

**TOWN OF DIGBY  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
June 20, 2022  
Council Chambers**

**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  
Ed McCormick, Director of Public Works  
Bruce Baxter, By-Law Enforcement  
Matthew Raymond, Director of Finance  
Kat Kovalenko, Community Development Coordinator

**REGRETS:**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Cleveland called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

**B. AGENDA**

**B.1 Additions/Deletions**

One addition to the Agenda under In Camera – Land Interest

**B.2 Approval**

**Motion:**

***Moved by Deputy Mayor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor Saulnier the Agenda for June 20, 2022 be approved as amended.***

**Motion Carried.**

**C. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

**C.1 Digby Area Christmas Daddies-Jackie Titus-Smith**

Digby and Area Christmas Daddies has come tonight to discuss the correspondence forwarded to Council discussing the Town of Digby possibly taking over the administration of the telethon and investments of the Digby/Annapolis Christmas Daddies. With the amount of history and investments and work that has been done to this point over the years they are not comfortable turning this over to the community. They are proposing

that the Town of Digby hire an employee for a few months of the year that could take over the telethon as a coordinator. The Salvation Army has agreed to assist with the distribution to families of the gifts and food hampers. The biggest challenges that they have would be to recruit talent for the show as well as the audience that they capture with Eastlink it is limited and it doesn't seem to always reach all the Digby and Annapolis area so an online component to the show might be helpful. Council asked if she had approached others in the community to see if there was interest and there is not any at this time. Last year the donations in the community is around \$15,000 and it is much needed. Jackie thanked Council for their time and if they require more information please reach out.

## **C.2 Literacy- Charlotte Sabean**

Charlotte Sabean is speaking tonight to Town Council and was speaking to the Municipal Council last week at the issues around literacy in the schools. This is the seconded time that Charlotte has come to speak to Council on this topic however there has been progress since the last time she meet with Council such as creating a literacy working group, speaking with the MLA, municipal council and Jared Purdy. However there is still lots of work to be done Charlotte is asked for Council to make Literacy a priority and advocate to the Department of Education to reframe funding and a needs based budget be put into place so that children in Digby area have the same opportunities as children in Halifax area. Charlotte would like Council to budget \$10,000 per year for private assessments to be completed in order to determine learning disabilities waiting for the school to do these assessments will take 7 years if we are lucky. Council will have further discussion on the request coming forward tonight. Charlotte thanked Council for the opportunity to come and speak.

## **D. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

### **D.1 May 16, 2022**

#### **Motion**

***Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Deputy Mayor Bartlett that the Minutes of May 16, 2022 be accepted as presented.***

**Motion Carried.**

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

### **E.1 None.**

## **F. STAFF REPORTS**

### **F.1 Chief Administrative Officer Report**

The planning department has issues three development permits in the month of May. The building department issued four building permits. The Fire Department has submitted fire reports from January to May of those reports they have responded to 23 calls in the Town during those 5 months. The Office of the CAO spoke the transfer station/HHW and public drop off facility the current agreement for the site was done in 2011 which is under the operating agreement with Digby Salvage and Disposal. The Municipality of Digby

administers the agreement with Digby Salvage and Disposal. At a recent meeting the Town CAO and Municipality CAO and Manager of Municipal Services along with Digby Salvage and Disposal met to discuss the possibility of increasing costs to run the facility with no increase in operating costs since 11 years ago it is something to consider. The increases reviewed and discussed will result in a yearly increase of \$17,140 the next steps will be to have the Municipality of Digby Manager of Municipal Services meet with Digby Salvage and Disposal to review the new contract and update the proposal. The Director of Public Works made application under the Community Works Program for a Digby Water Commission trades person we have received notification that funding in the amount of \$8,000 is granted for this project. The Director of Public Works has also made application under the Beautification and Streetscape program for the Green Spaces Upgrade project we have also received notification that we have been awarded \$14,750 toward this project. Application has also been submitted under the Small Business Energy Solutions for the heat pumps at the Fire Hall we have been notified that we have received 80% funding of the project which will install three heat pumps in the Fire Hall truck bays. The Earned Day off policy is now in effect and at the present time only one application has been submitted for the earned day off program. The new Community Development Coordinator began her role today the CAO welcomed Kat to the team.

## **F.2 Director of Public Works**

The Director of Public Works presented his report. The fountain at the Frank Mackintosh Park is now fully operational the lights on the fountain were not working and have since been fixed. The new park looks great and lots of hard work went into the park. The main lift station pump needs repair and the price to repair is over \$7,000 plus installation. We are still waiting for the line paint to arrive. We are now flying the flags on Admirals Walk and that would also include the Bear River First Nations flag we consulted them this is what they suggested that we fly. Mayor Cleveland has also spoke to Bear River First Nations regarding Canada Day and they are all for us moving ahead with celebrations. Discussion about a new park bench at the McBride Park would be a great addition there it looks great with flowers.

## **F.3 Director of Finance**

The Director of Finance report was presented. The operating budget was prepared and passed at the June 6 Council Meeting. Financial Statement Audit is planned for two weeks beginning on July 11 that will allow for ample time to have the financial statements finalized for the September 6 Council Meeting. The Employee pension plan advisors are recommending a change from the current provider of Sun life to Canada Life so that employees can take advantage of low investment fees. The Mount Street Capital project required that we file an information request to the UARB and those responses are now published on the website. The Asset Management initial meeting is being organized and the Director of Finance request dates from Council on their availability to attend the meeting June 29<sup>th</sup> from 9 to noon was determined to be the date and time.

#### **F.4 Special Constable**

##### **a) Dangerous or Unsightly Premises Report**

The report was reviewed by the Special Constable at 59 First Avenue complaint about rats in and around the apartment building an inspection was done and it was determined that too many black bags in the bins and tenants not separating the garbage the By Law officer has spoken to the property owner about the tenants not separating the garbage properly the owner is aware as Waste Check had been on site a few weeks prior. The property owner will speak to the tenants once again and the Town should replace the green bin as the rats have chewed the bottom of the cart at the property. The property at 129 King Street is being monitored for the grass not being mowed. Council asked the By Law Officer to revisit the property on Shore Road Council also asked about the construction of the privacy fence that was supposed to be installed there has this been done yet.

##### **b) Protective Services Report**

The report was reviewed. All 16 cameras are now up and operational. Parking violations for the month of May were 14 tickets in total 9 were violations and 5 warnings issued.

#### **G. CORRESPONDENCE**

##### **G.1 Shannon Stubbs, MP Shadow Minister for Rural Economic Development**

Mayor Cleveland spoke about the correspondence received if any member of Council wished they can respond to the letter.

#### **H. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **H.1 Nuisance Animals**

We are receiving more and more complaints about nuisance animals the only tool we have right now is for dogs we have no way to deal with any other animals. The CAO conducted some research to see what other units might be doing to deal with nuisance animals the Town of Truro has a By Law that deals with feeding of wild birds and animals this might be something that we can consider for the Town of Digby it would allow the By Law officer a tool to deal with folks who feed nuisance animals and then they tend to become issues with the neighbours. DNR does work with someone who will do the removal of the animals. The CAO also contacted DNR for a permit for a nuisance animal trapping at this time he is still waiting for a response. The CAO will draft the By Law and bring it forward for Council review.

##### **H.2 Former VIC Shore Road**

Mayor Cleveland would like to form a focus group committee to discuss the potential use for the Shore Road former VIC property this is a great property with lots of potential. Kat would like to sit on that Committee. Deputy Mayor Bartlett and Councillor Saulnier would like to sit on that Committee.

### **H.3 Emancipation Day**

Mayor Cleveland has been speaking to Brenda Francis she would like to know if the Town would like to be involved in an once day event for Emancipation day perhaps we can look at doing something on Shore Road at the former VIC or even the Downtown VIC.

The Brad Barton and Marvin Charles Pop Smith banners have not yet been installed where Would be a good location for these the band stand along Admirals Walk might be a good spot they could be mounted on the Band Stand.

## **I. IN-CAMERA**

### **I.1 Land Interest**

#### **Motion:**

*Moved by Councillor Saulnier and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that the Committee move to In Camera for Land Interest.*

**Motion Carried.**

#### **Motion:**

*Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that the Committee move out of In Camera.*

**Motion Carried.**

#### **Motion:**

*Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that the Committee give direction to staff to investigate the property at 78 Sydney Street for a potential purchase.*

**Motion Carried.**

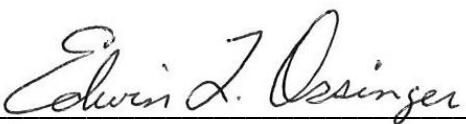
## **J. ADJOURNMENT**

#### **Motion:**

*Moved by Councillor Turnbull and seconded by Deputy Mayor Bartlett that the meeting be adjourned as there is no further business at 8:24 PM.*

**Motion Carried.**

  
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Mayor

  
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Clerk