

**DIGBY TOWN COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
Tuesday April 2, 2024  
Council Chambers**

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

**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 HEARING**

**B.1** None.

**C. AGENDA**

**C.1 Additions/Deletions**

One addition to the agenda under New Business I.3 Highway signs.

**C.2 Approval**

**Motion**

***Moved by Councillor Saulnier and seconded by Councillor McCormick that the Agenda for April 2, 2024, be approved as amended.***

**Motion Carried.**

**D. DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS**

**D.1** None.

**E. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**E.1** March 4, 2024

**Motion:**

***Moved by Deputy Mayor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor McCormick that the Minutes of March 4, 2024, be approved as presented.***

**Motion Carried.**

**E.2 March 4, 2024, Public Hearing**

**Motion:**

***Moved by Councillor Saulnier and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that the Minutes of the March 4, 2024, Public Hearing Minutes be approved as presented.***

**Motion Carried.**

**E.3 March 18, 2024, Special Council Meeting**

**Motion:**

***Moved by Deputy Mayor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor Saulnier that the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting of March 18, 2024, be approved as presented.***

**Motion Carried.**

**F. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**F.1 None.**

**G. REPORTS**

**G.1 Chief Administrative Officer Report**

The Chief Administrative Officer was presented. The New Commons consultants working with the Digby & Area Housing Coalition Society on the Siesta Project has been notified that the site plan in their amended DA Application needed to be revised as per the discussion at the PAC meeting they have responded that they have communicated with the architect to revise the site plan and aim to resubmit and should be coming forward at the next PAC Meeting. The Grant Coordinator position interview team have decided, and an offer was extended to Rob Hartmier who has accepted and will be starting mid April. The Western Counties Library has received bridge financing from the province for 2024/25 fiscal year in the amount of \$66,000 for the 2024/25 fiscal year. Proposed amendments to the MGA and Halifax Regional Municipality Charter & housing in the HRM Act through the Financial measures act are proposing a few amendments provided in the detailed report however our Municipal Advisor cautions that these are not 100% guaranteed to pass and still on at second reading and that they are not 100% confirmed to be passed by the NS Legislature. The Digby Fire Department has been brought forward that the oxygen tank compressor/tank filler at the fire hall is on its last legs. It is approximately 18 years old, so it is likely at the end of its life expectancy. To repair which is not a Guarantee to fix the problem would cost \$34,500 for a new unit the cost is \$48,000. The CAO has reached out to the district to discuss cost sharing for the replacement this piece of equipment is used by most of the fire departments in the district we are still awaiting a reply on the cost sharing. There will be a 16-to-25-week delivery time for a new unit so it will be necessary to order ASAP. The CAO has committed to continuing to look for sources of funding for the equipment.

**Motion:**

***Moved by Councillor Turnbull and seconded by Councillor Saulnier that Council approves the purchase of the Oxygen Compressor/Tank Filler in the amount of \$48,000.00 plus HST and we will continue to seek funding from other sources.***

**Motion Carried.**

## **G.2 Committee of the Whole Report**

There are three recommendations coming forward from the Committee of the Whole Meeting.

### **Motion:**

***Moved by Deputy Mayor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor Saulnier Council approve that the Second floor or the former Mount Street School project to renovate the upper level of the building and have six bachelor's apartments on hold until other funding opportunities have been Found and operational plans have been put into place, and that Council be open to review any proposals from outside sources to accomplish the goal of providing housing.***

**Motion Carried.**

### **Motion:**

***Moved by Councillor Saulnier and seconded by Deputy Mayor Bartlett that Council approves the entire roof at 143 First Avenue be replaced at a cost of \$5,300 plus HST plus contingency.***

**Motion Carried.**

98 Carleton Street property listing for the purpose of affordable housing once renovations are completed. The purpose of the sale is to create a primary residence for someone we perhaps should be speaking with the real estate company and discuss options for the listing of the property. Council decided to table the motion until seeking for information from the real estate.

### **Motion:**

***Moved by Councillor Saulnier and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that the 98 Carleton Street property recommendation be tabled to a future meeting.***

**Motion Carried.**

## **G.3 Digby Fire Committee Report**

The Chair said that it was a good meeting lots of talk with the Fire Department regarding the upcoming budget.

### **Motion:**

***Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Saulnier that Council accepts the Digby Fire Committee Report as presented.***

**Motion Carried.**

## **G.4 Request for decision-143 First Avenue**

This request is coming forward again tonight the last meeting it was discussed however other options for repair was discussed it was suggested by the CAO at the March 18, 2024, Committee of the Whole meeting that the furnace replacement request be tabled until alternative options can be sought. The new recommendation is coming forward to replace the oil-fired boiler with an electric boiler at 143 First Avenue.

### **Motion:**

***Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Deputy Mayor Bartlett that Council approves the expenditure of \$3,800 plus HST to replace the oil-fired boiler with an electric boiler at the rental unit at 143 First Avenue.***

**Motion Carried.**

## **H. CORRESPONDENCE**

### **H.1 Letter from Hon. John Lohr-March 28, 2024**

Minster Lohr sent correspondence to Mayors and Wardens regarding the creation of a new department of Emergency Management once established it is the intention of the new

department to lead, direct and support a coordinated, whole-of-government response to emergencies and transition to a culture of preparedness across the province. The province is also launching the Nova Scotia Guard which will be a group of individuals and organizations from across the province who will help communities during and after emergencies.

## **H.2 News Release-Nova Scotia Guard-New Department**

This item was discussed above.

## **H.3 Letter from Hon. John Lohr-Service Exchange Agreement**

Minister Lohr sent correspondence regarding the new Service Exchange Agreement. The new agreement comes into effect April 1, 2024, the Province will be making a historical annual investment of \$82 million dollars. The Director of Finance is currently working on the numbers that we can expect with the new Service Exchange. Mayor Cleveland spoke about other Municipal units drafting letters to Minister Lohr regarding the change to the Service Exchange Agreement. Council directed staff to draft a letter to Minister Lohr.

# **I. NEW BUSINESS**

## **I.1 Digby and Area Senior's Safety Society**

Digby and Area Senior Safety is currently fundraising for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2025. The Society is requesting \$22,000 from each of its funding partners. Councillor McCormick how sits on the board also spoke about the Provincial Commitment at the very least increase for inflation. Council discussed sending correspondence to the province.

### **Motion:**

***Moved by Councillor Saulnier and seconded by Councillor McCormick that Council approves the 2024/25 request for funding in the amount of \$22,000.00 pending approval from the other two finding sources.***

**Motion Carried.**

## **I.2 Spending Authority and Business Continuity Budget 2024-2025**

### **Motion:**

***Moved by Councillor Saulnier and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that Council approves one-half of the Operating Budget for 2023/24 in the amount of \$2,410,789 for the purpose of providing spending authority and business continuity in the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2024, and until a full Operating Budget is presented and approved by Council.***

**Motion Carried.**

## **I.3 Highway Signs**

The Highway signs as you enter town by the Kingfisher Motel and the KFC are looking terrible. This is the entry point into town the province should be aware. The CAO will also reach out to the Tony Harvey at Digby TIR office to make him aware.

### **Motion:**

***Moved by Councillor Saulnier and seconded by Deputy Mayor Bartlett that Council send correspondence to the Province regarding the Provincial Highway Signage on Highway 303.***

**Motion Carried.**

# **J. IN CAMERA**

## **J.1 None.**

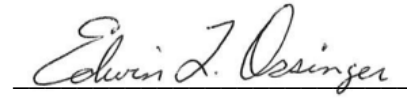
**K. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:**

***Motion for adjournment was moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Deputy Mayor Bartlett at 7:16 P.M.***

**Motion Carried.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk