

Approved – September 27, 2010

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# **KENTVILLE TOWN COUNCIL**

## **SPECIAL MEETING**

### **MINUTES**

### **September 1, 2010**

#### **PRESENT**

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

Director Debra Crowell, Director Mark Phillips, Director Beverly Gentleman, Director Greg Kehoe, Police Chief Mark Mander

#### **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Mayor David Corkum called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. and CAO Robicheau reported that all Council members were in attendance

#### **IN CAMERA**

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

**that the Special Meeting of Council go “In Camera” at 4:06 p.m. to discuss a contractual matter.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL RESUMES**

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

**that the In Camera Meeting adjourns and that the Special Meeting of Council resumes at 5:12 p.m.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **BUDGET 2010-2011**

CAO Robicheau gave an overview of the progress having been made on the budget approval process to date, noting that the impact of CAPped assessments and other issues have affected the bottom line of the budget, which in turn, necessitated a review of all accounts and several scenarios that would increase revenue.

Director Debra Crowell reiterated that an increase in

Approved – September 27, 2010

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the tax rate at this time would be for the purpose of rebuilding reserves which have been depleted. This is a prudent response for the Town at this time. She expounded on the various options, pointing out how this would change the tax rates compared to previous years, and gave examples of the increases.

**Points from presentation: Option 2 – (adding 1 cent to that budget presented in July)**

- Revenue (other than taxation) is expected to remain the same at \$4,106,200 for either option.
- Expenditures are up 3.1%
- The General tax rate increases to \$1.76, an increase of 8.4 cents per \$100.
- The residential Municipal Rate is \$1.35 per \$100, an increase of 6.3%.
- Residential Area Rates (combined) are \$0.133 per \$100, a decrease of 1.7 cents per \$100.
- This brings the total Residential Rate to \$1.4862 per \$100, an increase of 4.6 cents per \$100.
- This would mean a 1 cent increase from the budget presented in July.
- The Commercial Municipal Rate (includes the business occupancy phase-out) of \$3.4461 per \$100 is an increase of 22 cents per \$100.
- The Commercial Area Rates (combined) are \$0.1333 per \$100, down 1.7 cents per \$100.
- The total Commercial Rate would be \$3,5794 per \$100, a 20.3 cents per \$100 increase.
- The prior year's deficit is \$93,600.
- The tax increase for 2010-2011 would be \$198,200.
- The increase for reserves would be \$39,000.
- The total increase would be \$330,800.

**Points from presentation: Option 3 (adding 2 cents to the budget presented in July)**

- Revenue (other than taxation) is expected to remain the same at \$4,106,200 for either option.
- Expenditures are up 3.5%.
- General Tax Rate is \$1.771 per \$100, an increase of 9.6 cents per \$100.
- The Residential Municipal Rate is \$1.3629 per \$100, an increase of 7.3 cents per \$100.
- The Residential Area Rates (combined) would

Approved – September 27, 2010

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- be \$0.1333 per \$100, a decrease of 1.7 cents per \$100.
- Total Residential Rate would be \$1.4962 per \$100, an increase of 5.6 cents per \$100.
- The Commercial Municipal Rate (includes B/O phase-out) would be \$3.4561 per \$100, an increase of 23.0 cents per \$100.
- The Commercial Area Rates (combined) would be \$0.1333 per \$100, a decrease of 1.7 cents per \$100.
- The total Commercial Rate would be \$3.5894 per \$100, an increase of 21.3 cents per \$100.
- The prior year's deficit remains the same as option 2 - \$93,600.
- Tax increase for 2010-2011 would be the same at \$198,200.
- Increase to reserves would be \$78,000, compared to the \$39,000 in Option 2.
- The total increase would be \$369,800.

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

**that Council supports Option 3 with an increase of 5.6 cents per \$100 on Residential assessments and 21.3 cents per \$100 on Commercial assessments.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Points from Discussion**

- Council has been faced with a very tough year, with assessment caps on over 80% of buildings.
- A deficit of \$93,000 was carried over from last year.
- There has been a decrease in the Town's ability to raise additional revenue.
- There has been an increase in services, which need to be financed.
- The Town has an aggressive capital program that has depleted some of the reserves.
- An increase in tax will help to add to the reserves and put the Town in a healthier position should unexpected costs arise.

**RESOLUTION – Tax Rates**

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

Approved – September 27, 2010

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**that the Council of the Town of Kentville hereby authorizes the levying and collection of taxes at the rate of \$1.36 and 1/3 cents per \$100 of residential assessment and \$3.45 and 2/3 cents per \$100 of commercial assessment for the current year, 2010-2011, as per the assessment roll, as presented by the Assessor**

**And Further**

**that the Council of the Town of Kentville hereby authorizes the levying and collection of area rates as follows:**

**Hydrant Area Rate - \$0.08 and ¼ cents per \$100 of assessment.**

**Fire Area Rate - \$0.05 cents per \$100 of assessment.**

**And Further**

**that the due date be set for October 15, 2010 for the final tax bill payment and settlement of tax accounts.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**that the Special Meeting of Town Council be adjourned at 5:30 p.m.**

**MOTION CARRIED**