

Approved – March 29, 2010

KENTVILLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

February 22, 2010

PRESENT

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

Regrets - Councilor Mark Pearl

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor David Corkum called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and CAO Robicheau reported that all Council members were in attendance, except for Councilor Pearl who was out of the country.

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:

8 (a) Utility Pole Pollution

11 (b) Sewer Agreement Negotiations

MOTION CARRIED

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.

PRESENTATION

(a) ICSP – Nova Insights

Paul DesBarres reviewed the report as submitted, pointing out that a great more detail has now been tabulated since the last report, and in summary, he noted the key findings, the detailed findings, open-ended responses to questions, the methodology used (random sample and designated individuals) and the questionnaire and cross tabulations. In addition to this document, a short-term sustainability action plan was developed to reflect community opinions about priorities over the next 5 years. Issues such as economic development, environmental sustainability and

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community development were flagged as priorities, with some actions identified for the 5 year term and others for 10 years.

Highlights from Presentation

- Economic development is seen as a priority and ranks the highest.
- Traffic and parking was a problem.
- There was some uncertainty about the direction the Town was taking and loss of some business was a concern.
- The safety of the water supply was important, as was the better use of energy saving techniques.
- Active transportation was important.
- Citizens wanted the Town to provide all their recreational needs.
- Policies were needed to help more home-based businesses in Town.
- Increased residential density was not supported.
- The Vision of the Town was well accepted.

Points from Discussion

- Parking seems to be considered a problem by many people, although, studies show that Kentville has more parking spots than twice the national average.
- Traffic issues in Kentville cannot compare to larger areas and in most cases, does not involve waiting for more than one light change.
- Environmental issues seem to have dropped in importance and this may be as a result of the current economy and general feeling that economic development must be a priority.
- People do not seem to realize that services are provided through taxes, and on one hand want more services, while on the other, object to residential development and increased density.
- The Town does a great deal to promote business in Kentville (KCDC, welcoming new businesses to Town)
- Perhaps there should have been an opportunity for citizens to also identify some good features

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of this community.

In summary, Mr. DesBarres reminded Council that the information received resulted from the survey questions asked and was not driven by complaints.

(b) Draft ICSP

CAO Robicheau introduced the ICSP Coordinator, Brennan Vogel, noting that he will be presenting a draft of the report at this time, although it will be brought back to Council in March for ratification, prior to submitting it to the Province. He also submitted an Action Plan for the implementation of some of the projects.

The Coordinator noted that there are 6 sections, as per the formatting layout required by the Province – This involved an Introduction, Kentville in Context, Planning for Sustainability, Goals and Actions (16 goals), Regional Cooperation and Implementation.

Points from Presentation

- Recreation, green space, community, water and infrastructure are integral to the sustainability of any community.
- The Vision Statement has been strongly supported. – “healthy, vibrant, integrated and complete” should remain the blueprint to move forward.
- The Action Plan has been based on the information gathered by Nova Insights.
- A 10 year approach for implementation of some of the goals may be more reasonable.
- The Town is well underway in addressing some of the issues and should continue to build on these successes.
- You can’t manage what you don’t measure. (Continually monitor goals to ensure forward movement.)
- A demonstrated commitment to pursue practical options based on best practices and proven approaches to sustainability and leadership, that involve principled and integrated leadership and decision-making.

Points from Discussion

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- This draft represents a great deal of work and those involved should be commended for the effort.
- The deadline for submission to the Province is March 31st.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

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

that the minutes of January 25, 2010 be approved, as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(a) Chapter 15 – Closing Hour of Shops – 2nd Reading

Town Clerk Carol Harmes reported that First Reading was given to rescind this bylaw on November 30, 2009; advertisement for Second Reading has been done; and it would now appear in order to proceed with Second Reading.

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

that Second Reading be given to rescind Chapter 15 – Closing Hour of Shops Bylaw and that Notice of Passing be placed in the local newspaper.

MOTION CARRIED

(b) Chapter 27 – Lord’s Day Bylaw – 2nd Reading

Town Clerk Carol Harmes reported that First Reading was given to rescind this bylaw on November 30, 2009; advertisement for Second Reading has been done; and it would now appear in order to proceed with Second Reading.

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

that Second Reading be given to rescind Chapter 27 – Lord’s Day Bylaw and that Notice of Passing be placed in the local newspaper.

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MOTION CARRIED

**REPORTS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS**

**(a) Council Advisory Committee
(i) Valley Waste Resource
Management – 2010-2011
Operating and Capital Budgets**

Deputy Mayor Bill Boyd noted that at a recent meeting of Council Advisory Committee, representatives from VWRM presented the Operating and Capital budgets for the upcoming year. They reported a net decrease in expenditures of \$702,262 and a net decrease in revenue of \$168,336, thereby resulting in a budget decrease overall of \$533,926. Kentville's share of the Operating Costs for this period would be reduced to \$447,512.

