

**DIGBY TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY September 8, 2020
Council Chambers**

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

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

REGRETS: Councillor Danny Harvieux

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

Two additions to the agenda under New Business J.2 Rails and trails and J.3 Bear Island

C.2 Approval

Motion

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that the Agenda of September 8, 2020 be approved with two additions under New Business J.2 Rails and trails and J.3 Bear Island.

Motion Carried.

D. DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

D.1 Grant Thornton-Financial Statements

Aaron Kelly from Grant Thornton came to present the Consolidated Financial Statements. The Audit Committee received this presentation on Thursday. Aaron reviewed the Independent Audit Report as well as the Management Responsibility for the Consolidated Financial Statements. The year ending March 31, 2020 resulted in a surplus of \$385,731 and brings the accumulated surplus Of \$15,733,492. One item of significant change is the Grant in Lieu of taxes from the decrease in assessment of the Digby Pines. The audit now includes a section relating to COVID -19 and the impact this will have around the globe for years to come. Council thanked Aaron Kelly from Grant Thornton for coming today to present to Council the Consolidated Financial Statements.

D.2 Western Regional Enterprise Network

Angelique LeBlanc and Evan Nemeth from the WREN thanked Council for the opportunity to come and speak on the work being done in energy. Evan presented a short video on the work done and a significant plan will be coming likely an media briefing will follow as they are working with SSG on a briefing, Council thanked Angelique and Evan for coming tonight to speak and after the new Council is elected in October perhaps they can come back and speak on the work they do.

E. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

E.1 August 4, 2020

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Turnbull and seconded by Deputy Mayor Bartlett that the Minutes of August 4, 2020 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried.

F. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

F.1 Second Reading Urban Chicken By-Law

John and Theresa McKinnon were here tonight however the CAO had drafted and sent to them a letter of response to address their concerns.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Turnbull and seconded by Deputy Mayor Bartlett that Council give second and final reading of the Urban Chicken By-Law #2020-02.

Motion Carried.

G. REPORT

G.1 Chief Administrative Officer Report

The CAO report was presented. The CAO reported that the NS Health Authority has extended the agreement for Digby Station until December 31, 2020. The Covid-19 property tax financing program deadline has past and only one application was received and it has been determined to finance this in house. The New Digby Farmers & Artisans Market was in the process of making arrangements for the use of the Digby Fire Hall from October to December however plans have been cancelled and they will not be holding the market at the Fire Hall. The Halliday Development is on hold due to Covid-19 and the skyrocketed prices and demand for supplies. A few flags and banners on the admirals walk have been vandalized and the decision has been made to not replace them this late in the season. The Digby Water Commission is seeking a citizen member to replace Doug Smith who has moved to the Smith's Cove area of the Municipality. The Waste water upgrades project has commenced for the installation of the baffle curtain. The Force main break on Admiral's Walk has an estimated cost of the temporary repair of \$88,000 engineers are working on a permanent design for the force main. The CAO provided a verbal update for an Incident that occurred on Admiral's Walk a person walked into the banner bracket the complainant just wanted to ensure that the Town was aware and to ensure that no one else injurers themselves there and the CAO assured the complainant that it will be corrected.

G.2 Returning Officer Report

Nomination closed today at 5:00 PM and there are a total of 2 folks filled for position of Mayor and 8 folks filled for position of Councillor. Advance polling starts on October 8 and runs until October 17th at 7:00 PM.

G.3 Audit Committee Report

The Audit Committee meet and received the presentation that we received here from Grant Thornton and they are recommending the approval of the Consolidated Financial Statements as presented.

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ending March 31, 2020 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried.

H. CORRESPONDENCE

H.1 Federation of Canadian Municipalities-elections

Council received correspondence from FCM encouraging Council members to vote in the upcoming Board of Director elections and Annual General Meeting for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM).

I. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

I.1 None.

J. NEW BUSINESS

J.1 Digby Wesleyan Church

This is coming to Council as an information piece the Church has done a lot of work in trying to set this up to allow for the best way to hold the event safely and this just to keep the Town up to date.

J.2 Rails to Trails

A letter of concern came from a resident that lives along the rail bed trail on an incident that occurred in which a car attempted to elude the police as they thought was a roadway and the concern about a pedestrian that could have been using the trail. They feel it would be prudent to install some sort of barrier at the entrances to the trail might avoid further risk.

J.3 Bear Island

Mayor Cleveland spoke about an email he received from the Nature Trust concerning Bear Island They have been speaking to the first nation's folks and they are looking at protection status for the island more to follow.

K. IN CAMERA

K.1 None.

L. **ADJOURNMENT**

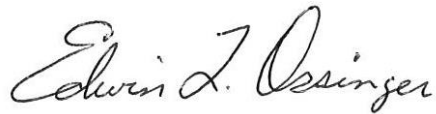
Motion:

Motion for adjournment was moved by Deputy Mayor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor Turnbull at 7:08 P.M.

Motion Carried.



Mayor Ben Cleveland



Clerk E. Tom Ossinger