

KENTVILLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

November 26, 2012

PRESENT

Mayor David Corkum, Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl, Councilor Eric Bolland, Councilor Nola Folker-Hill, Councilor Bernie Cooper, Councilor Tony Bentley, CAO Mark Phillips, Solicitor Tom MacEwan and Town Clerk Carol Harmes.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor David Corkum called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and CAO Phillips reported that, except for Councilor Bill Boyd, all members of Council were present, along with the Town Solicitor, the Town Clerk and himself.

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

that Councilor Bill Boyd be excused from this meeting of Council.

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

that the agenda be approved as circulated

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.

PRESENTATIONS

(a) Pumpkin People Display Winner

Presentations were made to the following people:

- Clint Meunier – Most Humorous (not present)
- Baxter Family – Most Original (not present)
- Boyachek Family – Most Artistic
- OLS – Most Artistic
- Kentville Dental Centre – Most Humorous (not present)
- Pizzazz Bistro – Most Original (not present)

present)

(b) Mike Ouelette – Principal of KCA

Mike Ouelette wanted to introduce himself and share his personal history and experience with Council and to express his pleasure in being at KCA. He acknowledged the good working rapport he has with several members of the Town Staff and Council, stating that he is very committed and involved with the community and hopes that KCA will be the centre of the Kentville community. As such, he extended an invitation for Staff and Council to drop in for a visit.

Mayor David Corkum gave Mr. Ouelette some background on the decision to build a new school, versus renovations to the current site, outlining some of the obstacles and triumphs over the years. He added that Town Council and the Kentville citizens are very proud of this new structure and openly welcome Mr. Ouelette as a new principal to this institution.

Points from Discussion

- The school enrolment of 615 students is nearing maximum capacity.
- The introduction of 4 year olds to the student numbers has created a “bubble,” which will follow along in the years to come.
- Although enrolment is generally decreasing throughout the province, in Kentville families are moving to the area for the school. Therefore, extra space within the schools needs to be converted to accommodate these additional students.
- The PTA members are very positive and enthusiastic with the new leadership at the school.
- Although the education costs have doubled, the enrolments have generally declined.
- The student populations are different from those in the past; therefore, the needs of the students and the resources they need reflect those differences, as well.

**APPROVAL OF THE
MINUTES**

(a) November 5, 2012

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

**that the Minutes of November 5, 2012 be approved
as circulated.**

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM (a) none

**THE MINUTES/OLD
BUSINESS**

**REPORTS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS**

(a) Council Advisory Committee

(1) Big Brothers Big Sisters Request for Funding

Councilor Bernie Cooper reported that at the November 2012 meeting of Council Advisory Committee, a letter from Big Brothers Big Sisters noted that 2013 is their 100th anniversary in Canada, and that, as part of the celebrations, they hope to raise \$500 from each municipality to support multi-event children's programs.

Council felt that as this request will compete with other applications for grants, it should be judged on its own merits, when all can be evaluated at the same time.

Therefore, it was moved by Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl and seconded by Councilor Tony Bentley

that the funding request from Big Brothers Big Sisters becomes part of the budget negotiations, and that this organization be advised of the process.

MOTION CARRIED

(b) Fire

(i) Chief's report

CAO Phillips reported that the Fire Chief's report was not submitted in time for the last meeting, however, he reported that there were 15 alarms in September - 6 in the Town for 152 km. traveled, 8 in the county for 676 km traveled and 1 mutual aid call involving 128 kilometers traveled. He outlined the types of alarms, noting that they ranged in scope from alarms sounding, house, garbage bin and car fires, to MVAs, hazmat conditions and medical assists.

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

that the report from the Fire Chief be received.

MOTION CARRIED

(ii) Joint Fire Services Committee Report

Councilor Cooper noted a meeting is scheduled for November 27th.

