

**TOWN OF DIGBY
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
November 16, 2020**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Ben Cleveland
Deputy Mayor Mike Bartlett
Councillor Peter Turnbull
Councillor William McCormick
Councillor Paul Saulnier

STAFF PRESENT: Tom Ossinger, Chief Administrative Officer
Leslie Brinton, Executive Assistant
Bruce Baxter, By Law Officer
Ed McCormick, Director of Public Works
Matthew Raymond, Director of Finance

REGRETS:

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Cleveland called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

B. AGENDA

B.1 Additions/Deletions

Two additions under New Business H.5 You Tube Video and H.6 Tree Lighting

B.2 Approval of the Agenda

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor Saulnier that the Agenda be approved with two additions under New Business H.5 You Tube Video and H.6 Tree Lighting.

Motion Carried.

C. DELEGATION AND PRESENTATION

C.1 None.

D. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

D.1 September 21, 2020

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that the Minutes of September 21, 2020 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried.

E. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

E.1 Mackintosh Family Request

Mayor Cleveland sent an email to Linda Gallagher and no response at this point concerning the naming of the DARC facility and at the recent board meeting it was discussed and the board felt this was not something that they wanted to do and they will be creating a policy around the naming of facilities. The other option that was discussed the night that Linda presented to Council was the fountain at the Racquette Pond and if this is something that Council wishes to proceed with the CAO would like that direction. After discussing the direction is for the Chief Administrative Officer to begin exploring the costs associated with such a project.

F. STAFF REPORTS

F.1 Chief Administrative Officer

a) Report

The Chief Administrative Officer report was presented and reviewed. The planning department has issued 14 development permits and two zoning confirmation letters up to October 31, 2020. The building department has issued nineteen permits up to October 31, 2020. The Director of Public works is reporting that the lift station have been cleaned and the jet rodding was done for the sewer mains in select areas. A new sewer lateral was installed on Thomas Road for a proposed dwelling. Work has begun preparing equipment for the upcoming snow removal season. Work has been done on the rail trail from Queen to Pleasant Street. One employee remains off on medical leave. The new sidewalk on Victoria Street has been completed from Shreve Street to Learning Grove. The CAO is reporting that the Accessible Washroom upgrade at the Digby Fire Department which was part of the Town of Digby Capital Investment plan received a grant of \$10,000 from the Communities, Culture and Heritage Community ACCESS-Ability program this grant will cover close to 50% of the budget for this project. The Wastewater Upgrade Project for Lift Station 2 is almost complete except for the final connection and backfill. Electrician is expected to be on site today to do the wiring. Lift Station 1 excavation work began on Monday and we were expecting issues with water during the excavation the Racquette Pond was drained. Nova Scotia Power is scheduled to inspect both Lift Station 1 and 2 in the coming weeks and hopefully connect power the same days. The Force Main connection will be completed following commissioning with that anticipated to be the week of November 30 or earlier if possible. The Victoria Street Greenway Project is near completion for this fall the remainder will be worked on in the next construction season. The force main replacement along Admiral's Walk should be commencing soon the flag polls will be removed and they are nearing the end of their lift cycle and need to be replaced the Committee discussed the options for replacement and material.

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that the Committee recommend to Council the replacement of Admiral's Walk Flag polls.

Motion Carried.

The Mayors, Wardens and CAO's of the southwest region met to discuss the current lobster fishery dispute. At the meeting a draft letter to be sent to Minister Jordan was reviewed a revised letter will be coming for review. Iris group has agreed to be the PR Firm pricing and the scope of work will be done by Clare and Barrington. The Safe Start Agreement for Municipalities that was announced on November 4th will provide much needed support to municipalities. The Town of

Digby received \$164,561 under the Safe Restart Agreement. To date there has not been any accountability framework for the funds released by the province. The AMANS and NSFM like municipalities are feeling the impact of Covid-19 with significant loss of revenue from cancelled events while municipalities are receiving much needed funds the two organizations that assist with the lobbying for the funds have send request which will be coming up for discussion under New Business for discussion. The CAO attended a Restorative Justice session on November 10th as the Town of Digby representative. This was concerning an incident that occurred in 2019 which resulted in vandalism at Fishermen's Memorial Park and a youth arrested as a result of that it was recommended that the youth write a letter of apology and serve 5 hours of Community work which will be completed in the coming week with the Town of Digby Public Works Department. There are five active cases being worked on by the Dangerous and Unsightly Administrator. Deputy Mayor Bartlett asked if there was some way to deal with the repeat offenders and those who have been on this list for a long period of time perhaps more ridged by laws as these continue to be reoccurring properties. We are using the By Laws that we have to enforce the clean up or repair as needed.