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

**that the Operating Budget and the Capital Budget for 2010-2011 for Valley Waste Resource Management Authority be approved
and further
that Kentville's share of the Borrowing Guarantee also be approved.**

MOTION CARRIED

(ii) Ice Re-surfacer Purchase

Deputy Mayor Bill Boyd noted that at a recent meeting of Council Advisory Committee, Director Mark Phillips noted that a few months ago, he reported that the current ice re-surfacer needs to be replaced and that funding for this has been included in the budget.

As a result of the tendering process, 2 tenders were received, however, he noted that the machines were different, and explained the differences in the attached report. Following evaluation of each machine, the Zamboni 525 was selected to be the machine of choice, at a purchasing price of \$91,640.

Therefore, it was moved by Councilor Nola Folker-Hill and seconded by Councilor Bernie Cooper

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that Council approves the purchase of the Zamboni 525, for the price of \$91,640, plus HST and further that the purchase of this equipment be funded by the Recreation Capital Reserve.

MOTION CARRIED

(Note: The HST will be returned to the Town.)

(iii) Tax Exemption Resolution

Deputy Mayor Bill Boyd noted that at a recent meeting of Council Advisory Committee, Director Crowell reported that, as per the authority granted under the *Municipal Government Act*, the Town has provided for a partial tax exemption to property owners who meet certain criteria. In the attached report, she outlined specifics relating to this exemption and provided an analysis for the last five years.

Therefore, it was moved by Councilor Bernie Cooper and seconded by Councilor Eric Bolland

that the attached resolution be approved for Low Income Tax Exemptions, with the exemption amount of \$200 for the period April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011, providing that the total annual income from all family members in that household does not exceed \$22,749, among other things.

MOTION CARRIED

(iv) Interest Charges on Outstanding Accounts

Deputy Mayor Bill Boyd noted that at a recent meeting of Council Advisory Committee, Director Debra Crowell reported that under the authority granted by the *Municipal Government Act*, the Town has in place a policy statement which addresses interest charges on outstanding accounts. As the current rate provides an incentive for citizens to pay accounts by the due date, she recommended that the Town maintains that rate of interest at 2% per month (26.8% per year).

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

that Town Council approves that the interest rate on outstanding accounts with the Town remains at 2% per month (26.8% per year) for the year April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011.

MOTION CARRIED

(v) Withdrawal – Capital (various) - \$76,574.43

Deputy Mayor Bill Boyd noted that at a recent meeting of Council Advisory Committee, Finance Director Crowell reported that the capital budget approved by Council in May 2009, allowed for various work to be carried out in the amount of \$428,300. However since then, some of those projects have been postponed for next year, thereby resulting in a reduction for the withdrawal at this time. The attached report identifies the projects to be funded in the amount of \$76,574.43.

Therefore, it was moved by Councilor Eric Bolland and seconded by Councilor Bernie Cooper

that funds in the amount of \$76,574.43 be withdrawn from the Capital Reserve Fund to partially fund the budgeted capital construction costs for 2009-2010, as per the Capital Budget.

MOTION CARRIED

(vi) Withdrawal – Town Capital Reserve (Sanitary Sewer) \$44,026.80

Deputy Mayor Bill Boyd noted that at a recent meeting of Council Advisory Committee, Director Debra Crowell reported that funds should be withdrawn from the Capital Reserve Fund – Sanitary Sewer as a funding source for capital work on the River Street pumping station and on Nichols Avenue.

Therefore, it was moved by Councilor Bernie Cooper and seconded by Councilor Eric Bolland

that funds, in the amount of \$44,026.80, be

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withdrawn from the Capital Reserve Sanitary Sewer portion, to partially fund those capital construction projects for 2009-2010.

MOTION CARRIED

(vii) Withdrawal – Equipment – Public Works - \$50,000

Deputy Mayor Bill Boyd noted that at a recent meeting of Council Advisory Committee, Finance Director Crowell reported that the 2009-2010 Capital Budget allows for the purchase of equipment for transportation purposes, and that the project now requires partial funding.

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

that a withdrawal of \$50,000 from the Town's Equipment Reserve be made to fund the purchase of transportation equipment in the 2009-2010 budget.

MOTION CARRIED

(viii) Withdrawal – Equipment Reserve – Public Works – Street Sweeper

Deputy Mayor Bill Boyd noted that at a recent meeting of Council Advisory Committee, Director Debra Crowell reported that the 2008-2009 budget for the street sweeper was \$200,000, however, the landed cost was for \$236,066.93.