(c) Valley Waste Resource Management Authority's Representative's Reports

Representative Deputy Mayor Pearl reported that both the October and November reports have been received. He noted that the first draft of the Operating and Capital Budgets for 2013-2014 should be available for the next meeting, and that partner feedback is being encouraged. At this point, there appears to be an increase of 4.87% for partner costs, which reflects those changes relating to the closure of a large industrial operation in Hantsport that had shipped its residuals to Chester.

The Policy Committee presented a final draft of its new Investment Policy and this will be sent to SNSMR for final approval. A policy relating to goods and services is currently being created.

It was noted that several changes have taken place on the Authority as a result of the municipal election, and new appointees are being asked to contact Valley Waste with any questions. An orientation will take place in January, and as these members are appointed annually, perhaps other councilors may be interested in attending, as well.

The Grand Opening for the new administration offices was well attended, however, others not able to attend should feel free to drop in at any time. With the small wind turbine, installation will take place after acceptance into the NS Department of Energy's COMFIT program, so in anticipation for this, it was included in the draft capital budget. Lastly, the new calendar is going to print and should reach 37,000 service units shortly.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl and seconded by Councilor Nola Folker-Hill

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

MOTION CARRIED

(d) Kings Regional Development Agency (REN) Representative's Report

CAO Phillips reported that there will be an Economic Summit held on Friday in Chester and he hopes to be able to report back after that meeting.

(e) Kings Transit Authority's Representative's Report

A report from the General Manager, Ron Mullins noted that the legal agreement for the U-Pass for Acadia students has been completed but will require ratification by the Student Union and a referendum will take place on February 13, 2013. Installation of the new Kentville Transfer Station has been completed and benches will be installed shortly. Kings Transit Authority is pleased with its quality and location.

With financial issues, the current deficit is \$7,991 but with the return of Annapolis Royal to the system, hopes are that the year-end will not see the projected \$25,000 deficit.

Talks continue with Maritime Bus, who plans to operate from Kings Transit terminal to replace Acadian Lines. Also, it appears that Annapolis' legal issue has been resolved, with the case dismissed, and thanks go to the Town's solicitor, Tom MacEwan.

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

that the report from Kings Transit Authority be received.

MOTION CARRIED

(h) Councilors' Report

Councilor Tony Bentley attended all meetings, the Torchlight Parade, the Remembrance Day Ceremony and the AVESTA Awards.

Councilor Nola Folker-Hill attended all meetings, the AVESTA Awards, the Torchlight Parade, the Remembrance Day Ceremony, and a 3 ½ hour video conference for the National Police Board.

Councilor Eric Bolland attended the Remembrance Day services, 2 Eco Kings meetings, the Torchlight Parade, an Active Transportation Workshop, an EAC meeting, the KCA PTA meeting, the AVESTA awards, the New Minas Civic Centre Opening and a meeting regarding transit, involving MLA Jennex, MLA Morton and Deputy Mayor Mangle.

Councilor Bernie Cooper attended all meetings except two involving the Ministers.

Councilor Bill Boyd (not in attendance)

Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl had nothing further to report.

(i) Mayor's Report

Mayor Corkum reported the following:

- The County Council was sworn in on November 6th and he congratulated Warden Brothers and DW Innes.
- The Chamber of Commerce Business Awards took place on November 8th and congratulated Councilor Nola Folker-Hill for being nominated.
- He attended a meeting with M. Mitchell regarding the library; and a dinner at the Legion.
- He attended the Cenotaph Ceremony on Remembrance Day; the CAC meeting on November 13th; and a meeting with Councilor Raven
- He noted that the AVESTA Awards Ceremony was well attended by Kentville Council and attended the Opening of the New Minas Civic Centre.
- He was a guest at a supper at the Salvation Army in appreciation of the kettle workers;
- He attended an orientation for the Truro (UNSM) on November 17th; the Kinsmen Christmas Miracle on the 18th; a meeting regarding EAC; and Bob Stead's Retirement Party
- The Torchlight Parade was well attended and Rec Staff should be thanked for their hard work.
- On November 26th, he attended a session with the Minister of Finance.

