

APPROVED – Council February 11, 2009

KENTVILLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

January 14, 2009

PRESENT

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

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Corkum called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and CAO Robicheau reported that all Council members were in attendance.

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 Eric Bolland and seconded by Deputy Mayor Bernie Cooper

that the agenda be approved with no additions.

MOTION CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS

Kings Transit Authority – Ron Mullins (update)
Ron Mullins, General Manager of Kings Transit Authority reported on the financial situation of the authority, noting a surplus of \$37,731, as of November 30th has been realized for the year. He reviewed various aspects of their budget pointing out that they do anticipate a year-end deficit due to high maintenance and other operational costs.

He added that the Michelin Express Bus initiative is being funded for 2 years at \$110,000 and this service runs from Wolfville to Waterville, however, there is a bit of a challenge because of the lower price of gas and the lower interest by citizens in taking public transportation as a savings measure.

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He outlined the general ridership for each month and the revenue received, stating that the month's average per rider was \$2.72.

In addition, he discussed some governmental funding projects which might be of assistance for this transit organization, and noted several challenges which KTA will face in the future, such as acquiring new facilities, initiating growth and improved service, controlling fuel costs, repairs and maintenance, promoting public transportation and implementing the Strategic Plan.

Points from Discussion

- The Michelin Xpress has limited stops for pick up and delivery and this may be a deterrent to potential riders.
- Conserve NS funds the Michelin Xpress and must, along with KTA, decide within 6 months if this is a feasible run.
- The anticipated increase in maintenance costs could translate into a deficit.
- Vehicle repairs relate somewhat to the number of miles traveled, and to stagger replacement costs, a new bus is added every four years.
- A new facility with a proper vehicle washing station would help to reduce some damage from salt and dirt on the body and in the working parts of these vehicles.
- Fares have increased and KTA has the highest fares in Canada, although they are still a very good value.
- The new brochures contain a lot of information and publication costs are supported through advertising.
- On February 12th there will be a joint council budget presentation at Kings County Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

(a) December 10, 2008

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

that the Minutes of December 10, 2008 be approved as circulated

MOTION CARRIED

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BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES **None**

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(a) Council Advisory Committee - none

(b) Finance

(i) Director's Report

Finance Director Crowell reiterated some points in her report, stating that day-to-day work continues on the utility billing, capital projects, budget process, the Paymentus program and RFPs for general insurance.

Relating to the financial status of the Town, she added that with a benchmark of 75%, overall revenue exceeds the average; overall expenditures exceed the average; 94.9% of outstanding taxes have been collected; the Balance Sheet for the Perpetual Investment Fund shows investments totalling \$13.5 million (at cost); and that the Statement of Reserves shows a total income at the end of November, at \$373,360, with capital gains at \$146,520. She added that the IAC has received reassurance from the investment advisor that the income target will be met this year. It was further noted that over \$50,000 was received by the Town, resulting from accumulated surpluses from Valley Waste Management.

Following some questions, it was moved by Councilor Nola Folker-Hill and seconded by Deputy Mayor Bernie Cooper

that the report from the Director of Finance be received.

MOTION CARRIED

Points from Discussion

- The funds received from Valley Waste may be placed in the current year's operating costs or put in reserves.
- Perhaps more discussion on the VWRM surplus could be conducted with the Director at the next CAC.
- The Director may also be able to add some further information on the Paymentus program, as to whether or not monthly payments can be

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made by using this program.

- The \$150,000 (2%) less on collected taxes (compared to last year) may be as a result of several factors, one of which may be the economy. There does not appear to be any alarming issue at this time.

(c) Planning and Development

(i) Director’s Report

Director Gentleman reiterated several aspects of her report, noting that there were no permits issued for December. She noted that Brennan Vogel has been hired for the ICSP position and began work on January 12th. Work continues on the subdivision proposal submitted by Roger Cameron, on the land purchase by the Family and Children Services and on the rezoning application for the Crows Nest property development.

Lastly, she outlined the number of meetings she had attended on the month.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED

Points from Discussion

- Brennan Vogel comes to his position with excellent experience and credentials.
- The Federal Infrastructure Program (which has been in the news recently) appears to be for projects qualifying for gas tax funds.
- There may have been an application submitted in the past by the Town which may be on the list of “shovel ready” projects.
- The “big city mayors” have lead the charge on such issues, and may be in line for some of the funds.
- The County has distributed a sustainability survey and Kentville residents are being asked to assist.
- Kings CED is helping to co-ordinate this effort (through circulation) and they will also assist with the Town’s program.

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- Cooperation between the municipal units is another example of integration and should be encouraged.

(ii) Committee Report

Councilor Mark Pearl reported that there will be a meeting next week.

