

**DIGBY TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Monday June 7, 2021
VIA Zoom**

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

REGRETS:

A. CALL TO ORDER

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

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS

B.1 None.

C. AGENDA

C.1 Additions/Deletions

One addition to the Agenda under New Business J.6 Affordable Housing

C.2 Approval

Motion

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor McCormick that the Agenda for June 7, 2021 be approved with one addition under New Business J.7 Affordable Housing.

Motion Carried.

D. DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

D.1 None.

E. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

E.1 May 3, 2021

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that the Minutes of May 3, 2021 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried.

F. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

F.1 Digby General Hospital Parking Fees

Mayor Cleveland was scheduled to attend a meeting with the Site Administrator however that was postponed. The current site Administrator Hubert d'Entremont is retiring Mayor Cleveland asked that the Office of the CAO send a letter to the retiring site Administrator Hubert. Mayor Cleveland will be meeting soon with the acting site Administrator parking fees will be discussed at that time.

G. REPORTS

G.1 Chief Administrative Officer Report

The CAO report was distributed to Council. The Regional Fisheries Dispute meetings are still occurring with representatives of the RCMP and DFO also with written correspondence sent to Minister of DFO and Public Safety to discuss the ongoing tensions between indigenous and non-indigenous fishers, and safety, security and economic concerns of all municipalities involved. This is a file that will be ever evolving until such a time as a settlement is reached. The Strategic Planning Session has concluded and the documents that are a result of the planning session have now been distributed to Council and staff and are also available for reference on the Digby Cloud. The Deker memorial sign to honor the memory of Deker is now complete. The carver of the sign wishes to remain anonymous. The wood for the sign was donated by local resident Fred Ross the CAO is recommending that Council extend appreciation to the designer/carver and to Mr. Ross for their contribution to the memory of Deker. Council directed the CAO to send correspondence of appreciation to those folks. The Town Hall remains closed to the public staff continue to report to work daily and it has been business as usual except for no access by the general public. Services continue to be delivered and we are doing the very best to accommodate anyone. The important thing is the safety of the staff and those we serve. The CAO conducted a poll of counterparts within the Tri-County region on their reopening plans some are planning to reopen on June 14th while others are waiting until indoor gathering limits permit. The CAO is disappointed with the lack of guidance from the Department of Municipal Affairs during this third wave of Covid-19. The Dangerous and Unsightly Issues are being reported to our office almost daily. The Administrator is busy sorting out the issues and determining the validity of the complaints. The new Dangerous or Unsightly Premise Policy is now in effect orders have been issued to three properties on May 26th with a completion date of June 9th two other properties were issued orders with a completion date of June 16th if the work has not be completed as per the order the town will go in and do the work and the cost will be invoiced to the property owner should the owner not pay the invoice the outstanding will become a lien on the property. The Dog By law has been reviewed and research was done of other Municipal units. The intent of Council was to amend the current by law however during the research it was discovered that most units did not use breed specific terminology. The CAO decided to draft a replacement Dog By-Law and omit the reference to breed specific dogs. The draft by law has been send to Legal counsel for review and comment this will likely be coming forward at the Committee of the Whole for Council's review and input. Fundy Dulse has a license from NSTIR to use the paved portion of the old Shore Road adjacent to Harris Road this license expired in 2020. The Town has received complaints from some Harris Road residents about the exclusive right to use the road for the purpose of drying dulse. The CAO has been in contact with the Deputy Minister of NSTIR concerning the license issues by them for a piece of road owned by the Town of Digby. The Minister response the inquiry from the CAO was that the license would expire and not be renewed. The owner of Fundy Dulce contacted the Town of Digby back in 2020 at that time Council was to give consideration for the use of the area and forward any thoughts back to the CAO. Nothing was received. On June 2, 2021 a resident

expressed concern of the use of the Old Shore Road property for drying dulse therefore the CAO is bringing this matter forward again for some direction on the file. Councillor McCormick asked if this item could be referred to Committee of the Whole to allow time for the CAO to draft a list of conditions for the use of the property.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Saulnier that the CAO draft a list of conditions for the proposed use of the old Shore Road to be tabled at the Committee of the Whole Meeting for discussion.

Motion Carried.

The Second Avenue section from Mount Street to Church Street is now completed and open to traffic. This section of Second Avenue will foster residential development. Subdivisions have already occurred for three lots that front on Second Avenue. The CAO asked legal counsel to look into migrating the Town Property at PID 30378558 this is a piece of property that came over from the old Digby Common and legal is having difficulty in determining the description for the property and a survey of the lot is being recommended. The CAO has been in contact with surveyor DeWolfe and Morris for an estimate of the cost. The CAO is recommending that Council approve the survey of the property to determine clear description.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Turnbull and seconded by Councillor McCormick that Council proceed with the survey of PID # 30378558 with DeWolfe and Morse Surveying.

Motion Carried.

G.2 Digby Area Recreation Commission

The reports was distributed to the Council in the package. Council asked about the Community Garden are there still boxes available. Councillor Turnbull thought that the boxes were sold out however they have recently added more boxes. DARC is putting together an RFP for a community group that might be interested in taking over the splash pad project. This project will take lots of money to get the project started and ongoing operating costs in the future.

