

APPROVED – JUNE 11, 2012

# Council Advisory Committee

## MINUTES

### May 14, 2012

#### **PRESENT**

Mayor David Corkum, Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl, Councilor Tony Bentley, Councilor Bernie Cooper, Councilor Bill Boyd, Councilor Eric Bolland (arrived at 1:40 p.m.), Solicitor Peter Muttart, CAO Mark Phillips and Town Clerk Carol Harmes

Also present: Finance Director Debra Crowell, Chief of Police Mark Mander, Director Bev Gentleman and Town Engineer Fred Whynot

#### **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Mayor David Corkum called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and CAO Mark Phillips reported that all members of Council were present except Councilor Nola Folker-Hill (who was attending her children's graduation) and Councilor Eric Bolland (who was expected to be a bit late) and all directors, Solicitor Peter Muttart, Town Clerk Harmes and himself, as CAO.

#### **NOTE**

*"Points from Discussion" below show various comments made by individual councilors during debate. They do not necessarily represent the opinion of the group, nor do they always reflect accurate information.*

#### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

It was moved by Councilor Bernie Cooper and seconded by Councilor Tony Bentley

**that the agenda be approved with the addition of:**

***7(e) Meeting Attendance***

***7(f) Jobs Leaving Kentville***

***7(g) VON Request***

***8(a) Letter – Roger Cameron***

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **PRESENTATION**

##### **(a) VON (Kathleen Hull)**

Kathleen Hull, the Manager of Community Support for the VON, presented a request for continued funding to offset the costs associated with the services they provide. The letter previously received by Council outlined specific programs that are offered to the public, many of which are provided through volunteered work hours and travel costs. The number of Kentville participants is expected to increase over the coming year and with it, there will be cost increases. She added that Town residents represent about 40%

APPROVED – JUNE 11, 2012

of the meals delivered to homes; the Lunch Bunch project at St. Peter's Church sees 90 participants on occasion; and the series of health and wellness clinics and workshops continue to be well attended.

She noted that although the Town commits an annual amount of \$500 to their service, the VON would appreciate if that amount could be doubled to \$1,000.

Ms. Hull was advised that Council has just dealt with grants to organizations as part of its budget deliberations, and that in future years such requests should be made earlier in the year.

*(Note: Council agreed to discuss the request under "New Business" later on the agenda.)*

**APPROVAL OF THE  
MINUTES**

**(a) Minutes of April 10, 2012**

It was moved by Councilor Bill Boyd and seconded by Councilor Bernie Cooper

**that the Minutes of April 10, 2012 be approved as  
circulated.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**BUSINESS ARISING  
FROM MINUTES/OLD  
BUSINESS**

**(a) none**

**DEPARTMENTAL  
REPORTS AND  
RECOMMENDATIONS**

**(a) Finance**

**(i) Director's Report**

Director Debra Crowell noted some highlights from the department:

- The 4<sup>th</sup> quarter billing is due May 24.
- Interim tax bills are due May 31, 2012
- Work continues on year-end processes, with the audit scheduled for May 22.
- Both the Sanitary Sewer Area Service and Water Commission expect to post a surplus this year.
- Following three budget meetings, the 2012-13 tax rates and Capital Investment Plan have been prepared.

In addition, Director Crowell reported that the budget process has been held recently, and therefore, the schedules relating to Revenue and Expenditures have not been included, as the Operating Budget has not yet been approved. Also, the Summary of Outstanding Taxes is not included because the due date for payment is not until May 31, however, this tax levy amounts to \$4,007,100.

APPROVED – JUNE 11, 2012

Schedule D (Sanitary Sewer Area Service) reports that 100% of its budget is consumed, and is currently reporting a surplus of \$8,016.

With the Perpetual Investment Fund, she noted that investments total \$12.97 million at cost, and attached a breakdown for clarification.

Following a review of each account, it was moved by Councilor Bill Boyd and seconded by Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl

**that the report from the Director of Finance be received.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**(ii) Proposed Operating Budget 2012-13**

Director Debra Crowell reported that the financial plan for the 2012-2013 Operating Budget is a balanced budget totalling \$11,614,400, an increase of 2.4% over last year's budget.

