Council Advisory Committee

MINUTES

October 12, 2010 – 1:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor David Corkum, Deputy Mayor Bill Boyd, Councilor Bernie Cooper, Councilor Tony Bentley, Councilor Nola Folker-Hill, Councilor Eric Bolland, Councilor Mark Pearl, CAO Keith Robicheau, Town Solicitor Peter Muttart and Town Clerk Carol Harmes

Director Debra Crowell, Director Mark Phillips, Director Bev Gentleman, Director Greg Kehoe

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Corkum called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. and CAO Robicheau reported that all members of Council were present.

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 Deputy Mayor Bill Boyd and seconded by Councilor Eric Bolland

that the agenda be approved with the addition of:

5 (j) Real Estate Signs

5 (k) Audit Services Recommendation

7 (a) E-council

7 (b) March Meeting - CAC 2011

10 (c) Contractual Agreements (Shannex and

KEED)

10(d) George Baker Recognition

MOTION CARRIED

PRESENTATION

(a) Friends of the Library - update

Members from the Friends of the Library gave an update on the status of the Friends of the Library. Ginny Evans thanked Council for its involvement and support of the new library and wanted to give an update on the status of the project at this time. She introduced Jen Bolt, a new board member who shared with Council the new vision established by the board.

Points from Presentation

- Architects have redesigned the building for the River Street location.
- the Board membership has been renewed and a new focus has been determined.
- The Board is trying to investigate and secure partners which will make this library an "anchor project" delivering broader services.
- Partnerships are required in order to qualify for Federal funding and this is a trend seen everywhere.
- The building is LEEDS status and therefore, the operational costs will be reduced, even though the building will be much larger.
- Feedback from the community stresses the importance of incorporating the outdoors bringing the river and trails into the project.
- The whole building is visualized as a community working together as partners (library, arts, cultural, tourism, health related services, etc.)
- Community space is important, along with high accessibility, easy drive-in and pedestrian traffic flow.
- Special programs are important for libraries.
- The Board requires Council feedback on what could be included in the library building, and what issues might be "deal breakers."
- Council's support is required prior to seeking other government financial support.

- The Town's support of the library should be included at the upcoming strategy session.
- Construction costs would be approximately \$3.3 million, and this would be divided into two phases.
- Operational costs are still being determined, and a business case should be available soon.
- A presentation will be done to the County on the new architectural concept, and their financial support will be determined.
- An inter-municipal agreement can be established to address capital and operational costs.
- The population using the Library would be about 40-60%, with the larger percentage of

- users being from the County.
- County citizens need to be vocal in getting the County to support this facility for them, as the Town itself would have little affect.
- Council members and staff should also seek support from MLAs and other levels of government, as the opportunity arises.

(b) Visitors' Information Centre – Review

The decision made by Council last year to operate the Visitors' Information Centre in partnership with the County of Kings and the Destination South West Nova Scotia has been brought forward for review. Mark Phillips, Lindsay Young, and Ainsley Bartram were available for questions.

- November 1 is the date for the renewal of the agreement and the lease may have to be reviewed, depending on the situation.
- There were 2,327 fewer visitors to the Kentville VIC this season.
- Most of the regional VIC's experienced decreases, with a few exceptions.
- 3 other VICs, which moved form their original location, also had fewer visitors.
- However, as a whole, the province experienced an increase in visitors.
- Negative feedback involved parking and signage.
- Some changes have been made to signage, but this whole issue must be examined in the future.
- In order to have this VIC and DSWNA operation in a highly visible location, it would probably be in a area similar to its current site—with traffic and parking being a difficulty.
- The partnership between the Kentville VIC and DSWNA has been excellent over the past..
- The Minister of Tourism visited the centre over the summer and felt that the type of partnership currently engaged is essential.
- This will be a year around facility.
- A recommendation from DSWNS should be made to both the County Council and Town Council.
- The RV parking was behind the County building however, the people driving these types of vehicles would typically be older, and wouldn't be prepared

to walk so far to the VIC.