(d) Fire

(3) Chief's Report

Fire Chief Shawn Ripley submitted a report, in which he noted that there were 6 alarms in Town for the month of December resulting in 102 kilometers traveled, and 22 alarms in the County for 1218 kilometers travelled. In addition, there were 3 mutual aid calls with 400 kilometers traveled. As usual, these alarms ranged in scope from motor vehicle accidents and fires, to medical emergencies, fire alarms sounding, medical assists and structure fires.

Therefore, it was moved by Deputy Mayor Bernie Cooper and seconded by Councilor Mark Pearl

that the report from the Fire Chief be received.

MOTION CARRIED

(i) Governance Committee Report

Councilor Bill Boyd reported that there has not been a meeting, therefore, the chair has not been selected. The next meeting will be on January 27th.

(e) Parks and Recreation

(i) Director's Report

Director Mark Phillips reported that the arena continues to be busy with hockey and skating, and that plans are underway for the spring Home Show on the April 18th weekend; the parks have been busy with winter outdoor activities and a program flyer has been distributed; work continues with the KCDC and a strategy session will take place on January 17th.

Lastly, Director Phillips listed the winter programs offered at KCA and the number of meetings which he attended over the last month.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED

Points from Discussion

- Many families use Burger Hill for sledding.
- Some of the older children are building jumps (using Town signage and the picnic tables) and these jumps have resulted in injuries.
- If anyone sees this type of activity at the hill, they should contact the Director of Recreation or the Police Chief.
- The new winter program is a great resource for “things to do in the community” and staff should be commended for this effort.

(ii) Committee Report

Councilor Nola Folker-Hill reported that there will be a meeting tomorrow evening.

(f) Police

(4) Chief’s Report

Police Chief Mark Mander reported that Kentville hosted the kick off for Operation Christmas and that the holiday season was relatively quiet. He added that there were 57 hours of foot patrol during December and that the commission will meet on January 29th.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED

Points from discussion

- The current bylaw enforcement officer is doing a great job, especially with parking tickets.
- The foot patrols and police presence are good security measures even during winter.

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Board Report

Deputy Mayor Bernie Cooper reported a scheduled meeting for January 29th, and that there was nothing to report from the December meeting.

(g) Transportation Services

(i) Director's Report

Director Greg Kehoe reported that Public Works staff has remained busy with ice and snow removal and has dealt with a range of weather warnings for blizzards, wind, freezing rain and snowstorms. The severe and variable weather has required extensive resources. In addition, the freeze-thaw conditions have created some damage to asphalt in the Town and throughout the province.

Lastly, he announced that Eugene Corbin and Richard Little have obtained their Class 3 driver's license and are now able to operate the Town's heavy equipment.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED

(ii) Committee Report

Councilor Bill Boyd stated that the next meeting will be on January 20th and would like to compliment the workers for snow removal this winter. He noted that 3 major pieces of equipment are being repaired and that this equipment shortage along with the use of new contractors for snow removal, have caused some comments from the public. He added that he has sat in on the CUPE negotiations and work continues with that.

Points from Discussion

- The public often tells Town Council and staff that the Public Works staff do a great job with snow removal.
- Citizens should be made aware that garbage bags and green bins should be placed so they do not interfere with snow removal either on

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the street or on the sidewalks.

- Ongoing monitoring of flood conditions is done on a regular basis, especially during high tide-full moon conditions.
- The EMO Manager will have a meeting in the near future, as an information session.

(h) Water Commission

(i) Directors Report

Director Greg Kehoe reported that a meeting was held on December 9th and that the Financial Report and Director's report were discussed in detail. The status of the dividend will be addressed at the March meeting.

Lastly, he reported that at year's end, 30 new customers were enjoying the water service in the Balsor/Eaglecrest/Ward Subdivision, although work continues by the County regarding the fire hydrants.

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

that the report from the Director of the Kentville Water Commission be received.

MOTION CARRIED

(ii) Commission Report

Mayor David Corkum had nothing further to report at this time.

(i) Valley Waste Resource Management Authority

(i) Representative's Report

Councilor Mark Pearl reported that although there was no Management Report from Valley Waste due to the Christmas schedule, he noted that General Manager Ross Maybee will meet with Council to discuss the budget at the next CAC meeting. He added that he was elected as Vice Chair and will represent Valley Waste on the Landfill Board with Chester. A surplus of \$51,000 has been returned to the Town as a result of accumulated surpluses; that an orientation meeting will be held on January 21st and a workshop at the Fire Hall is scheduled for January 16th from 1:00 until 3:00 p.m.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED

(j) Kings Community Economic Development

(i) Representative's Report

There was no new information since the last report, however, it was noted that the joint meeting was well attended and informative. Jennifer Weisner reported that the annual meeting has been scheduled and a new report will be presented at the next meeting.

(k) Kentville Community Development Committee

(i) Report

Mayor Corkum stated that there was nothing further to report other than the strategy session this Saturday. The purpose of this is to review past goals and set future priors.

(l) Kings Transit Authority Representative's Report

Councilor Mark Pearl noted that there was nothing further to add following the General Manager's presentation earlier.

(m) Environmental Advisory Committee

Councilor Eric Bolland reported that a meeting was held on January 6th and it was noted that Tim Horton's has donated a number of recycling bins to the Town. Also, some data will be gathered internally, prior to engaging a consultant to conduct an energy audit on the Town's facilities.

It was also reported that the position for the ICSP coordinator has begun; bike racks have been installed around Town; additional anti-idling signage was discussed; points were made regarding the Power of Green Conference and the Environmental Conference; the reduction of bottled water with the installation of a

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cooler was debated along with Earth Day promotion. Earth Day will be held on April 22nd.

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

that the report from the Environmental Advisory Committee be received.

MOTION CARRIED

(n) Councilor's Report

Deputy Mayor Bernie Cooper had nothing further to add.

Councilor Tony Bentley had nothing further to add.

Councilor Eric Bolland reported that he attended all meetings, the Joint Meeting in Berwick and visited the Mayor in Yarmouth to compare notes.

Councilor Mark Pearl had nothing further to report.

Councilor Nola Folker-Hill attended all meetings, the Kings CED Strategy Session and CUPE negotiations.

Councilor Bill Boyd reported that he attended all meetings and the Kings CED Strategy Session.

(o) Mayor's Report

Mayor David Corkum reiterated some points in his report, noting that he has attended meetings regarding the Edge property, the new school, EKCC, Kings CED, Crime Prevention, and Rotary. He also attended the KVFD Christmas party, a luncheon at Camp Aldershot, the Rotary Christmas Dinner and the Legion's New Year's levee.

(p) Chief Administrative Officer's Report

CAO Robicheau reiterated some items in his attached report, stating that Shannex requires an easement (to be addressed in camera) and that a time schedule has been given regarding the other two buildings. Shannex will not be attending the Strategy Session (January 24), however, would like to attend Council or CAC in February. The school site selection will also be addressed in camera. The Town's engineer continues work on the dyke; the KPSC CAOs met with Valley Waste on December 15th regarding the budget, and meetings continue with Kings Transit. He also attended the board meeting for VWRM and provided

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written comments on the Ramsay Report. He continues communication with the Department of Community Services regarding developments around the county's property and reported that he and the County CAO still have not been able to get any further information on the bridge study.

Senior Management meetings have begun and another general meeting with staff will be held soon.

He has spoken with the Friends of the Library regarding the site selection; will meet again regarding physician recruitment to the area and continues communication with downtown merchants regarding snow removal. He added that information continues to be received on the Perpetual Account and work continues on the CUPE negotiations and preparations for the PANS agreement.

Lastly, he added that he has been working on the agenda for the Strategy Session and felt that the Police Chief should be included on the agenda, to give a presentation on the PANS Agreement.

Mayor Corkum added that Ken Simpson, the Executive Director for UNSM is gravely ill and wished him well.

CORRESPONDENCE

none

NEW BUSINESS

none

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

none

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 to go In Camera.

IN CAMERA

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

that the meeting adjourns to go "In Camera" to discuss land negotiations at 8:50 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

COUNCIL RESUMES

It was moved by Councillor Nola Folker-Hill and seconded by Deputy Mayor Bernie Cooper

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that the “In Camera” meeting adjourns and that the regular meeting of Council resumes at 10:45 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

(1) Grant of Easement to Nova Scotia Power Incorporated

It was moved by Councillor Bill Boyd and seconded by Councillor Mark Pearl

that Council approves the grant of an easement to Nova Scotia Power Incorporated to enable the installation of electricity services to the Shannex long-term care facility, as shown on the plan entitled “Shannex – Kentville Power Pole Routing,” and subject to Shannex fulfilling the commitments and conditions contained in an E-mail message dated February 14, 2009 from Allan MacLellan of Shannex, including:

- **Shannex will provide, install and maintain light fixtures to the satisfaction of the Town of Kentville;**
- **The light fixtures will be Corvus Series CVM lighting or equivalent design that, when properly installed, will minimize any spill-over of light to neighbouring properties and the night sky;**
- **No poles, down-guys or other structures or devices of NSPI or Shannex will be placed within the 20 foot wide area that the Town owns and will be developing as a trail.**

MOTION CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

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

that the meeting adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED