

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ATTENDENCE****1.1 Roll Call/Regrets**

Warden Jimmy MacAlpine called the January 27, 2020 Council session of the Municipality of the District of Digby to order at 6:00 pm. The meeting was held in the Municipal Council Chambers.

The following Councillors were present: Warden Jimmy MacAlpine, Deputy Warden Linda Gregory, Councillor Matthew Ross, Councillor George Manzer and Councillor David Tudor

Staff present: Jeff Sunderland, Chief Administrative Officer, Tyler Pulley, Manager of Municipal Services and Pat Stevens, Executive Assistant, who took the minutes of the meeting

**1.2 Pause to Seek Guidance**

Warden MacAlpine welcomed everyone and asked that they pause to seek guidance for the meeting.

**1.3 Reading of Mission Statement**

Warden MacAlpine read the Municipality's mission statement.

**2. ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROCEDURAL ISSUES****2.1 Approval of Agenda-Additions/Deletions**

**MOVED and seconded that the agenda for January 27, 2020 be approved as amended with the addition of Business Items 5.7 Salmon Cages, 5.8 Southwest African Heritage Month Dinner and 5.9 Letter for financial support.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**2.2 Delegations/Presentations**

a) David Cvet, The Atalanta Hospice Society

**MOVED and seconded that David Cvet come before Council to present.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

David Cvet gave an in-depth overview on the Atalanta Hospice Project in Cornwallis Park. This project is for a 5-bed residential hospice facility to be built with a residential modular design. The catchment area for the hospice will be the Municipalities of Annapolis, Digby and Clare. There will be no time limit on a stay at the hospice and to be placed in the facility will just be by placing a phone call.

The Society has raised its first \$100,000 of its proposed \$500,000.

The Halifax hospice is operational while the Kentville hospice is still under construction and is attached to the hospital.

Warden MacAlpine advised that anyone can join as a member of the Atalanta Hospice Society for \$50 annually.

Warden MacAlpine thanked Mr. Cvet for his presentation.

**2.3 Approval of Minutes of November 25, 2019**

**MOVED and seconded that the minutes from Council of November 25, 2019 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**2.4 Unfinished Business from Minutes of November 25, 2019**

a) Second and final reading of the Tax Exemption By-Law for Digby Town and Municipal Housing Corporation

**MOVED and seconded the approval of the second and final reading of the Tax Exemption By-Law 2019-02 under the authority of The Act to Amend Chapter 80 of the Acts of 1975, An Act to Exempt from Taxation the Property of the Digby Town and Municipal Housing Corporation in the Town of Digby and the Municipality of Digby.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

## 2.5 CAO Report

### a) Meeting Reminders

Warden MacAlpine went over the meeting dates/reminders.  
Council Manzer unavailable to attend the Feb 10<sup>th</sup> COTW meeting and Deputy Warden Gregory may be late on the February 3<sup>rd</sup> By-Law & Policy meeting.

### b) Action Items from Previous Meetings

There was a letter sent to thank Shirley Robar for her years of service at the Bear River & Area Community Health Clinic.

### c) Update on Capital Projects 2019-2020

### d) Financial Report

#### i) Payables

**MOVED and seconded that the list of payables for November 2019 in the amount of \$483,089.13 and December 2019 in the amount of \$456,590.53 be approved.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### ii) Income and Expense Report

**MOVED and seconded that the Income and Expense Report for November and December 2019 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

## 3. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES ITEMS/UPDATE

3.1 The update on the Strategic Priorities Work Plan was circulated in the package.

## 4. STANDING COMMITTEE ITEMS

### 4.1 By-Law & Policy

#### 1) FIN-2500-01 Tax Collection Policy

**MOVED and seconded the approval of the FIN-2500-01 Tax Collection Policy.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### 2) FIN-2500-02 Municipal Debt Management Policy

**MOVED and seconded the approval of the FIN-2500-02 Municipal Debt Management Policy.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### 3) FIN-2500-04 Non-Municipal Borrowing Policy

**MOVED and seconded the approval of the FIN-2500-04 Non-Municipal Borrowing Policy.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