Therefore, in consideration of funding sources, a shortfall of \$36,066.93 remained, although \$13,566.42 can be funded from the 2009-2010 equipment TBR, thereby leaving a shortfall of \$22,500.51. She added that \$20,625 can be funded from the Equipment Reserve, leaving a balance of \$1,875.51, which can be funded from the Capital Reserve General Allocation Fund.

Therefore, it was moved by Councilor Tony Bentley and seconded by Councilor Eric Bolland

that a withdrawal of \$20,625 be made from

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the Equipment Reserve to assist in funding the purchase of the street sweeper, as per the 2008-2009 budget.

MOTION CARRIED

(Note: The Town recovers some of the costs of this purchase through renting the sweeper to other municipalities and to owners of parking lots, etc.)

(ix) Chapter 13 – License Bylaw (First Reading to Rescind)

Deputy Mayor Bill Boyd noted that at a recent meeting of Council Advisory Committee, Town Clerk Carol Harmes reported that she has reviewed this bylaw and has found its content either irrelevant to today's practices or better addressed through the current Vending Bylaw and Taxi Bylaw. The solicitor has agreed that this document serves no purpose and that it should be rescinded.

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

that First Reading be given to rescind Chapter 13 – License Bylaw.

MOTION CARRIED

(x) UNSM Spring Workshop 2010 - Support

Deputy Mayor Bill Boyd noted that at a recent meeting of Council Advisory Committee, it was noted that the Spring Workshop will take place this year at the Old Orchard Inn. Further, as a gesture of support, the four towns and the county agreed to support some of the expenses associated with this event. In addition, the Kentville Town Council asked Councilor Bentley to serve on the Social Committee, if needed.

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

**that the Town donates \$500 towards some expenses associated with the UNSM Spring Workshop,
and further,**

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that Councilor Tony Bentley be appointed as a Kentville representative on the Social Committee for this workshop.

MOTION CARRIED

(b) Fire

(i) Chief's report

Chief Shawn Ripley reported that for the month of November there were 18 calls in Kentville for a distance travelled of 362 kilometers, 17 calls in the County for a distance travelled of 972 kilometers and no mutual aid calls. These call outs ranged in scope from fire alarms sounding and propane leaks, to motor vehicle accidents, structure fires and medical assists.

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

that the reports from the Fire Chief be received.

MOTION CARRIED

(ii) Fire Governance Report

Deputy Mayor Bill Boyd reported that there was a meeting at the end of January which dealt with operating issues and the upcoming budget, along with the recruitment of the full time Fire Chief. RFPs have been sent out for a consulting company to assist with the interview process, with the deadline for submissions being March 5th.

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

that the report from the Fire Governance Committee be received.

MOTION CARRIED

(c) Valley Waste – Resource Management Authority

CAO Robicheau recapped some of the content of the attached report, noting that a motion was made at the January meeting of the Authority to reduce the amount transferred to reserves from \$324,000 to \$100,000,

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following which this new budget was presented to the partnering councils. He added some statistics regarding the waste streams and made mention of a meeting with the Honourable Sterling Belliveau on January 18th, at which time issues were discussed relating to provincial funding, the increase of the RRFB's percentage from 10 to 15%, and the cup levy on disposal beverage cups

CAO Robicheau further added that work continues with the VWRM Working Group on the development of a protocol for the use of capital reserve funds; amendments to the Inter-municipal Services Agreement are moving forward; and a Strategy Session has taken place on February 3rd.

Councilor Bernie Cooper added that he will be attending the meeting on February 24th.

Therefore, it was moved by Councilor Bernie Cooper and seconded by Councilor Eric Bolland

that the report from Valley Waste Resource Management Authority be received.

MOTION CARRIED

**(d) Kings Regional Development Agency
(i) Representative's Report**

Jennifer Weisner recapped the written reports from both January and February, noting that the new Director, Stephen Kerr will begin next week. She added that she is finalizing next year's business plan and will send out copies when it has been completed. This will no doubt, be formally presented by the new Director. Also, the new branding project is ready to roll out and involves a new logo and other identification.

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

that the report from Kings RDA be received.

MOTION CARRIED

**(d) Kentville Community Development
Committee**

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(i) Report

Mayor David Corkum reported that the latest edition of the Kentville Connection has been distributed. He added that Tiffany Connell has left on maternity leave and the committee members are concerned about a replacement for her, so that continuity will be given to the projects.