G.3 Committee of the Whole

There are several recommendations coming forward from the Committee of the Whole Meeting for Council consideration.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Saulnier and seconded by Deputy Mayor Bartlett that Council amend the Dog By-Law to amend the fee from an annual fee to a one-time fee of \$25.00.

Motion Carried.

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor Saulnier that a standing letter of support should grant opportunities arise for the purchase of trees.

Motion Carried.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that Council approve the following Capital Pre Approval for:

Storm Drainage Upgrades \$20,000.00

Crosswalk Signage \$20,000.00

Green Space Upgrades (Fishermen's Park and Loyalist Cemetery) \$4,000.00

Motion Carried.

The next recommendation has been amended from the proposed policy presented at the Committee of the Whole Meeting the staff met after the Committee of the Whole meeting to further discuss the policy. Staff felt that moving toward Option A or Option B after a trial period and then meet again and follow up. The revised policy excludes the CAO who will work independent as work allows and as time permits he will be able to participate when work schedules permit.

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor McCormick that Council adopt the Town Hall expanded hours and 4 day work week policy as presented.

Motion Carried.

Councillor McCormick expressed concern with the removal of the Town of Lunenburg from the calculation this might cause a slight decrease to the salary survey that was conducted by the CAO. Councillor McCormick would like have this revisited and to add back into the calculation of the Town of Lunenburg. Staff are working hard and that needs to be considered. Our biggest competitor is the Municipality of Digby and we need to consider the salary in the calculation as we can lose a lot of employees to our neighbour. Councillor McCormick would like to see this recalculated and bring those number back to the Committee of the Whole for further discussion.

G.4 Digby Area Tourism Association

The Digby Area Tourism has received notice for funding for summer students that is currently being advertised. The Digby Lights tour program has not currently had a lot of interest that will likely pick up once the travel restrictions lift.

G.5 Waste Check

Councillor Saulnier and Councillor McCormick were both unable to attend the Waste Check Meeting. Councillor Saulnier inquired about the Provincial Look off site on Shore Road there is no waste bins there. Department of Natural Resource's removed the bins the Town placed a bin there and we were asked to remove that bin they do not want any waste containers on that site.

H. CORRESPONDENCE

H.1 MP Chris d'Entremont-National 3 digit suicide prevention hotline

The letter is asking for Municipalities across Canada to consider passing a motion in order to make a three digit national suicide prevention hotline that consolidates all suicide crisis numbers in order to make the 988 number a reality so that this applies the pressure on the government and the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC).

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor Saulnier that, given the alarming rate of suicide in Canada constitutes a national health crisis, the Town of Digby calls on the government to take immediate action, in collaboration with our provinces, to establish a national suicide prevention hotline that consolidates all suicide crisis numbers into one easy to remember three-digit (988) hot-line that is accessible to all Canadians.

Motion Carried.

I. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

I.1 None.

J. NEW BUSINESS

J.1 Spending Authority and Business Continuity Budget 2021/22

The CAO has drafted this motion for Council approval for the purpose of providing spending authority and business continuity until a budget is approved.

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor McCormick that Council approve one-half of the Operating Budget for the 2020/21 in the amount of \$2,154,281 for the purpose of providing spending authority and business continuity in the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2021, and until a full Operating Budget is presented and approved by Council.

Motion Carried.

J.2 Annapolis County YMCA

Mayor Cleveland along with other representatives from other levels of government and interested parties on the affect that the Fundy YMCA will have on the community. There was an expression of interest that went out sometime ago. We currently support the DARC financially for about \$600,000 we are not likely in a position to help an outside organization.

J.3 Bear River First Nations

Mayor Cleveland has been speaking to Chief Potter at the flag lowering which they attended and took part in. First Nations would like to work with the Town to do some diversity work. Flying the First Nations flag has been discussed likely we will have to special order that flag.

J.4 Fishermen's Park

Councillor Saulnier received correspondence from a resident at Donald Bondy's apartment building who is looking to purchase a picnic table for Fishermen's Park. A lot of folks use the park to have their lunch and currently there is no tables there due to vandalism in the past. The plastic composite product which is much heavier currently we don't have any of those on hand but we may be able to borrow one from another location. The CAO can look into this.

J.5 Canada Day

Cindy O'Neil from DARC has applied for the funding for Canada Day through Heritage Canada and funding was approved. There has been some talk of boycotting Canada Day for this year with the recent discovery at the residential school of the native children. Typically this is such a social event it may be a challenge to just do a takeout food event. Perhaps we postpone to the fall and if restrictions lift we can try and do an event then. We will be able to make a better decision in the week ahead if restrictions begin to lift.

J.6 DRHS Student Memorial

An email request has come from several students at DRHS asking permission to place teddy bears on the waterfront in honor of the 215 children that were found in BC. Council would like to have a detail plan for how they would be able to adhere to Covid-19 regulations before allowing this to happen.

E.7 Affordable Housing

Councillor Saulnier spoke about gathering momentum for some affordable housing conversations in the Tri Counties. Mayor Cleveland will be meeting with Mayor and Wardens from the area and will have it added to an upcoming agenda.

K. IN CAMERA


K.1 None.

L. ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

Motion for adjournment was moved by Deputy Mayor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor Turnbull at 8:08 P.M.

Motion Carried.



Mayor Ben Cleveland



Clerk E. Tom Ossinger