

**DIGBY TOWN COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
January 6, 2025  
Council Chambers**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Mike Bartlett, Chair  
Deputy Mayor Paul Saulnier  
Councillor Ricke Foote  
Councillor William McCormick  
Councillor Shane Weir

**STAFF PRESENT:** Tom Ossinger, Chief Administrative Officer  
Leslie Brinton, Executive Assistant  
Rob Hartmier, Grant Coordinator

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

**B. PUBLIC Hearings**

**B.1** None

**C. AGENDA**

**C.1** Additions/Deletions

One addition to the agenda under In Camera J.1 Contracts

**C.2** Approval

**MOTION:**

***Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Deputy Mayor Saulnier that the agenda for January 6, 2025, be approved with one addition under In Camera J.1 Contracts.***

**Motion Carried**

**D. PRESENTATIONS**

**D.1 Digby Area Tourism Association – Karen Enright**

Karen wishes all a very happy new year. DATA is looking at being facilitator and creator of small business enterprises. This summer will be a 60-year anniversary of the CBC special on Maude Lewis. DATA wishes to do a festival called the “60 days of Maude Lewis”. May 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>. DATA suggested having artists come to the waterfront to show off works that have a special relation to Maude Lewis. Also hold “paint by Maude” classes. DATA building would have Maude items in there for viewing and sale. Looking at renting/leasing the movie Maude, not sure where or when to hold it. Looking to add directional signage

to Maude's gravesite. Formal opening with Mayor Bartlett and renaming water street "Maude Street" for the 60 days only. Looking for assistance and encouragement for these 60 days. Mayor also noted that it is 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Town incorporation. Councillor McCormick communicated about the Maude Lewis plays or something along those lines being created? Karen communicated that there has been communication out to the playwright about this possibility. Looking to have artists to have free access to waterfront and DATA would cover those costs. Would the town use the Public Works people to put up the flags, which is the only cost that would be put upon the town as well as Mayor Bartlett opening the 60 days of Maude.

#### **E. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

##### **E.1 December 2, 2024**

##### **MOTION:**

***Moved by Councillor Weir and seconded by Councillor Foote that the Meeting Minutes for December 2, 2024, be approved as presented.***

**Motion Carried**

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

**F.1** Digby Bargain Bin – Tax reduction policy to be tabled on January 20, 2025 COTW  
CAO has drafted the policy and will be presented to COTW

**F.2** Ocean 11 – Meeting with Bear River First Nation date to be determined

#### **G. REPORTS**

##### **G.1 Mayor Report**

Report is submitted with the meeting package. Any notes within the report that are in RED are for continued follow up.

##### **G.2 Chief Administrative Officer Report**

Report is submitted with the meeting package. Kings Transit meeting was not a positive meeting, and the CAO has less enthusiasm and optimism about the town being a partner/owner in Kings Transit. There is a new committee being created to investigate a Shelter for the Digby area. Confidential documents are placed on the cloud for council to review. Councillor Foote asked as to the issue with Kings Transit. CAO communicated that the committee on Kings transit is looking at having a dual committee with Valley Waste and Kings Transit, which is a waste of time for those outside the Valley Waste area, which the Town of Digby is not part of. Thus, there would be a large waste of time for those on the committee who are not part of Valley Waste. We are buyers of the service from Municipality of Digby now. There may be other options instead of Kings Transit. Councillor Foote wanted to know if there was any movement on an actual plan moving forward to better the transit. The CAO did not think there was any plan coming forward at this time. Councillor McCormick asked if the Grant Coordinator has investigated Public Transit Grants. The mayor asked if the district could pull their owned bus from Kings Transit and start their own transit and perhaps, we could link onto that idea. The CAO communicated that this was a possibility.