- The financial commitment of the Town is the same for the whole year, as it was for the summer months only under the previous VIC operation.
- It appears that the deadline would be January 1, 2011 to renew or cancel the lease.(3 months prior to the expiration of the lease)
- The Director will confirm the deadlines and the issue can be addressed at the next CAC, if necessary.
- It is important to know what Destination and the County's opinion on the location will be, as this is a partnership
- It might be reasonable to continue for another year and to make some adjustments, as recommended, in order to give the location a fair chance.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

(a) September 13, 2010

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

that the Minutes of September 13, 2010 be approved with an addition of the word "from" on page 16.

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(a) Official Town Piper

This issue was brought to Council, from a request to have an Official Town Piper who would perform at special events hosted by the Town. Ed Coleman has offered to perform this function for a set rate.

It was moved by Councilor Mark Mander and seconded by Councilor Eric Bolland

Recommendation to Council

that a recommendation be made to Council that Ed Coleman be appointed as the Official Town Piper.

MOTION CARRIED

(b) Ducks Unlimited – Connelly Concern

During the summer months, resident Pete Connelly and his neighbour attended a Council meeting for the purpose of expressing their concerns regarding partying, trespassing and littering at the site of the newly opened Ducks Unlimited park. It was agreed that a recommendation would be brought back, following a meeting with the Police Chief and

the Director of Parks and Recreation.

Director Phillips added that:

- "no trespassing signs" have been posted.
- more foot patrols and bikes will be on site.
- There have been no further complaints.
- Increased use by the public will help to police this area.
- Ideas like appointing citizens as trail wardens are being explored.
- A number of small steps have been taken and other options are being considered.

Mr. Connelly should be notified of the action being taken.

(c) MOU Friends of the Library

This item was returned to the agenda, as the CAO previously reported that members of the Friends of the Library were not in the position to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Town, as some situations needed to be further explored.

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

that the matter be tabled until the November CAC meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

(d)Resolution for Expropriation of St. Joseph's Property

A discussion took place regarding the exchange of property between the Town of Kentville and St. Joseph's Church, and it was determined that the most efficient method of fulfilling the legal requirements was to expropriate that section of land. Subsequently, all parties agreed that this would be acceptable in expediting the process, and accordingly, the Town's solicitor prepared the appropriate resolution.

Therefore, it was moved by Deputy Mayor Bill Boyd and seconded by Councilor Mark Pearl

Recommendation to Town Council that a recommendation be made to Town Council that the Resolution regarding the expropriation of Land of Trustee, Apostolic Administrator of the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of

Yarmouth, as attached, and relating to parcel PID 55480321, be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

(e) Industrial Park – Sanitary Sewer Users

Town Engineer Greg Kehoe was asked to prepare a report on the current situation involving large industrial discharge into the Town's Sanitary Sewer system. Director Kehoe reported that the Town has worked with the Sanitary Regional Sewer Committee to improve the effluent from the Annapolis Valley Regional Industrial Park, and the Sewers Bylaw, which was adopted in 2009, gave some regulations on the strength of the BOD. Subsequently, it was understood that there would be occasions when the effluent would exceed the amount allotted, and when this happened, the Town would consider this a spill and could charge a higher rate.

In 2009 the Town's sewer rates were increase for both citizens and commercial users, and with the spill allotment, this increased 25% to 30% or as high as 50%.

It was understood that some industrial users were attempting to install a pre-treatment program for a higher quality of waste water, however, in cases where this was not done, the Town could use a revised rate which would escalate, thereby making the costs to the industry much higher.

Director Kehoe reported that there is now a designated operator at the treatment plant who has been initiating many new programs which will enhance the treatment process.

