

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2017 @ 4:30 P.M.
REGULAR MONTHLY COUNCIL
GUYSBOROUGH MUNICIPAL OFFICE**

Warden Vernon Pitts called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

17-03-28795

Warden Vernon Pitts
Deputy Warden Sheila Pelly
Councillor Miles MacDonald
Councillor Janet Peitzsche
Councillor Rickey McLaren
Councillor Fin Armsworthy

OTHERS PRESENT

Barry Carroll, CAO
Gary Cleary, Deputy CAO
Ashley Cunningham, Municipal Clerk
Bruce MacKeen, Municipal Solicitor

REGRETS

Councillor Neil Decoff
Councillor Blair George

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

17-03-28796

MOVED: Councillor Fin Armsworthy
SECONDED: Deputy Warden Sheila Pelly
MOTION: **THAT** Council approve the Agenda as presented.
MOTION CARRIED

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 8, 2017 REGULAR
COUNCIL**

17-03-28797

MOVED: Deputy Warden Sheila Pelly
SECONDED: Councillor Fin Armsworthy
MOTION: **THAT** Council approve the minutes of the February 8, 2017 Regular Council meeting as presented with no noted errors or omissions.
MOTION CARRIED

INTO CLOSED SESSION

17-03-28798

MOVED: Councillor Fin Armsworthy
SECONDED: Councillor Janet Peitzsche
MOTION: **THAT** Council proceed into Closed Session.
MOTION CARRIED

LEGAL/MULGRAVE DISSOLUTION

OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

17-03-28799

MOVED: Councillor Miles MacDonald
SECONDED: Councillor Fin Armsworthy
MOTION: **THAT** Council proceed into Open Session.
MOTION CARRIED

REJECTION OF LETTER OF INTENT, MULGRAVE DISSOLUTION

17-03-28800

MOVED: Councillor Miles MacDonald
SECONDED: Councillor Janet Peitzsche
MOTION: **THAT** the revised Letter of Intent received from the Department of Municipal Affairs on March 1, 2017, regarding an agreement on the dissolution of the Town of Mulgrave and amalgamation with the Municipality of the District of

Guysborough is not acceptable to the Municipality of the District of
Guysborough;

AND FURTHER THAT the Municipality will move forth to contest the
amalgamation of Mulgrave with the Municipality of the District of Guysborough
at the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board Hearing scheduled to begin on
March 20, 2017.

MOTION CARRIED

Warden Pitts read the following public statement:

Today, the Council for the Municipality of the District of Guysborough has rejected a 'Letter of Intent' and the terms contained within, as proposed by the Dept. of Municipal Affairs on March 1, 2017. The Municipality will now move forth to contest the amalgamation of the Town of Mulgrave with our Municipality at a Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB) Hearing scheduled to begin on Monday, March 20, 2017.

Infrastructure studies have been completed by qualified consultants for the Municipality and those have been filed with the NSUARB in advance of the hearing. Those studies show that the infrastructure deficit in Mulgrave is more than \$35 Million. The financial offer contained in the 'Letter of Intent' is inadequate and would not be able to address this significant infrastructure deficit. Other issues remain that have not been resolved to the satisfaction of the Municipality. These include the pending closure of the school and possible future disposition of the building; the inadequate solution to the Province taking over Route 344 that runs through the Town; and the ongoing issues with the new water treatment plant that have been unresolved, plus the escalating water rates paid by residents.

We do understand the financial restraints that the Province faces and we respect their position in this matter. The staff with the Department of Municipal Affairs have been very professional in our dealings with them.

We also have the greatest respect for members of the Mulgrave Town Council and for the residents of Mulgrave. We currently provide waste collection and planning services to the Town and we promote the Town in economic and tourism circles. We will continue to support the Town of Mulgrave in any way possible.

This is a difficult but necessary decision for Guysborough Municipal Council. Our first responsibility is to the residents and ratepayers of the Municipality, and there is no way that we could accept the significant financial and environmental liabilities associated with this potential Amalgamation. When the NSUARB Hearing proceeds, we will vigorously protect the interests of the Municipality.

We will have no further comment on the matter at this time, out of respect for the Mulgrave Town Council, the Department of Municipal Affairs, and the process that will unfold.

For further information please contact Barry Carroll, CAO at bcarroll@modg.ca or (902) 533-3705 ext. 228

DELEGATION

No Delegations

BUSINESS ARISING

NEW BUSINESS

COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

No recommendations from Committee of the Whole

HOME MANAGEMENT BOARD

No meeting, nothing to report.

EASTERN REGION SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

No meeting, nothing to report.

CHEDABUCTO LIFESTYLE STEERING COMMITTEE

Nothing to report.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE

Nothing to report.

GALA

17-03-28801

Councillor McLaren stated that he has been reappointed to the Board in place of Councillor Armsworthy. He is waiting for a date for the next meeting.

WASTE MANAGEMENT LIAISON COMMITTEE

No meeting, nothing to report.

HOME SUPPORT BOARD

No meeting, nothing to report.

LIBRARY BOARD

17-03-28802

Councillor MacDonald stated that he attended the February meeting of the Library Board and the main discussion was regarding the wait for word from the Provincial Government on funding for the Library Board. He stated that things are going well at both libraries in the Municipality.

MOVED: Deputy Warden Sheila Pelly

SECONDED: Councillor Rickey McLaren

MOTION: **THAT** Council approve the Library Board Report as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

EASTERN STRAIT REGIONAL ENTERPRISE NETWORK

17-03-28803

Councillor MacDonald stated that the LOC met last week here in Guysborough in the Chambers. He stated that the main topic was regarding the joining of Pictou County with our REN. He stated that consensus seemed to be that members want to make the existing REN more efficient and organized before adding another area.

MOVED: Councillor Miles MacDonald

SECONDED: Councillor Fin Armsworthy

MOTION: **THAT** the Eastern Strait Regional Enterprise Network report be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

CANSO ARENA BOARD

17-03-28804

Councillor Peitzsche stated that the Board met last evening and it was a very positive meeting. She stated that the commissioners as well as management are pleased with how the year has gone and are awaiting financials as well as seeking new board members. She stated that the next meeting is on April 4th.

MOVED: Councillor Miles MacDonald

SECONDED: Councillor Rickey McLaren

MOTION: **THAT** Council approve the Canso Arena Board Report as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

ANY OTHER COMMITTEES OR BOARDS

ANYTHING BY MEMBERS

FUTURE MEETING DATES

- March 15th @ 4:30 pm Committee of the Whole
- April 5th @ 4:30 pm Committee of the Whole
- April 12th @ 4:30 pm Council

ADJOURNMENT

17-03-28805

MOVED: Councillor Janet Peitzsche

MOTION: **THAT** the March 8, 2017 Regular Monthly Council meeting stand adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED (5:20 p.m.)

WARDEN

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

DATE