She outlined the process undertaken in the budgetary project, noting that several major drivers impact the operational costs of the Town, and stated that the proposed budget contains no new programs or enhancements, although it does maintain the traditionally high standards of service delivery, and some relief of financial pressure to the commercial sector.

A report outlining the mandatory expenses, the fixed expenses, controllable expenses, sources of revenue, assessment information and the budget summary, lead to Director Crowell's recommendation to adopt the General Tax Rate (with a 0% increase) and the Commercial Tax Rate (with a .3% decrease).

Therefore, it was moved by Councilor Bill Boyd and seconded by Councilor Eric Bolland

***Recommendation to  
Town Council***

**that a recommendation be made to Town Council that the 2012-13 Operating Budget for the Town of Kentville (Appendices A and B) be approved as follows:**

<b>Revenue</b>	<b>\$11,614,400</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>\$11,614,400</b>
<b>General Tax Rate</b>	<b>\$1.75 and 2/5 cents/\$100 of assessed value</b>

**and further**

**that the following proposed tax rates for the year April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013 be ratified: (figures rounded slightly)**

APPROVED – JUNE 11, 2012

	Per \$100
<b>Residential</b>	<b>\$1.36 and 2/5¢</b>
<b>Commercial (incl. BO phase out)</b>	<b>\$3.47 and 1/5¢</b>
<b>Fire area</b>	<b>\$0.05¢</b>
<b>Hydrant area</b>	<b>\$0.08 and 1/5¢</b>
<b>Total Residential</b>	<b>1.49 and 2/3¢</b>
<b>Total Commercial (incl. BO phase out)</b>	<b>3.60 and 2/3¢</b>

**MOTION CARRIED**

Points from Discussion

- This lowered commercial tax rate may attract more businesses to Town, which will help to maintain the current residential rates.
- Staff and Council should be congratulated for working towards reducing the commercial tax.
- Kentville is in a pretty good financial position compared to some towns, however, the effort to eliminate the CAPped assessment must continue.

**(iv) Proposed Capital Budget 2012-13**

Director Deb Crowell reported that capital investment priorities have been set to ensure that the Town grows in a responsible manner and that projects such as the replacement of aging infrastructure and new development are considered.

In her presentation, she expounded upon the process undertaken, the break-down of the proposed capital investment plan, the requirements of the current year (2012-13) and the highlights identified. She indicated the funding sources available, the nature and type of projects, and noted that these would amount to \$2.13m.

As required by provincial legislation, she identified the types of projects and the funding available for future years (2013-14; 2014-15; 2015-16 and 2016-17). This included information on future projects and their costs, and future funding sources and their costs, along with information on debt service ratios and per capita debt. Following this presentation, she recommended that Council ratifies the proposed capital budget, as presented.

Therefore, it was moved by Councilor Bernie Cooper and seconded by Councilor Tony Bentley

***Recommendation to  
Town Council***

**that a recommendation be made to Council to approve the proposed 2012-13 Capital Budget (along with related funding sources) as follows:**

**2012-2013**

**\$2,125,100**

APPROVED – JUNE 11, 2012

**and further**

**that Council also approves the capital budgets for the years 2013-14 to 2016-17 (in principle) along with related funding sources as follows:**

<b>2013-2014</b>	<b>\$2,141,700</b>
<b>2014-2015</b>	<b>\$1,832,000</b>
<b>2015-2016</b>	<b>\$1,503,000</b>
<b>2016-2017</b>	<b>\$2,364,000</b>

**and further**

**that this 5-year Capital Investment Plan be ratified by Town Council.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**(iv) Request for Tax Reduction**

Director Crowell noted that Policy Statement G37-Tax Reduction – MGA (Section 69A) allows for Council to relieve property owners of a portion of this property tax, should the land become unusable, due to specific criteria as outlined. She noted that a letter was received asking for such consideration for the property owned by H.C. Lindsay Funeral Home, and it was recommended that Council proceed with the steps as outlined in this policy.