- Promises were made some time ago by the head offices of some of these industries, where they agreed to meet the requirements of the bylaw, but asked if this could be phased in.
- Other industrial users preferred to simply pay the overage charges and any penalty, instead of "fixing the problem."
- If the bylaw does not allow for the Town to force the required upgrades, then an escalating fee structure should be imposed.
- Although the County owns the plant, the Town contributes 50% to the waste it treats.
- It is only a matter of time until the Department of

- Environment imposes its own restrictions on this type of discharge.
- The financial trade-offs of penalties vs. industrial upgrades will impact these users.
- Staff should bring back some possible solutions to this problem.
- This issue should be discussed at the upcoming strategy session to establish a time line for those industries not conforming to the bylaw requirements.
- Doug Seamone could be asked to attend this session, as well.

(f) Council's Pension Plan – Restructuring

At a previous meeting of Council, a discussion took place regarding the structure of the current pension plan available to Town Councilors. The Director of Finance was asked to prepare some options which might be more suitable to this unique situation, however, has not had an opportunity to prepare a report at this point. The matter will be brought back to a future CAC meeting.

(g) Mini Strategy Session Dates

At a previous meeting of Council, it was decided that staff should select some dates for strategy sessions with Council and have proposed the afternoon of Monday, October 18th, Tuesday, October 19th, Monday, November 15th and Tuesday, November 16th. They felt that additional dates could be selected, if required.

Following a discussion, Council decided that the first strategy session would be held on October 19th from 1:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. and another session on November 16th at 1:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.

(h) Brokerage Firm (Kentville Futures Land) – update At a previous meeting, staff was asked to begin the process of engaging a commercial brokerage firm to sell the remaining property at the Kentville Futures' Site. Council wished to have input into the contract and with the final property sale agreement.

CAO Robicheau reported that work has begun on a RFP and this will be sent to staff and Council for comments.

(i) Chapter 84 – Smoking in Public Places Bylaw CAO Robicheau reported that the Town Clerk and Town

Solicitor have been working together on wording for this bylaw and a draft copy has been prepared, as presented at this time.

However, discussions have been held with staff and a recommendation was that this bylaw be introduced early in the new year and that further discussion be held on how this will be implemented and enforced. The CAO noted several areas of concern which have been identified and suggested that the pros and cons be weighed and then a "reality check" be undertaken.

Some dedicated time should be allocated at an upcoming strategy session to explore these various issues.

Points from Discussion

- Bridgewater and Truro will be going to non-smoking on their streets and sidewalks, and the ban in Truro emphasizes all public property.
- Smokers have rights as well, and therefore, the Town must find places for smokers to smoke, without interfering with others.
- Council can go through the process of examining these concerns, however, as this is a health issue, it must be given momentum.
- Provincial legislation should be examined to determine if enough education comes from that government body.
- It was agreed that this issue would be discussed further at an upcoming strategy session.

(j) Real Estate Signs

Councilor Nola Folker-Hill wanted clarification on the Town's bylaw, as it relates to off-site signage. During the discussion, it was noted that although prime concern was the number of real estate signs on Town property, comments evolved to include the advertising of businesses and services in other parts of the community.

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

Recommendation to Council

that a recommendation be made to Council that staff review the current Land Use Bylaw as it relates to signage and make recommendations for amendments, where appropriate.

MOTION CARRIED

Points from Discussion

- Although there is a bylaw in place restricting off-site signs, the Town wanted to help with the marketing of houses for sale, so as to encourage families to move to Town.
- In addition, there are a number of other small signs around Town that direct customers to businesses "off the beaten track."
- It was agreed at the last Council meeting that one sign would be permitted advertising real estate signs.
- The bylaws should be amended to address what needs to be changed.

(k) Audit Services – Recommendation

Councilor Nola Folker-Hill asked about the process involved in going to tender for services and CAO Robicheau reported that October 20th is the closing date for receiving tenders for the auditing services, and that this process is outlined in the Town's current Purchasing Policy.

Councilor Nola Folker-Hill suggested that it might be in order to review the Purchasing Policy, in the event that some amendments might be in order, as some situations may have changed.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

(a) Finance (i) Director's Report

Director Crowell reported that final tax bills were mailed September 14, with a due date of October 15th; she attended a meeting regarding the CAPped assessment program on September 13th; met with the Town's banker for a review; and submitted some reports for CIP and Payments in Lieu of Taxes. She also noted that the utility meters have been read and that the Town was nominated for the Evangelism Award at the 2010 Diamond Conference, although it did not win.

In addition, Director Crowell noted that Schedule A (Revenue) indicates that overall revenue would be above average, if based on a 50% benchmark. Expenses in Schedule B indicate that expenditures are below average, although some departments have exceeded the 50% benchmark due to bulk ordering and annual payments. Schedule C (Summary of Outstanding Taxes) indicate that \$3,921,146 is outstanding, however, the due date is October

15th this year, thereby making a comparison difficult.

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

that the report from the Director of Finance be received.

MOTION CARRIED

(b) Planning and Development (i) Director's Report

Director Gentleman reported that there were 7 permits issued for September, for a total building value of \$568,300, thereby, bringing the yearly total to \$5,688,625.

She also outlined some of the activities taking place in the Planning Department, noting that unsightly premises issues continue to be addressed; she is attempting to secure signatures on Centre Square Lease Renewals, and with rezoning issues initially discussed, the property purchase plans have fallen through, so the projects have been terminated.

She added that a student from COGS has presented a draft proposal to the Town to develop data on storm water management issues, which would be a year-long initiative, involving some good mapping of culverts, along with public education on drainage ditches and areas which affect the Cornwallis River.

Lastly, she noted that meetings have resumed with the Planning Directors on next year's conference.

It was moved by Councilor Eric Bolland and seconded by Councilor Mark Pearl

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

MOTION CARRIED

- St. Joseph's Church and the new food bank are officially on Chapel Hill.
- When the property exchange has been completed, the address will change to Belcher Street.
- The Food Bank was initially identified as a stand-

- alone property that could not be an accessory building to the church.
- As the Church supports the Food Bank, there is an association, and therefore, the Town could defend a Food Bank as a use extended by the Church.
- Although somewhat of a "grey area," the use does conform and is permitted.
- The Church advised local residents on the changed status of the Food Bank, as it was their initiative.
- Councilors need to be kept up-to-date on issues made within departments, as they are often asked by the public for updates.
- Reports should also be given to Council on the status of unsightly premises.
- The property being demolished on River Street is being done very slowly, as the contractor recycles everything he can.
- It appears in the long term, that the building, previously destroyed on River Street, will be rebuilt.
- The individual who has chosen not to support the lease with the Town, for parking in Centre Square, is aware that snow removal, parking enforcement, paving, etc. will not be provided by the Town.

(c) Parks and Recreation (i) Director's Report

A report from Director Phillips noted that the installation for the water purifying system and heat recovery system is underway, and that the light upgrades continue and should be completed by year-end.

The Rotary Clock has arrived and some decorative, design work is being investigated; some of the flowers and summer plantings are being removed, although some will be left to provide winter landscape around town for the months ahead; with the Farmer's Market, tomorrow (October 13) will be the last for the season; with the Active Living Programs, the after-school programs continue; work continues with geocaching and this activity has become a tourism issue. Also, the preschool screening program has indicated that children (3-4 year olds) who spend more time in front of the television, are also limited in their physical abilities (eyehand coordination), and lastly, the walking school bus program has been introduced.

With the trail system, the concept of trail wardens is being considered, and these folks will report any issues that might affect the safety and enjoyment of these areas. Director Phillips reported that the trail system is now connected from east to west and is a great addition to the community.

Registrations are being done for delegates of the Recreation Conference, and those wishing to attend should advise his department. The Harvest Festival was smaller in turn out this year due to rain, however, those who attended, enjoyed the events, and the Pumpkin People continue to arrive to Town. There is always great support and a lot of promotion for these displays. With the new board for Friends of the Library, he noted that the project is moving forward once again.

