

**DIGBY TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY December 2, 2019
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
6:00 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Ben Cleveland
Deputy Mayor Brittain
Councillor Peter Turnbull
Councillor Mike Bartlett
Councillor Danny Harvieux

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

REGRETS:

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Cleveland 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 Deputy Mayor Brittain and seconded by Councillor Harvieux that the Agenda of December 2, 2019 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried.

D. DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

D.1 None.

E. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

E.1 November 4, 2019

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Harvieux and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that the Minutes of November 4, 2019 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried.

F. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

F.1 Promenade Structure

Mayor Cleveland has spoken several times to Al Dupis on the proposed idea however the CAO will provide a further update in his report.

G. REPORT

G.1 Chief Administrative Officer Report

The CAO report was presented. The Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program sent correspondence concerning the Environment Assessment and Impact Assessment Requirement and consultation obligations with Aboriginal peoples under the requirements for the project. The correspondence concluded that there is a requirement to notify Aboriginal Peoples in the context of this project. The correspondence to the Bear River First Nations was drafted and sent with a date to respond by December 27, 2019. Invitational RFP's for project management has been sent to three firms with a closing date of December 19, 2019. The CAO along with Director of Finance met with PVSC Lloyd MacLeod and Mathew Wittleton to discuss the sale of the Pines Resort and the drop in assessment down to one million dollars for the 2020 assessment. The new owner according to PVSC doesn't intend to operate the facility year round and they will be applying for the seasonal discount of 25%. In the current year and the drop in taxation revenue we lost over one hundred thousand dollars and with this decrease coming for next year we will take an additional loss of one hundred and twenty five thousand dollars which if all other factors remained the same it would be an increase of 41 cents on the commercial tax rate to make up for the loss. The CAO and the Mayor have been discussing this and feel that the Town should compile a case to discuss the loss with the MLA and the Premier around some financial relief. The CAO contacted the designer of the promenade and discussed a cost estimate on a design of a gazebo/canopy for the promenade and that estimate should be coming in the New Year. The CAO received an email from the CAO of the Town of Yarmouth concerning plastic that was removed from a load of compost delivered by the Town of Digby. After the CAO discussed with the hauler the contamination the CAO followed up with a phone call to the CAO at the Town of Yarmouth and discovered that this in fact was not all from a delivery from the Town of Digby and that it was miscommunicated to the Town of Yarmouth CAO however the Town CAO assured Mr. Gushue that this would be taken seriously and that the hauler also takes the matter seriously and they were appreciative of the Town of Digby who were willing to cooperate in any manner to eliminate any contaminated compost.

G.2 Committee of the Whole Report

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Brittain and seconded by Councillor Harvieux that Council approved the sale of the 1998 surplus Fire Truck to the Tiverton Fire Department for \$25,000.00 plus tax.

Motion Carried.

G.3 Library Board –Appointment of Board Member

Deputy Mayor Brittain has been speaking with Mayor Cleveland and the CAO concerning her appointment on the Library Board and if she was to step down she would have to be replaced by a member of Council. The appointment on the board will involve a trip to Yarmouth about 6 times per year the board meetings are held on Thursdays at 1:00 PM if there is no interest from Council Deputy Mayor Brittain said that if there is no one interested in filling this board seat should could try and continue going. Mayor Cleveland expressed interest in filling in the seat for Deputy Mayor Brittain for the time being and see what the future brings.

H. CORRESPONDENCE

H.1 Letter-Melissa Merritt

Correspondence was received from concerned resident Melissa Merritt regarding the company Cermaq and their option to lease application with Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture. Mayor Cleveland will draft a reply to the letter however this would concern mostly the Municipality. There is a small group of folks that have started a petition online however there seems to be a lot of misinformation circulating about the fish farm. Cermaq is sponsoring some of the Christmas events in the area and that has folks talking as well.

I. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

I.1 None.

J. NEW BUSINESS

J.1 Digby Pines Assessment

CAO and the Director of Finance met with PVSCs Lloyd Macleod and Matthew Whittleton to discuss the sale of the Pines and the change in assessment. Mayor Cleveland has spoken to MLA Gordon Wilson about this change in assessment and a meeting was also held with the MLA and the CAO of the Town to further discuss the change. MLA Wilson has also spoken to the Deputy Ministers office to discuss some relief from the Province. MLA Wilson said his understanding was that the sale of the Pines was still being negotiated and that sale was still pending however according to PVSC the property was sold and that PVSC has been speaking to the new owners. One of the unfortunate factors to this was that the Province didn't keep the Town in the loop during the sale and the reassessment this is the Town of Digby largest tax payer and for that reason alone it would have been good to keep the town in the loop. Moving forward the next step will be to compile the information on the Pines and arrange a meeting with the MLA and the Premier and also the Minister of Municipal Affairs to discuss the assessment change and the loss of tax revenue more to come from this matter.

- K. IN CAMERA

K.1 None.

L. ADJOURNMENT

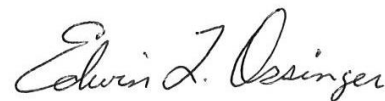
Motion:

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

Motion Carried.



Mayor Ben Cleveland



Clerk E. Tom Ossinger