F.2 Director of Finance
a) Report

The Director of Finance report was presented to the Committee. The Safe Restart Agreement grant that the Town received was based off of a quick survey conducted. The Town of Digby received 164,561 of the funds allocated to the Province of Nova Scotia. Deputy Mayor Bartlett asked about the WCB coverage due to begin on January 1, 2021 and will this replace the additional insurance purchased by the Digby Fire Department for their members. The Director of Finance can look into the coverage and ensure that there is no overlap of coverage for the Digby Fire Department.

G. CORRESPONDENCE

G.1 NSFM Virtual AGM and Caucus Meeting

The annual Virtual AGM and Caucus Meeting typically held during the conference will be held virtually this year due to Covid-19 the Town Caucus meeting will take place December 2nd via zoon there are three spots to be filled on the Town Caucus if you wish to put your name forward.

G.2 New Digby Farmer's and Artisans' Market

The New Digby Farmers' and Artisans' Market folks sent correspondence to the Town of Digby Council the correspondence regarding the 2021 market they would like to operate during the Scallop Days and Lobster bash festival weeks. The market folks feel that they have a good working relationship with the two festivals and this could compliment the festivals. Councillor Turnbull who currently sits on that committee said that no conversation had taken place with the two festivals at this time. The Chief Administrative Officer will reach out to the festival organizers and report back.

H. NEW BUSINESS

H.1 Kindness meters

Councillor Saulnier asked this item to be added to the Agenda for discussion other location have them and they fund various organizations. This is an opportunity to raise funds for various organizations if we are able to obtain a meter and have the programming done. We can investigate and report back.

H.2 AMANS and NSFM restart request

The CAO received correspondence from AMANS and NSFM concerning the challenging times they have been faced with due to COVID-19. These two organizations have been working to obtain funding for Municipalities which was obtained however both organizations are still feeling the impact of the pandemic due to lost revenue from cancelled events. The recent announcement was that there was 67 million dollars under the restart funding announcement which is more than request by about 1 million dollars. Therefore the NSFM and the AMANS are asking for consideration from Municipalities for a portion of the money over and above what was identified. The portion they are asking for is only of the money over and above what was identified.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Turnbull and seconded by Councillor McCormick that the Committee recommend to Council the One Time Funding request of \$594.15.

Motion Carried.

H.3 Affordable Housing

Councillor Saulnier asked for this to be added regarding his concerns for housing in the area. There is lots of housing around the Digby area however not a lot of affordable housing there is a location in Barton at the former school that is being considered for housing however a fair distance from the Town of Digby. Mayor Cleveland spoke about the various groups in the Digby Area working on housing issues Mayor Cleveland will send this information along to Councillor Saulnier as one of those groups is meeting in the near future and Councillor Saulnier has an interest in pursuing affordable housing discussions.

H.4 Iris Communication Proposal

Iris Communication is the company that was contacted on behalf of South West Nova Municipalities to work with the units on a press release for the ongoing lobster fisheries dispute in the area. There is great concern about what the coming weeks will bring when the next district opens for lobster fishery. The PR firm will create a press release around the concerns about public safety and livelihood for the area. If the Committee agrees to the proposal from Iris Communication the commitment will be a three month term. The exact number of those who will be participating in the agreement is also yet to be determined and likely won't know until tomorrow and that could result in a change of funding commitment.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Deputy Mayor Bartlett that the Committee recommend to Council the Iris Communication proposal at a cost of \$606.59 as presented.

Motion Carried.

H.5 You tube Video

Councillor Turnbull asked for this item to be added so that he could voice his concern about the recent You Tube video circulating. The MP and the MLA are both aware of the video and we need folks to report their concern about the video.

H.6 Tree Lighting

Deputy Mayor Bartlett has been working with the Downtown Business Association concerning the Upcoming tree lighting. The Business Association is working on a press release around the tree lighting. With the event being held virtually details are being worked on for staff and spouses to attend and no public this year it will be taped and broadcast at a later time.

I. **IN-CAMERA**
I.1 **Land Proposal**

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Turnbull and seconded by Councillor McCormick that the Committee move to In Camera.

Motion Carried.

The Committee moved out of In Camera

J. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.


Motion:

Moved by Councillor Saulnier and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that the meeting be adjourned at 7:32 P.M.

Motion Carried.



Mayor



Clerk