Therefore, it was moved by Councilor Bill Boyd and seconded by Councilor Bernie Cooper

***Recommendation to  
Town Council***

**that a recommendation be made to Council that the building inspector be asked to confirm that the building has become unusable due to wind storm damage,**

**and further**

**that a request be made to Property Valuation Services Corporation to provide a new valuation for the purposes of this policy, following which the new information would be applied to the above-noted account, thereby possibly reducing the amount of taxes owed in proportion to the apparent reduction in value.**

**and further**

**that those taxes owed prior to the incident on December 13, 2010, not be included for this tax reduction.**

**AMENDED MOTION CARRIED**

**(b) Planning and Development**

**(i) Director's Report**

Director Bev Gentleman reported that there were 7 permits amounting to \$106,500, which brings this year's valuation to

APPROVED – JUNE 11, 2012

\$1,295,000.

She added that:

- Although the final subdivision plans for Blackberry Ridge have been received, the completed application has not.
- Kings 2050 website has been launched and hopes are to have the findings of the Council's Workshop included.
- An RFP for an Infrastructure Report has been issued on the Regional Sewer and Water Assessment and should be completed by the end of June.
- The Development Agreement for Rafuse Machine Shop has been withdrawn, as the property cannot be considered as a non-conforming use under the industrial section of the MPS.
- Work on the Parking Study involves the business community being asked to identify its needs and Property Valuation Services to access building footprints.
- Colliers International has nothing to report on the Kentville Futures Property.
- Regarding the Town Land (Belcher/Oakdene), research is underway regarding the expropriation of this property.
- With the MPS Review, work continues on this project.
- Procedures are being established to help address unsightly premises.
- She also attended a number of meetings, which she listed.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl and seconded by Councilor Tony Bentley

**that the report from the Director of Planning and Development be received.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

In addition, the Director of Planning and Development Bev Gentleman noted that she has reviewed sections of the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land-Use Bylaw that relate to a change of use by Development Agreement for non-conforming uses. Specifically, this research was initiated due to an application for a Development Agreement for the property known as the former Rafuse Machine Shop.

She added that this machine shop is no longer operational and its owner wishes to sell the property. There is interest from a potential buyer whose intention is to operate a business from that location, however, as the property is zoned Residential (R-2) current planning documents do not provide for another non-conforming use

APPROVED – JUNE 11, 2012

by Development Agreement. Instead, the property must revert back to residential, although there are many challenges to converting the building and land to residential.

Director Gentleman noted that an amendment to the MPS could allow the Machine Shop property to be used for another non-conforming use by Development Agreement, such as a commercial/business enterprise. This use would be consistent with the mix of residential and commercial properties along this part of Main Street.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl and seconded by Councilor Bernie Cooper

*Recommendation to  
Town Council*

**that an amendment be considered to the Municipal Planning Strategy for the redevelopment to a non-conforming use of the former Rafuse Machine Shop (245 Main Street) as per Policy Z-25 of the MPS.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Points from Discussion

- There is some inconsistency with non-conforming uses in the residential and commercial zones and the same type of uses in the industrial zone for Rafuse Machine Shop.
- This specific arrangement was made over 40 years ago and it may be time to change some language around to reflect more current situations.
- The property would not meet residential lot requirements if it reverts back to a residential zone.
- The property will need to be inspected, and possibly remediated, if the Department of Environment determines.
- There is the fear that the building may remain vacant and eventually become unsightly and dangerous.
- The interest expressed to purchase this property may have been withdrawn.
- It was understood that Shannex would assist with the lighting on the trail, and it appears that this has never happened. No written agreement has been signed regarding this intention.
- Staff will contact Jason Shannon to see what the status is on this project.
- The old Coleman house on Main Street is in a state of disrepair and with Apple Blossom Festival coming, some attention should be given to its exterior and lawn.

**(ii) Public Participation Program**

APPROVED – JUNE 11, 2012

Director Bev Gentleman reported that she has been documenting some preliminary notes in preparation for the review of the Town's planning documents.

As work will begin on this project very shortly, Council's adoption of a Public Participation Policy is required, as this will allow for the preparation of, and amendments to, the Municipal Planning Strategy, Subdivision Bylaw and Land-Use Bylaw.

It was moved by Councilor Bill Boyd and seconded by Councilor Bernie Cooper

***Recommendation to  
Town Council***

**that a recommendation be made to Town Council that it adopts the attached Public Participation Policy.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**(iii) Environmental Advisory Committee Chairman's Report**

Chairman Eric Bolland reported the next meeting will be May 24<sup>th</sup>.

**(c) Parks, Recreation and Community Development**

**(i) Director's Report**

CAO/Director Mark Phillips reported that:

- Megan Paish will be the Summer Intern again this year; registration will take place on June 7<sup>th</sup>, and the hiring of staff will take place shortly.
- The arena has been busy with a number of large scale events – a major cheer competition, garage sale, TOPS summit, Apple Blossom Festival events and the National RCMP Band rehearsal.
- The Apple Blossom Festival will be May 30-June 4 and Mackenzie Ellsworth is Princess Kentville 2012.
- The parks and trails have been cleaned and are now open and being well used.
- A 10 week Learn to Run Program began last week with over 20 participants.

It was moved by Councilor Eric Bolland and seconded by Councilor Bill Boyd

**that the report from the Director of Parks and Recreation be received.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

*(Note: Councilor Tony Bentley added that he has received a*



APPROVED – JUNE 11, 2012

*proclamation which announces the twinning of the Goosnargh and Whittingham Whitsuntide Festival with the Annapolis Valley Apple Blossom Festival. In speaking with the Director of Recreation, it was thought that Lloyd Smith, the Town Crier, will be asked to prepare his proclamation to include this twinning, and that a copy can be taken during Councilor Bentley's visit to England in a few weeks.)*

**(ii) Community Development Coordinator's Report**

Lindsay Young reported that :

- Work has been completed regarding sustainable funding models for BIDs, with the first draft presented to KDCL board members. Work continues with KDCL to define its goals and adopt a model.
- An application is being prepared for funding to subsidize the Hotel Feasibility Study which will be presented by KDCL.
- Renovations have begun on the former Kings Transit building to accommodate the joint move of AVCC and the VIC. Although AVCC will delay their move to the building, the VIC will be operational during the Apple Blossom weekend. A MOU and a strategy for signage are being prepared.
- Eastlink is working with the Town for a live commercial and sponsorship clips will run during the Coronation and Street Parade. The commercial will be aimed at tourism.
- The Retail Group has created a coupon book and a joint advertising campaign.

It was moved by Councilor Tony Bentley and seconded by Councilor Eric Bolland

**that the report from the Community Development Coordinator be received.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Points from Discussion

- Downtown revitalization, attraction and promotion are hot topics around the province and these will be addressed during the May Strategy Session.

**(iii) KCDC Chairman's Report**

Mayor Corkum mentioned that the Farmer's Market will open this Wednesday and that radio ads are being well received.

**(d) Police Report**

**(i) Chief's Report**

Police Chief Mark Mander reported that the Police Service will be

APPROVED – JUNE 11, 2012

hosting an Open House on May 16<sup>th</sup> from 1 – 7 p.m., in celebration of Police Week and of their 125 years of service.

He added some statistics regarding foot patrol (66 hours in April), 282 calls to dispatch and 51 parking tickets issued. He added that the Police Service can now be found on Facebook.

In addition, the Alarm Bylaw has not been fully implemented, as an education campaign has been undertaken and statistics on the repeat offenders have been gathered.

It was moved by Councilor Tony Bentley and seconded by Councilor Bernie Cooper

**that the report from the Chief of Police be received.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Points from Discussion

- Police Chief Mark Mander will be going to Korea (at no cost to the Town) and Phillip Brown will participate in the Special Olympics being held there.
- Plans are underway with preparations for the AB Festival.
- HRM has indicated that some help will be sent for policing.

