

**DIGBY TOWN COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
Monday December 4, 2023  
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**

None.

**C.2 Approval**

**Motion**

***Moved by Deputy Mayor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that the Agenda for December 4, 2023, be as approved as presented.***

**Motion Carried.**

**D. DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS**

**D.1 Western REN- PACE Program Brenda LaGrandeur and Julien Boyle**

The Western REN is here today represented by Brenda LaGrandeur along with Julien Boyle to Provide an overview to Council on the PACE Program. Brenda provided an update on her new position with the Western REN this position was formerly held by Evan Nemeth. The position focus is around energy and the information being done around the supply and limitation of the power grid. A regional PACE program was suggested from a study that was conducted by the WREN and this lead to the connection with Julien Boyle and his company they have a team of energy folks who work for him to assist folks in the complicated energy journey. A funding application has been

submitted through the NSFM for the Sustainable Communities fund to support the program. Switch PACE is the company that the program will be administered through. Switch PACE is a Nova Scotia based company they are leaders in the industry and have a dedicated employee base of thirteen employees and to date have helped seven municipalities and have secured millions of dollars in funding. The commitment from the Town of Digby would be around \$20,000 a year. The spring of 2024 could be a potential launch of the program. The PACE program is low cost, low risk and will work closely with us to support the program. The potential for saving will outweigh the cost for borrowing even with a modest interest rate on the borrowing. Council agreed that there is a need out there and programs that are currently out there are hard to navigate and obtain without some sort of help in applying. Currently the Municipality of Digby has a program through efficiency one. Currently there are four municipal units in the area signed up under this program. Council thanked Brenda and Julian for their presentation and look forward to seeing what can happen.

**E. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**E.1 November 6, 2023**

**Motion:**

***Moved by Councillor Saulnier and seconded by Councillor McCormick that the Minutes of November 6, 2023, 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 CAO spoke regarding the Marketing Levy By Law one was a typo on the original one distributed and the start date of the new by law has been amended to February 1 of 2024 we will be repealing our original by law and implementing a new by law. A MOU agreement between the town and the Archdiocese of Halifax has been drafted and sent to the parties for review. Municipal Capital Growth Program application is being prepared by staff for the backup generators for Town Hall and three wastewater lift stations.

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

There are two recommendations coming forward from Committee of the Whole.

**Motion:**

***Moved by Councillor Saulnier and seconded by Deputy Mayor Bartlett that the Council give first reading to the Marketing and Promotions Levy By law as amended with a start date of February 1, 2024.***

**Motion Carried.**

**Motion:**

***Moved by Councillor Turnbull and seconded by Councillor McCormick that Council approve the Town Staff Gift Card Policy as presented.***

**Motion Carried.**

### **G.3 Digby Area Recreation Commission**

The recreation reports were distributed in the package. Ice rental are up it would seem that more Senior's groups are using the ice. The splash park set up is now completed.

### **G.4 Waste Check Report**

EPR will come into effect in January we will be opting in with Waste check doing the work on our behalf. In the Province of New Brunswick, they are increasing the return rate to ten cents on beverage containers is this something that we should be doing here perhaps we should consider drafting a letter of support for an increase here in Nova Scotia.

## **H. CORRESPONDENCE**

### **H.1 Fidelis House Society**

Fidelis House is running their annual campaign we should draft correspondence to Fidelis House Regarding the process under the annual community grant program.

### **H.2 Honorable Pablo Rodriguez correspondence**

There has been lots of correspondence sent to the Minister of Transportation from industry users and neighbouring Municipalities along with concerned citizens. A copy of the letter that Mayor Cleveland drafted to the Minister was also included. The importance of the ferry to the area is vital to the trucking industry. Councillor McCormick suggested that we should be engaging with the Province of NS and NB as well as the Federal Government to seek a solution for times such as this when no replacement ferry is available.

## **I. NEW BUSINESS**

### **I.1 Event Community Breakfast**

An alternative event to the New Year's Levee has been discussed however no firm commitment for a date or time for such event. This is something that can be discussed at the Committee level at a future meeting. The regulations around food handling are changing and it will require everyone to be food handling certified.

### **I.2 Joint Council Meeting with the District of Digby**

The CAO received correspondence from the district they have officially passed a motion to set up a Joint Council Meeting in January two dates have been proposed January 16 or January 30. Council was for January 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM at the Municipal Office.

### **I.3 Priority Resolution funding application-MCGP**

The application for the MCGP fund is requiring a priority resolution for the application for the generators for the lift stations and town hall.

#### **Motion:**

***Moved by Councillor Saulnier and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that***

***WHEREAS, the Town of Digby recognizes the critical importance of climate change adaptation in safeguarding essential infrastructure;***

***WHEREAS, the Municipal Capital Growth Program offers funding opportunities to support climate change adaptation projects;***

***WHEREAS, the Town of Digby aims to enhance resilience and ensure the continuity of essential services;***

***WHEREAS, the installation of backup generators for four wastewater lift stations and one backup generator for the Town Hall to support REMO operations is identified as a priority adaptation measure;***

***WHEREAS, the reliable operation of wastewater lift stations is crucial for public health and environmental protection;***

***WHEREAS, the Town Hall serves as a central hub for emergency response and coordination during extreme weather events, making a backup generator essential for REMO (Regional Emergency Management Office) operations;***

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:***

- 1. The Town of Digby hereby submits an application to the Municipal Capital Growth Program under the Climate Change Adaptation Section for funding to install backup generators for four wastewater lift stations and one backup generator for the Town Hall to support REMO operations.***
- 2. The Town Council expresses its commitment to funding its share of the costs associated with the installation of the aforementioned backup generators, in accordance with the program guidelines and requirements.***
- 3. The Chief Administrative Officer is authorized to sign and submit all necessary documents related to the application, and to act on behalf of the Town in all matters pertaining to the Municipal Capital Growth Program.***
- 4. The Town Council acknowledges the significance of this climate change adaptation initiative in protecting the health, safety, and well-being of our community, and urges the prompt review and approval of this application.***

**Motion Carried.**

#### **F.4 Doctors**

Mayor Cleveland picked up a new doctor at the airport that currently gives us six doctors you can contact the clinic now and you be able to get an appointment or attend a walk in clinic. The province recently announced they will be limiting travel nurses this could cause a shortage to our area. Mayor Cleveland discussed a new program called happy pad that is a company who is working with the province to find and vet rental place in the province.

#### **J. IN CAMERA**


**J.1 None.**

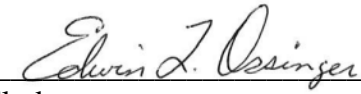
**K. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:**

*Motion for adjournment was moved by Councillor Saulnier and seconded by Councillor McCormick at 7:10 P.M as there was no further business.*

**Motion Carried.**

  
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Mayor

  
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Clerk