(e) Kings Transit Authority

(i) Representative's Report

CAO Robicheau reported that during the last meeting the budget was tabled and therefore, will be presented on March 3 at 3:00 p.m. at the joint council meeting. There will be a presentation of both the Kings Transit and Kings Para Transit budgets, along with a presentation on the Fire Training Centre at that joint meeting, as well.

CAO Robicheau noted that with the budget, there will be a substantial increase, due to maintenance costs with the buses. As the maintenance facility has been delayed, the costs to operate the vehicles continues to grow and can also be expected to be an issue in the upcoming year.

In addition, the matter of the Federal Transit Funds was discussed and service partners (Co. of Annapolis and Digby) are asking for their share of the transit funds.

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

that the report from Kings Transit Authority be received.

MOTION CARRIED

Points from Discussion

- Kings Transit has been addressing the need of a maintenance facility for years, however, in spite of the fact that this organization has secured funding, they must continue to delay the project, as the County of Kings has involved KTA in this proposed Tri-Government Complex.

(m) Environmental Advisory Committee

Councilor Eric Bolland reported that this committee

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will meet on Thursday and that he and a delegation from NS (he, Bev Gentleman, Jennifer Weisner, Debbie Neilson and others from Kings County Council and UNSM) attended the FCM Green Conference in Ottawa last week. He read some excerpts from the Climate Change book, and noted that there is a need for both moral and political leadership to reduce green house gases, and gave examples of some of the initiatives (i.e. public transit, recycling waste). Green Municipal Funds are available and these funds are being made more accessible.

He promised to leave the conference information with the Administration Office should anyone wish to review it.

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

that the report from the Environmental Advisory Committee be received.

MOTION CARRIED

(n) Councilor's Report

Councilor Tony Bentley attended all meetings and was pleased to learn lots of things about Kentville's history from the Acadia presentations. He also attended the solicitor's meeting and the Haiti fund-raiser.

Councilor Nola Folker-Hill attended all meetings and extended a thank you to Mayor Corkum for attending her mother's 80th birthday party.

Councilor Mark Pearl (absent)

Councilor Eric Bolland attended all meetings and noted the Kentville and Area Youth Association is looking for more young people to become involved, and for adults to help with some of the events. A SAC/PTA meeting was held last week and some concerns were expressed about the soccer field, and lastly, the Kentville for Haiti event on Friday night resulted in fund raising of \$9300.

Councilor Bernie Cooper attended all events, including the Haiti Fundraiser.

Deputy Mayor Bill Boyd attended all meetings and filled in for Councilor Pearl on the selection committee for the new director of the Kings RDA.

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(o) Mayor's Report

From Mayor Corkum's written report, he added that a review of the CAO was completed and thanked those who assisted. The CAO was rated very highly.

He also attended several birthday celebrations, the Kings County Wildlife dinner, at which he ate wildcat for the first time. He also attended the Ministers Round Table with members from the Town Caucus, the Rural Caucus, the Regional Caucus Chair and UNSM president, along with many ministers. He put on a presentation for the task force for towns, and discussions took place regarding the assessment caps and the fair distribution of federal funds. Although the Ministers expressed concerns about the issues involved in the Task Force, as they related to the Towns (plight of several small urban areas, i.e. Canso), they would not commit to a time table.

He also attended the African Heritage celebration which he enjoyed; a planning committee meeting on the Spring workshop for UNSM, the Population Forum; Long Service Awards at Government House, at which Ron Delorey, Darrell Brown and Kenny Reade all received long service awards; an Olympic Launch; (\$1100 raised by kids at KCA for Haiti); a Town's Caucus Meeting at which the president was asked to get a timetable from the Ministers for the Task Force review and to further review the new report on Fair and Equitable Funding as prepared by the local CAO group; Lastly he noted that the Haiti Relief Fund Raiser on Friday night was a great event, raising an impressive amount of funds.

CORRESPONDENCE

none

NEW BUSINESS

(a) Utility Pole Pollution

Councilor Eric Bolland wanted to bring attention to the number of advertisements and signs which are attached to the utility poles in the downtown area. Many of the signs are out-of-date, do not relate to any event in town, and have left countless staples in the wooden poles.

Points from Discussion

- A kiosk should be made available for these types of notices.

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- A kiosk did exist at one time (across from Municipal Building) however, this was removed.
- The utility poles are assets belonging to either NS Power or Bell Aliant.
- Senior staff could address this issue during one of their meetings.
- Many of these signs would be considered “off-site advertising.”
- Staples left in the pole could cause injury to workers on these poles.
- In the past the downtown maintenance person and/or police officers walking the beat would remove these posters.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

none

ADJOURNMENT

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

that the regular meeting of Town Council be adjourned at 8:52 p.m. to go In Camera to discuss negotiations.

MOTION CARRIED