### 4.2 COTW

#### 1) Request for Proposal Kings Transit

**MOVED and seconded the approval of awarding the Request for Proposal for three buses to the highest scoring proponent, City View Bus Sales and Service.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

## 5. BUSINESS ITEMS

### 5.1 Resolution to Borrow

**MOVED and seconded that the Chief Administrative Officer hereby be authorized to borrow on behalf of the Municipality of the District of Digby from the Bank of Nova Scotia from time to time by way of promissory note a sum or sums not exceeding at any one time two million dollars.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

### 5.2 NSFM Conference Session Topics

Two topics to be added to the Fall Session of the NSFM Conference are conflict of interest and more use of electronics, such as social media.

5.3 Epilepsy Association of the Maritimes

**MOVED and seconded to wear purple ribbons throughout the month of March, at the March Council meeting and March 26th in honour of Epilepsy Awareness Month and a picture is to be taken and forwarded to the Epilepsy Association of the Maritimes to be put on their Website and Facebook page.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

5.4 Solid Waste Tender Recommendation

**MOVED and seconded that the Solid Waste Collection Contract be awarded to Digby Salvage and Disposal for the amount of the five-year bid of \$2,793,660.90 plus HST.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

5.5 Senior Safety funding request

**MOVED and seconded to forward the Senior Safety funding request, to increase the contribution from the Municipality of Digby, to the Budget Process.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

5.6 Dissolution of Digby Annapolis Development Corporation

**MOVED and seconded to approve the dissolution of the Digby Annapolis Development Corporation as per section 5 of the Intermunicipal agreement signed with the Municipality of the County of Annapolis.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

5.7 Salmon Cages

**MOVED and seconded that Council continue to inform the Provincial Government over concerns and opposition of the residents for open pen fish farming in St. Mary's Bay.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**COUNCILLOR TUDOR OPPOSED**

Warden MacAlpine gave an in-depth overview of the meeting with the Honourable Keith Colwell, Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

Councillor Tudor stated that he opposed the motion and advised that he had also attended the meeting with the Honourable Keith Colwell, Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture. He stated that the message he received was that those living and working on the Bay must trust Halifax on the fisheries. He stated that he went to Halifax to represent the people and he is doing so and saying no to Salmon pens.

Deputy Warden Gregory seconded Councillor Tudor's motion to put it on the floor for discussion. She advised that during the meeting with the Honourable Keith Colwell, Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Council was advised that the decision for the Salmon Cages in the St. Mary's Bay would be from the Province and the Municipality would have no say. She also advised the audience that they were at the Council meeting to listen and be respectful of the Councillors.

Councillor Manzer advised that there is a silent majority in the Municipality that are for the salmon cage industry. He stated that there would be jobs in boat repair, boat building and fish processing. Councillor Manzer is in support of sustainable fisheries.

**MOVED and seconded for Council to oppose the further expansion of the salmon cage industry, in the St. Mary's Bay.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**WARDEN MACALPINE OPPOSED**

**COUNCILLOR ROSS OPPOSED**

Councillor Ross stated that he has seen first hand the decline in population in the area over the last 20 to 25 years and the strain that it has put on local businesses to survive in the area.

He stated that after meeting with the Honourable Keith Colwell, Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture he is in favor of sustainable aquaculture for the Municipality. He was satisfied and relieved with the answers received pertaining to the issues brought forward to Council. The province has taken better action since 2015 and have rewritten the regulations. They have staff and equipment on hand to investigate and the means to enforce and fine companies who do not comply with the safe and sustainable environment rules that are in most cases the toughest in the country and the world. The science that has gone into the study of the Bay is extensive, precise, clear and sustainable. These facts alone cannot be ignored along with the jobs created by the aquaculture sector and the local industry-based companies that may be waiting to expand and create their own jobs. The regulations and scientific research that has been done and is continued to be done and updated can be seen at [novascotia.ca/fish/](http://novascotia.ca/fish/).

Warden MacAlpine advised the audience that Council has the right to talk back and forth to each other regarding the motion on the floor. He stated that he respects their concerns.

He advised that it is hard to get ahead in the Municipality as there are not a lot of good jobs in the area. He is in favor of sustainable industry as employment is needed in the area.

Councillor Tudor left the meeting at 7:07 pm and returned at 7:19 pm.

#### 5.8 Southwest African Heritage Month Dinner

**MOVED and seconded to purchase a table of eight for \$160 to the Southwest African Heritage Month Dinner on February 22.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### 5.9 Letter regarding financial support for Bella Johnston and Kenzie Vantassell

CAO Sunderland is to verify that the funding request falls within the realm of the Youth Grant Policy and take to the next COTW meeting.

### 6. INFORMATION ITEMS

#### 6.1 Correspondence

Council discussed the correspondence received this month.

#### 6.2 General Information Items

Council discussed the general information received this month.

Council has been invited to attend Nova Scotia Heritage Day, Monday, February 17, 2020 for a Museum Social with Guest Speaker Allister Barton, who will take them through the rise and fall of Brinley Town and the establishment of Jordantown.

Scotts Canada

**MOVED and seconded to forward the information from Scotts Canada – 2020 Gro for good Grants initiative in support of Community Gardens and Green Spaces across Canada to all Village Commissions and the Board of Trade in the Municipality of Digby.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### 6.3 Advisory Committees Minutes/Reports

##### a) Heritage Advisory

July 2019 minutes were circulated.

##### b) Joint RCMP

October 2019 minutes were circulated.

Warden MacAlpine met with the Mayor and CAO of the Town of Digby regarding the reduction of a member.

- c) Western Regional Housing Authority  
The 2019 annual report was circulated.

#### 6.4 Other Council Committees

- a) Digby Area Tourism Association  
November 2019 meeting notes were circulated.

#### 6.5 Joint Intermunicipal Committees Minutes/Reports

- a) Digby Area Recreation Commission  
The 2020 Conference information, October 2019 minutes, January 2019 AGM minutes, Recreation Director January report and the Facility Manager and Active Living Coordinator's December reports were circulated. Sharon MacAlpine had her first meeting as recreation director. The cost of meals for senior festivities went from \$2 to \$5. DARC still offers free skating.
- b) Digby Municipal Fire Association  
September 2019 minutes were circulated. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday night.
- c) Kings Transit  
A ridership update and Microtransit Applications study were circulated. \$125,000 was awarded from the government to go towards the new buses. Kings Transit received a \$5,000 credit from Cummins Diesel which will go towards bus repairs.
- d) Waste Check  
November 2019 minutes, November Waste Check Connections and December 2019 meeting notes were circulated. There is a meeting scheduled for February. They are trying to reduce the amount of plastic in the green carts with public awareness.
- e) WREN  
The Q2 2019-2020 report was circulated.

#### 6.6 Outside Boards/Committees Minutes/Reports

- a) Digby Area Tourism Association  
November 2019 meeting notes were circulated.
- b) Upper Clements Park  
December 2019 minutes were circulated.

#### 6.7 Councillor District Activity Report

Councillor Tudor gave an update to Council on various district functions he attended such as raising funds, at \$1,000 per person, to aid six constituents in having their teeth fixed, aided four people in finding housing, provided transportation for shut-ins, assisted two people for immigration and a mental health care meeting on the island.

Councillor Manzer gave an update to Council on various district functions he attended such as the CERMAQ meeting at the Digby Fire Hall and met with the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

Councillor Ross gave an update to Council on various district functions he attended such as helping with the Santa breakfast at the Elementary school, dealt with road concerns and met with the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

Deputy Warden Gregory gave an update to Council on the various district functions she attended such helping with the Santa breakfast, the Senior get together, the New Year's Levee, a family meeting with constituents that needed help, assisted in obtaining funding from the Bethany Bargain Bin for someone and met with the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

Warden MacAlpine gave an update to Council on the various district functions he attended such as attending the Digby Ground Search and Rescue awards dinner and met with the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

**7. IN CAMERA ITEMS**

7.1 Personnel Issue

**MOVED and seconded to have a five-minute recess, at 7:45 pm, before going In Camera for a Personnel Issue.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Regular session resumed.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED and seconded that the meeting adjourn at 8:11 pm.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

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Warden Jimmy MacAlpine

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Jeff Sunderland, CAO/Clerk