**(ii) Board Report**

Councilor Bernie Cooper noted that the next board meeting will be on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

**(e) Transportation Services**

**(i) Directors Report**

Director Whynot reported that the crews continue preparations for the festival with clean-up, line-painting and pavement patching. As Traffic Authority, he has issued permits for the Grand Street Parade, the Children's Parade and the Michelin Bike Event. Work also continues on the Seven Bridges Subdivision.

With the Regional Sewer System, the Capital and Operating budgets were approved on April 12 and include an upgrade to RG7 lift station (West Main Street) and the design of RG5 (next to Cornwallis River Bridge)

It was moved by Councilor Bill Boyd and seconded by Councilor Eric Bolland

**that the report from the Director of Transportation Services be received.**

APPROVED – JUNE 11, 2012

**MOTION CARRIED**

Points from Discussion

- Clean up of litter from the Festival Parade should begin earlier in the morning, as parked vehicles make this more difficult later in the day.
- Rezoning of the property for Seven Bridges Subdivision has not been needed in this case.
- There exists a stamping system to line the streets, and this is reputed to last about 5 years. The Town of Amherst and perhaps Moncton use this technique, which might be cheaper in the long-run , but would certainly be safer for the workers.

**(f) Water Commission**

**(i) Directors Report**

Director Whynot noted that the measured parameters for the water utility continue to be good; URB has approved the Reservoir Replacement on Belcher Street and RFPs will be prepared for the engineering consulting services. An independent water audit with the Department of Environment was conducted with satisfactory results. This is done twice a year.

It was moved by Councilor Bill Boyd and seconded by Councilor Bernie Cooper

**that the report from the Kentville Water Commission be received.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Points from Discussion

- At the current time, there is no consulting engineer engaged with the Town.

**(ii) Commission Report**

Mayor Corkum had nothing further to add.

**(iii) Sanitary Sewer Operating and Capital Budgets 2012-13.**

Director Fred Whynot reported that there are a conservative amount of sewer charge revenues which are being offset from an accumulated surplus. With the capital budget, he outlined some renewals, repairs and upgrades required and recommended that the budgets be accepted by Council.

It was moved by Councilor Bill Boyd and seconded by Councilor Bernie Cooper

*Recommendation to*

**that a recommendation be made to Town Council that**

*Town Council*

APPROVED – JUNE 11, 2012

**the 2012-2013 Sanitary Sewer Operating and Capital Budgets be approved**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**(g) Administration**

**(i) Chief Administrative Officer's Report**

Highlights from the report:

- *AV Regional Industrial Park* – Work continues to seek ACAO and SNEDA funding, and Kings CAOs continue discussions regarding joint involvement.
- *Kings Partnership Steering Committee* – Several issues were identified by this group as potential group projects, and individual councils have been asked to approve the lists.
- *Kings RDA* – He attended a BRE meeting with CDC Young, and another is scheduled with area CAOs to strategize the disconnection between RDA and BRE.
- *Joint Fire Services Committee* – At the May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, discussions took place regarding staffing and governance.
- *Kings Transit Authority* – Prices to relocate the Kentville Transfer Station are being determined and related work is being done.
- *UNSM* – The Spring workshop took place May 9-11 in Truro.
- *Regional Sewer Committee* – Reps from Kentville, Kings County and New Minas met to review the present governance model for the committee and a report is expected by mid summer.

It was moved by Councilor Tony Bentley and seconded by Councilor Eric Bolland

**that the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**(ii) Town Clerk's Report**

Clerk Carol Harmes reported that she has attended a number of meetings over the last month and has addressed issues relating to the adoption of an E-voting procedure for the upcoming election. A bylaw has been created and is in the process of adoption, and a recommendation has been prepared for Council under New Business. Policies continue to be updated and work has begun on the annual Student Bursary given by the Town. Lastly, she noted that the Valley Regional Solid-Waste Resource Management Bylaw has been adopted and other day-to-day matters continue to be addressed.

APPROVED – JUNE 11, 2012

It was moved by Councilor Tony Bentley and seconded by Councilor Eric Bolland

**that the report from the Town Clerk be received.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**(h) Council Reports from Workshops and Conferences**

*Councilor Eric Bolland* – He attended the Kings 2050 Project, and at the Planning Conference learned that communities need a sense of place where people want to live and work. Another planning session related to the refurbishing of older buildings, while others dealt with trail development, and business development and attraction.

*Councilor Bill Boyd* – He attended the Spring Workshop of UNSM and noted that the Town Caucus presentations were well done; the project “path to municipal viability,” related to change in municipal government, with further opportunities for feedback. Other presentations involved the demographic outlook, e-voting and financial presentations. The downtown revitalization workshop provided much food for thought.

*Councilor Bernie Cooper* – He attended the Kings 2050 Workshop, however, did miss the Planning Conference and UNSM Workshop.

*Councilor Tony Bentley* – He attended the Legal workshop and the E-voting presentation which were both informative.

*Councilor Mark Pearl* – He attended the Planning Conference and found both topics - Planning for Place and New Life for Old Buildings - very informative and timely, especially as the Town is now dealing with the issue of the old KCA.

*Mayor David Corkum* – He attended the 2050 Workshop and at the Planning Conference, enjoyed the session on refurbishing old schools. He did the Advocacy Days presentation for the UNSM Board of Directors and was pleased to report that a later discussion regarding the Assessment CAP lead to some “enlightenment” and municipal understanding of this issue. He added that he presented information to UNSM delegates regarding the Town’s Task Force and felt overall, the Spring Workshop was very well done.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**(a) Recommendations: Appointment of RO for African NS Rep on School Board and RO for Acadian School Board**

Town Clerk Harmes presented 2 recommendations prepared by Returning Officer Al Kingsbury regarding appointments for the upcoming election, following which, it was moved by Councilor Tony Bentley and seconded by Councilor Eric Bolland

***Recommendation to  
Town Council***

**APPROVED – JUNE 11, 2012**

**that a recommendation be made to Town Council that Heather Archibald be appointed Returning Officer for the election of African Nova Scotia Representative on the AVRSB,  
and further,  
that Carolyn Young be appointed Returning Officer for the election of the Conseil Scolaire Acadien Provincial (Acadian School Board) representative.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**(b) Report and Recommendation Re: Electronic Voting**  
Clerk Carol Harnes presented a report in which she reiterated that Council agreed that electronic voting could be offered during the week preceding the election and during the election, although paper votes should be maintained on Election Day.

When presenting the budget implications, Clerk Harnes reported that \$26,000 has been allocated for the election; there are some adjustments in costs with the elimination of extra polls and people; but some additional costs also to be expected. Based on the potential of 4,500 voters, proposals from both Intelivote and Scytl reported the same amount - \$14,231.25. Added to this amount would be an additional \$4,000 for the help line staff, set up, training, infrastructure, etc., thereby bringing the total for the electronic aspect of the election, up to a possible \$18,231.25. This figure will be adjusted upwards or downwards depending on the number of voters.

A comparison of the programs and qualifications of both Intelivote and Scytl indicated that both are professional companies that offer similar programs and sound security measures, for the same price. Subsequently, she noted the differences between the two companies, one of which related to experience with municipal election management. She felt that as this was a new endeavour for Kentville Council, a higher comfort level might be present with the company that had proven itself with many successfully run electronic municipal elections. On the other hand, however, the other company had letters of reference supporting its efforts in running elections in many countries.

Therefore, it was moved by Councilor Bill Boyd and seconded by Councilor Eric Bolland

***Recommendation to  
Town Council***

**that a recommendation be made to Town Council that it engages Intelivote Systems Inc. to provide alternative voting**

APPROVED – JUNE 11, 2012

**services, leading up to and including Election Day on October 20, 2012.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**(c) Kentville and Area Community Needs Workshop**

CAO Phillips reported that notes are attached from the public information session that the Rotary Club held on community needs, and that these points should be kept in mind for future decisions by both staff and council. Many options were presented and these will also be used to guide the Rotary Club in its future community support. In spite of this, no specific projects have been identified at this early date.

**(d) Housing First Association of Kings County**

Regular meetings have been held which address the issue of affordable housing for residents in Kings County. Madonna Spinazola has been leading the Housing First Association of Kings County and has asked if anyone is not interested in this project, that they have their name removed from the list. However, any group wishing to remain involved, should designate from their organization, a representative to serve at the committee level. The CAO asked that if anyone was available to sit on the board, that they let him know.

**(e) Meeting Attendance**

Councilor Tony Bentley reported that he will be leaving on May 25 to represent the Town of Kentville at the Apple Blossom Festival twinning ceremony in England. He asked that his excused absence be noted in the minutes of May's Council meeting.

**(f) Jobs Leaving Kentville**

Mayor David Corkum reported that he has recently learned that eight jobs will be leaving Kentville, as a result of decentralization of services. This Provincially made decision originally implied that the government services affected would be from the Halifax area, and these jobs would be relocated to more rural areas in the province. However, this has proven not to be the case, as the jobs from Kentville are being relocated to New Waterford.

He added that this move not only pits one rural area against another rural area, but is discouraging when small towns and communities make such an effort to encourage development and growth in their area, and decisions on the provincial level are counter-productive to this work.

He reported that he had a discussion with our MLA Jim Morton,

APPROVED – JUNE 11, 2012

whose response implied that it is the Town's responsibility to take action.

Therefore, it was moved by Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl and seconded by Councilor Eric Bolland

***Recommendation to  
Town Council***

**that a recommendation be made to Council that the Mayor, on behalf of Town Council, send a letter to Premier Dexter and our local MLA Jim Morton, expressing concern and disappointment in the recently announced job loss from the Town of Kentville.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Points from Discussion

- Kings RDA does a great deal of work to maintain and attract companies and jobs to this area, as well.
- The rationale given for this move was that it would allow the service to interface personally with customers.
- The New Waterford location certainly will not allow for personal interaction in most parts of the province.
- Maintenance enforcement is important to single parent families, and telephone communication is not as effective as one-on-one dialogue.
- Although the government employees being affected will be given the option to move with their jobs, this is unlikely as whole families will be uprooted.
- These individuals will opt to "bump" others with less seniority, in order to continue to work in the area.

**(g) VON Request**

As a result of the request for funding made earlier this afternoon by the VON, it was moved by Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl and seconded by Councilor Bernie Cooper

**that a recommendation be made to Town Council that \$500 be donated towards the costs of operating the programs offered by the VON.**

As it was felt that the request was for \$1,000, and that this organization does a lot of good work in the community, the Town should consider a larger grant.

Therefore, it was moved by Councilor Bill Boyd and seconded by Councilor Tony Bentley

***Recommendation to  
Town Council***

**that an amendment be made that the recommendation to Town Council be for a \$750 donation towards of the costs of**



APPROVED – JUNE 11, 2012

**operating the programs offered by the VON.**

**AMENDED MOTION CARRIED**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**(a) Roger Cameron**

A letter from resident, Roger Cameron was read and it was noted that he has asked that the Town consider the construction of another ice surface, for which he is prepared to donate a piece of property. In pursuing this project, he is prepared to place an ad in the local paper to gain support for the idea.

Points from Discussion

- There may be a need for a wellness centre with such facilities in the near future.
- This should be a regional complex, involving other areas who will also use the facilities.
- These types of initiatives should be spear-headed by a community champion, and it appears that Mr. Cameron has volunteered to assume that role.
- The Town should acknowledge and thank Mr. Cameron for his letter and his offer.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Councilor Eric Bolland and seconded by Councilor Bernie Cooper

**that the meeting adjourns at 4:36 at p.m.**

**MOTION CARRIED**