In addition, plans are underway for the Business Expo, the KCDC Meeting, Seasonal Advertising, VIC Evaluation and the Year-Round Farmer's Market Review. Lastly, he noted that a strategy session was held on October 6th on the Environmental Advisory Committee issues and that a full report can be expected from the Chairman of that committee.

It was moved by Councilor Nola Folker-Hill and seconded by Councilor Tony Bentley

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

MOTION CARRIED

Points form Discussion

- The Pumpkin People continue to get a lot of attention and one visitor to the area came all the way from Montana to see them, as she plans to introduce the concept in her own hometown.
- Council and staff are invited to stop by at the maintenance shop at the Park to see the new clock.
- Lighting along the new part of the trail may have some help from Shannex, as it appears that this organization will be lighting the parking lot near the trail with their future expansion.

(ii) Community Development Issues

Director Phillips reported that the issues relating to

community development were addressed in his previous report.

(d) Police

(i) Chief's Report

Chief Mander reported that a Board meeting was held on September 30th and that two vacancies currently exist on the Police Board. These have been advertised and some applications have been received. In addition, he noted that conferences for the NSAPB and NSCPA were held recently at the Pictou Lodge.

With the statistical part of the report, he noted that although it shows a decreased number of hours of foot patrol, some constables had not put in their hours at the time of the writing of this report. Work continues on the Alarms Bylaw and the number of false alarms from the commercial population is larger than anticipated.

Lastly, he invited Council to provide feedback on other statistical reports, to which several suggestions were made:

- a yearly comparisons on parking tickets issued.
- the activities of the Community Policing Officer.
- mileage recorded on police vehicles. (variance from month-to-month might result from transportation of prisoners to the city)

It was moved by Councilor Nola Folker-Hill and seconded by Councilor Bernie Cooper

that the report from the Chief of Police be received.

MOTION CARRIED

(ii) Board Report

Councilor Cooper had nothing further to report.

(e) Transportation Services

(i) Director's Report

Director Greg Kehoe reported that Public Works staff remain busy with a number of issues relating to streets and sidewalks, with the delivery of capital projects and in preparing for the winter season. He gave highlights on the various capital construction projects (i.e. Park Street and West Main, West Main Street Culvert and the Kentville Trail). In addition, the Regional Sewer Committee has

<u>Approved – November 8, 2010</u>

recently met to discuss operational and capital projects, with some savings having been realized as a result of new procedures.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED

(f) Water Commission

(i) Directors Report

Director Greg Kehoe reported that a number of issues have been addressed by Water Commission members (i.e. McGee Lake, the proposed C and D Disposal Site, the particle travel time drawing, financial reports, Mitchell Avenue bedrock well, etc.). He added that regular monitoring and maintenance continues by Water Commission staff and he identified a number of the projects in a written report.

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

that the report from the Water Commission be received.

MOTION CARRIED

(ii)Commission Report

Mayor David Corkum had nothing further to report.

(g) (i) Chief Administrative Officer's Report CAO Robicheau reiterated some items on his written report, noting that RFPs are being drafted for the sale of the three remaining parcels of land at the Kentville Futures Site; the Friends of the Library have presented this new vision earlier in the meeting and he will continue to work with them on the MOU; the Annapolis Valley Regional Industrial Park servicing issues have been discussed on lands owned by NS Business Inc. and this will be discussed In Camera later. With the Kings Partnership Steering Committee, a meeting will be set soon to identify some outstanding issues; with the Joint Fire Services Agreement, the Consultant has provided some information on governance; Chief Mander and the CAO have been attending some meetings regarding the

bargaining procedures for PANS and this as well, will be addressed In Camera.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Bill Boyd and seconded by Councilor Nola Folker-Hill

that the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.

MOTION CARRIED

(ii)Town Clerk's Report

Town Clerk Carol Harmes reported that she attended the AMA Convention last week which featured several sessions on communication, and she received her 30 year award. She added some routine meetings continue, the bylaw and policy review process is well underway; work continues on the Reference Guide to Council and registrations have been updated for the UNSM Conference in Sydney. A mail-out has been prepared on urban deer, the final preparations for terminating some of the committees are underway and December 3rd has been chosen as the Town's annual party and Awards Ceremony. Lastly she noted that for the upcoming months, there are a few conflicts with holidays and suggested that in most cases, the Tuesday following the conflicting Monday holiday might be a good alternate date. (Council agreed that this would be an effective amendment to the schedule.)