### **G.3 Committee of the Whole Report**

#### **MOTION:**

***Moved by Deputy Mayor Saulnier and seconded by Councillor McCormick that the Town of Digby Council support the application to the Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund (CHIF) for the Thomas Road Development Project and the Priority Resolution submitted as:***

***Whereas new housing development and the provision of drinking water, waste and storm water collection systems to foster such development are high on Councils list of priorities;***

***And whereas Council supports new residential unit development on un-serviced vacant land by offering to service vacant land.***

***And whereas Council has identified the opening and development of the Thomas Road area as a project to accomplish this priority.***

***And whereas funding of providing these services cannot be accomplished without funding from the other levels of government.***

***Be it therefore resolved the Town Council of the Town of Digby make the above-mentioned project a priority for the 2024/2025 Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund application.***

***And be it further resolved that the town of Digby Council commits funding for its share of the project.***

**Motion Carried**

#### **MOTION:**

***Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Deputy Mayor Saulnier that Council approves the purchase of a 2026 Peterbilt truck chassis in the amount of \$255,298.85 (including HST) from Peterbilt Atlantic in the 2024/2025 Capital Budget year.***

**Motion Carried**

#### **MOTION:**

***Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded Deputy Mayor Saulnier that the Council approve the purchase of a dump box, plow harness and heavy-duty trip edge reversible plow in the amount of \$178,191.92 (including HST) from Peterbilt Atlantic in the 2025/2026 Capital Budget year.***

**Motion Carried**

#### **G.4 Digby Area Recreation Commission Report**

Report is submitted with the meeting package. The main point that Deputy Mayor Saulnier pointed out is the continued issue with the theatre not always being available as the availability is dependent on the one and only technician. This is the same issue that has hampered the use of the theatre in the past.

#### **G.5 Waste Check Report**

Report is submitted with the meeting package. Main talk was about the budget. A few costs overruns but they were mainly due to vehicle maintenance/repairs issues.

#### **G.6 Planning Advisory Committee Report**

##### **MOTION:**

*Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Weir that the Council give first reading to the Digby Land Use By-Law Schedule A, Zoning Map, and that it be amended to rezone lands of Sangseok Park and Myungia Lee at King Street (PID #30380059) from Residential Low Density (RLD) to Residential Medium Density (RMD) as identified.*

**Motion Carried**

##### **MOTION:**

*Moved by Deputy Mayor Saulnier and seconded by Councillor Weir that the Council enter into a Development Agreement with the Digby Area Housing Coalition Society to permit the redevelopment of civic 81 Montague Row (PID #30229875) for the purposes of establishing 34-unit residential dwelling units, associated common use facilities and multi-purpose space as proposed in the application and associated Site Planning and Building details dated December 2, 2024.*

**Motion Carried**

#### **G.7 Digby Development Agency (Industrial Commission) Report**

Report is submitted with the meeting package. Financial statements were discussed and approved.

### **H. CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **H.1 Email from the Office of the MP**

CAO spoke to an email from this afternoon from Arnold Leblanc. Interested in meeting with Chris d'Entremont, MP, on Wednesday, February 19 at 4:15pm at Town Hall. Council agreed to meet him then.

**I. NEW BUSINESS**

**I.1 Request for decision – new backup generator project**

**MOTION:**

*Moved by Deputy Mayor Saulnier and seconded Councillor McCormick that Council approve the amount of \$732,142 in the 2025/2026 Capital Budget Year for the New Backup Generator Project. Which will be funded by the Municipal Capital Growth Program (MCGP), Town of Digby and Municipality of the District of Digby*  
Motion Carried

**MOTION:**

*Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Foote that Council award the New Backup Generator Project – Request for Proposal (RFP) to Able Electric in the amount of \$552,115 including HST.*  
Motion Carried

**I.2 Committee of the Whole – time change**

Mayor has asked that the COTW meeting be changed to 5pm for the February meeting. Policy will need to be changed at the February Council meeting to facilitate this change.

**I.3 Public Hearing Date – January 27, 2025. 18:00**

The first reading was tonight the next step will be to set a date for the upcoming public hearing it has been agreed to for January 27, 2025 at 18:00.

**J. IN CAMERA**

**J.1 Contracts**

**MOTION:**

*Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Weir that the meeting be moved to In-Camera for Contracts.*  
Motion Carried.

**MOTION:**

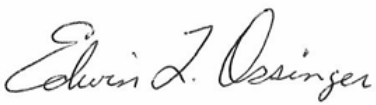
*Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Weir that the meeting be moved out of In-Camera for Contracts.*  
Motion Carried

**K. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:**

*Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Weir that there be no further business that the meeting be adjourned at 7:37pm.*  
Motion Carried

  
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Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk