

**DIGBY TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY March 2, 2020
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
6:00 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Ben Cleveland
Deputy Mayor Jean Brittain (via conference call)
Councillor Mike Bartlett
Councillor Danny Harvieux
Councillor Peter Turnbull

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 Councillor Harvieux and seconded by Councillor Bartlett that the Agenda of March 2, 2020 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried.

D. DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

D.1 MP Chris D'Entremont

MP Chris D'Entremont came tonight to have an open conversation about what projects would the Town of Digby see happening in the future what are the wants and needs. Mr. D'Entremont plans to make contact again with Council in about 6 months or so just to keep in touch and informed. Council would like to see infrastructure funding for the Digby Wharf this is something that should be considered. At this point in time Mr. D'Entremont spoke of the delay in the infrastructure funding announcement and that at this point in time he is unsure what the focus of that round of funding will be perhaps green energy. Discussion on the propane shortage is affecting more folks

than some realize it is affecting businesses here in the Digby area with propane not being delivered they are laying off employees. There will more information coming on this. Discussion about the highway twinning and the work that is still required in this end of the Province. Discussion about new fire station and the role that Fire Departments play in the community for generally a community center or comfort station. Discussion about roads and who looks after the road in particular on Shore Road. Discussion about the gas tax that the Town receives and how that compares to other Municipal units who sometimes struggle to find ways to spend that money where the Town's share doesn't seem to go far enough for example we have Church Street that is need of bring redone however without funding this is something that we are unable to do however last year with the one time bump up of gas tax funding that was a help to the Town. Discussion about immigration and the lack in some instances of businesses that are searching for workers and in one case the local nursing home was trying to bring in a nurse and in order to do this it is a very complicated process. Mr. D'Entremont spoke about the Immigration Pilot Program and it definitely is not working the way in which it was intended the process to come here and obtain all the documents required for work is very much a difficult process and very time consuming. The Yarmouth Ferry was briefly discussed and the impact it had her in this area Mr. D'Entremont spoke about the viability of the service would take many years it is most unfortunate but some of the negativity around the ferry doesn't help. Discussion about the RCMP cost and that we have one of the largest per capita costs in the province. Mr. D'Entremont thanked Council for their time and this open chat about what concerns folks her in the Digby area.

D.2 Jonathan Riley-Blue Felt Lichen

Jonathan Riley thanked Council for the opportunity to come and speak on this very important subject. It's been recently discovered that there is a large amount of Blue Felt Lichens at the Vantassel Lake Property owned by the Town of Digby. Jonathan wanted to Make Council aware of their location on the property and the importance of protecting these Lichens. They are rare in North America and Nova Scotia has the largest amount of the Blue Felt Lichens for the most part they can be found on various types of maple trees but also have been known to be found on ash trees. Jonathan would like to see some sort of promotion around the fact that we could be known as a destination for the Blue Felt Lichens.

E. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

E.1 February 3, 2020

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Harvieux and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that the Minutes of February 3, 2020 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried.

F. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

F.1 None.

G. REPORT

G.1 Chief Administrative Officer Report

The CAO report was presented. The Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program tender for the Waste Water upgrades is now posted on the NS Procurement site a pre tender meeting was held on February 27 the tender closes on March 10, 2020 the tenders will be reviewed by project management and the design engineers and a recommendation will be made. The Salvation Army Lease has been sent to them for execution. The ACOA funding application has been revised as per

The suggestions of the Area Account Manager. The CAO met with the Surveyor to discuss the subdivision of Racquette Garden Road the sketch that is also provided shows a proposed subdivision and a small parcel to be consolidated with the Creighton property to ensure that the Creighton's let be compliant and have road frontage this is a slight change from the recommendation that is coming forward from the Committee of the Whole and assuming that a survey is not required the cost would be approximately \$2,700 plus HST and this does not include deeds or subdivision approval. At this point in time the CAO has not met with the Creighton's to discuss until he had spoken to Council. The direction is given to the CAO to contact the Creighton's and proceed from there.

G.2 Committee of the Whole Report

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Harvieux and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that the Town of Digby agrees to subdivided and survey PID # 30223739 and sell to abutting property owner Shelley Walker (Pappineau) a section that contains Racquette Garden Road and also include a parcel of land to provide road frontage to Grant and Alma Creighton.

Motion Carried.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that the Town of Digby finance the purchase of vehicle for the Digby Area Recreation Commission and set up a loan schedule for repayment.

Motion Carried.

G.3 Digby Area Recreation Commission Report

The report was distributed in the package for Council to review.

H. CORRESPONDENCE

H.1 None.

I. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

I.1 None.

J. NEW BUSINESS

J.1 Information Sharing Agreement October 17, 2020 Election

The Information Sharing Agreement that the Town of Digby had entered into with the Province is due to expire this list eliminates the need for remunerate this is the same process that was used back in 2016 Election it work well for us.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Turnbull and seconded by Councillor Bartlett that Council authorize the CAO to enter into an Information Sharing Agreement with the Chief Electoral Officer of Elections Nova Scotia in accordance with the Nova Scotia Elections Act and the Municipal Elections Act for use of the Provincial List of Electors in the 2020 Municipal Election and future municipal and special elections.

Motion Carried.

J.2 Appointment of Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer

This appointment is a standard appointment each election one item to note is that the Council delegates its power of appointment pursuant to this Section to the Chief Administrative Officer.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Harvieux and seconded by Councillor Bartlett that:

Authorizing Legislation – Nova Scotia Municipal Elections Act

Returning officer and assistant returning officer

4 (1) The council shall appoint a returning officer, who may be the clerk, another municipal employee or another person who is not a municipal employee, to conduct all regular and special elections required under this Act.

(1A) The council may appoint one or more assistant returning officers who shall assist the returning officer in carrying out the returning officer's duties and who shall act in the place and in the stead of the returning officer when the returning officer is absent or at the request of the returning officer.

(1B) The council shall appoint the returning officer for a regular election on or before the fifteenth day of March of the regular election year.

(1C) The council may delegate its powers of appointment pursuant to this Section to the clerk or chief administrative officer.

(2) The returning officer and the assistant returning officer shall, before entering upon the duties of office, take the oath in prescribed form. R.S., c. 300, s. 4; 1994, c. 26, s. 2; 2003, c. 9, s. 3; 2011, c. 68, s. 2

Whereas Council shall appoint a returning officer to conduct all regular and special elections required under the Nova Scotia Municipal Elections Act;

And whereas the Council shall appoint the returning officer for a regular election on or before the fifteenth day of March of the regular election year;

And whereas the Council may appoint one or more assistant returning officers who shall assist the returning officer in carrying out the returning officer's duties and who shall act in the place and in the stead of the returning officer when the returning officer is absent or at the request of the returning officer.

And Whereas the Council may delegate its powers of appointment pursuant to this Section to the clerk or chief administrative officer.

Therefore be it resolved that the Council appoint Leslie Brinton, Executive Assistant as Returning Officer and Joy Robbins, Tax Clerk, as Assistant Returning Officer for the 2020 Town of Digby Municipal Elections;

And therefore be it further resolved that the Salary for returning officer and assistant Returning Officer be set at \$2500 and \$1500 respectively.

And therefore be it further resolved that the Council of the Town of Digby delegate its power of appointment pursuant to this Section to the chief administrative officer.

Motion Carried.

J.3 Accessibility Committee

The CAO and the CAO from the Municipality of Digby recently meet on a few issues one being the upcoming requirements for the Accessibility Coordinator and an Accessibility Committee that are to be in place by April 1, 2021 along with an Accessibility Plan. This will take a bit of work to have this all in place and this is something that the Municipality of Digby is willing to partner with the Town of Digby and use Tyler Pulley as the Accessibility Coordinator Tyler currently has been working on this and he currently has the time to apply to the work that is needed. Council agreed that this is worth looking into and gave direction to the CAO to proceed with looking into the joint project.

K. IN CAMERA

K.1 None.

L. ADJOURNMENT

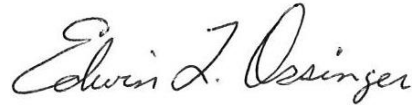
Motion:

Motion for adjournment was moved by Councillor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor Harvieux at 7:22 P.M.

Motion Carried.



Mayor Ben Cleveland



Clerk E. Tom Ossinger