It was moved by Councilor Tony Bentley and seconded by Councilor Nola Folker-Hill

that the report from the Town Clerk be received.

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

(Note: Although this item was not added to the agenda, it was addressed at this time.)

Absence with the Approval of Council

Councilor Bernie Cooper advised that he will be away from Council meetings for personal reasons during the upcoming weeks, and therefore, it was moved by Councilor Tony Bentley and seconded by Councilor Nola Folker-Hill

Recommendation to Council

that a recommendation be made to Council that Councilor Bernie Cooper would be excused from Council meetings from October 19th until October 30th.

MOTION CARRIED

Points from Discussion

- The *Municipal Government Act* says that members of Council can be disqualified from serving on Council, if they accumulate three unexcused absences from the Council meetings.
- A motion to approve the absence is required to properly record these.
- Expulsion from Council is automatic unless a recorded motion is on the records.

(a) E-Council

Councilor Mark Pearl noted again that some of the technology available to Council and staff is not current and questioned if upgrades have been considered. CAO Robicheau reported that discussions have taken place regarding LED screens and teleconferencing information is being accumulated, to be brought forward when the report is completed.

Director Mark Phillips added that skiping capability is easy to install, however, he understood that there appears to be nothing in the budget for these costs, although some modifications can be made to better use what equipment is available.

Councilor Pearl added that regular sessions of Council are broadcasted alive on the internet by other municipalities and the Town should look at this, as well.

(b) March Meeting – CAC

Deputy Mayor Bill Boyd asked if the CAC meeting could be moved forward to March 7th if possible, as each year there appears to be a number of councilors whose vacation plans conflict with Council meetings March Break.

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

Recommendation to Council

that a recommendation be made to Council that the March 14th meeting of Council Advisory Committee be moved to March 7th.

MOTION CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE

(a) County of Kings – Re: Building Committee Appointment

A letter from Warden Whalen asked if the Town would like to appoint a Councilor to sit on this committee, for the purpose of discussing the construction of a new complex to house the Municipality's Offices.

Mayor Corkum thought that the new complex may be built in New Minas, and therefore, felt that it was inappropriate to ask the Town to sit on this committee, as the Town's presence could be construed as support for the County operations leaving Town.

Points from Discussion

- The County might be interested in staying in Kentville, perhaps partnering with the Friends of the Library.
- The Kings Partnership Steering Committee is active again, and this might be an opportunity for the Town and County to become partners.
- The County did not include the Town in the discussions about site options, so its role at the meetings now would appear unnecessary.
- T o clarify whether or not the location has been established, the Town should ask the County CAO for the Terms of Reference, and then can decide if a Town Councilor should participate.

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

Recommendation to Council

that a recommendation be made to Council that the County be asked to provide the Town with the Terms of Reference for the Building Committee.

MOTION CARRIED

(b) CentreStage Theatre Society-Glooscap Curling Club.

A letter from this organization thanked the Town for its contribution of the prize of "Mayor for a Day" which was on the silent auction part of a recent fund-raising event. This prize was purchased by AVR and Hunter Brule has agreed to be Mayor for the Day on October 25th. The Mayor asked Council members and staff to make the Mayor of the Day

feel welcomed and involved in Town issues.

ADJOURNMENT

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

that the meeting adjourns at 5:15 p.m. to go In Camera to discuss Labour Negotiations, Land Negotiations, contracts and citizen recognition.

MOTION CARRIED

IN CAMERA

- (a) Labour Negotiations PANS
- (b) Land Negotiations
- (c) George Baker Recognition
- (d) Review of Shannex and KEED Agreement

(Note: The In Camera meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.)