 132 (2) of the Municipal Government Act;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the tax certificate fee shall be \$40.00 per tax certificate.

Motion Carried.

The Director of Finance discussed that break out of the Fire Rate with Council this would appear that the Residential Tax Rate decrease however with the addition of the Fire Rate this brings the Residential Tax Rate back to the prior year rate of \$1.99 per 100 of assessment the Fire Rate

allows us to collect a Fire Rate from properties that in the past we were unable to collect from in the past. The Commercial Tax rate actually will see an overall increase of four cents not related to the fire rate these will be some key speaking point for the those who have folks inquire to them about the changes.

H. CORRESPONDENCE

H.1 Move Mobility

This is information for Council. At this time we are not interested in purchasing a Mobility Van.

H.2 CBRM Climate Change Declaration

This is information for Council. The Town of Digby has a climate action plan in place. The Council discussed the Racquette Bridge as an area of concern. This information was sent to all Municipal Units.

H.3 Minister of Municipal Affairs Chuck Porter

This is an information item for Council for 12 month notice for provincial legislation, regulations or administrative actions that could have the effect of decreasing revenue or increasing the required expenditures.

I. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

I.1 None.

J. NEW BUSINESS

J.1 Digby Downtown Business Association proposal

Roger Marshall sent correspondence to the CAO on behalf of the Digby Downtown Business Association request to erect a seasonal gazebo on the upper deck of the promenade to provide a cover for musician who will be performing in the summer months. With the recent revitalization of that area Council did not support the idea of having a tent there with Digby Centre being close that is the ideal location with a stage and cover already in place.

J.2 Wharf Rat Rally

Wharf Rat Rally is asking for a letter of support for a low level flyby during the festival the CAO mention that we have done this letter of support in the past for this event.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that a letter of support be given to the Wharf Rat Rally festival for a low level flyby as requested.

Motion Carried.

- K. IN CAMERA

K.1 None.

L. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion:

Motion for adjournment was moved by Councillor Turnbull and seconded by Councillor Bartlett at 6:48 P.M.

Motion Carried.



Mayor



Clerk