CORRESPONDENCE

(a) NS Chamber of Commerce Re: Property Tax

A letter from this organization pointed out that several inequities exist with municipal cost recovery, based on property assessment for residential and commercial taxpayers. The chairman of this organization pointed out that the CAP system has resulted in some homeowners paying drastically different amounts for the same service; also, business property owners are paying much more than homeowners for the same or less service. Therefore, four recommendations were made:

- (1) The Province should set a cap on the multiple between commercial and residential rates at 1.5 times the residential rate.
- (2) The province should eliminate the cap on residential assessment.
- (3) Each municipality should charge the same rates for the same service for all consumers within their borders.
- (4) Property assessment should be eliminated and the Province should investigate the use of the HST system, the income tax program or a flat tax (or some combination of all three), as a means to eliminate property taxes over a 10 year

period.

Lastly, it was noted that a request was made that each municipal unit write to the Minister of Service NS and Municipal Relations to support the changes noted above.

It was moved by Councilor Nola Folker-Hill and seconded by Councilor Eric Bolland

that this request be considered during the Town's budget process.

MOTION CARRIED

(b) UNSM's Position re: Property Tax

CAO Phillips read the News Release from UNSM President Jim Smith which referenced the recommendation for a review of the municipal property tax system in partnership with the province and key stakeholders. Although elimination of the property tax cap was supported, other recommendations were not. Concern was expressed that if the commercial tax is lowered significantly, the difference would need to be passed on to the residential tax payers. Tying property taxes directly to services would need further consideration, as there is a cost to provide the service and the beneficiaries of those services.

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

that the opinion of UNSM be considered during the budget process.

MOTION CARRIED

(c) Valley Women and Children's Health Centre

This correspondence from Dr. Charles Hamm opposed the Town selling the existing parking spots to Tim Horton's Drive Thru, as the parking is necessary for staff and customers visiting the centre. He added that in the past, he asked the Town to lease parking spots to accommodate those disabled, pregnant and infirmed patients visiting this centre.

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

that this letter be forwarded to the next meeting of CAC, as part of the discussion regarding Tim Horton's request for land purchase.

MOTION CARRIED

(d) Heather King

Ms. King wrote in protest to the Town in selling existing parking spots to Tim Horton's. She pointed out that the current drive-thru location on Aberdeen Street is a problem, and to add more land to it, would only increase the number of idling motorists, the lines of traffic, the amount of garbage, and other nuisance situations.

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

that this letter be sent to the upcoming CAC meeting to become part of the discussion regarding Tim Horton's request.

MOTION CARRIED

Patti Woodworth-Norris and Peter Norris

The owners of the building adjacent to the Tim Horton's drive thru objected to having the parking spots sold to allow for vehicle stacking, as motorists wait for their coffee.

CAO Phillips read the letter, noting that the close proximity of this lot, currently allows for parking of staff, customers and patients visiting those adjacent businesses. The loss of 10 to 15 parking spots affects the use of the building, and current tenants have already indicated their displeasure and intention to discontinue business at this location should parking be lost.

It was also noted that a letter was received from Dr. Maltby, however, inadvertently was not included for this meeting.

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

that the correspondence from Dr. C.C. Maltby be received, but not read.

MOTION DEFEATED

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

that the Norris letter, along with that from Dr. Maltby, be sent to CAC for consideration, as part of the Tim Horton's purchase discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION CARRIED

(a) Appointment of Town Crier

Clerk Harmes submitted a request for Town Council to re-appoint Lloyd Smith as the Town Crier for a 4-year term of office. She noted that Mr. Smith continues to perform these functions in his usual outstanding fashion, and has always brought honour, dignity and pomp and ceremony to the Town's special events.

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

that Lloyd Smith is re-appointed to the position of Honorary Town Crier for Kentville, for the term of service – November 2012 until November 2016.

MOTION CARRIED

Lloyd Smith thanked Council for allowing him to continue in this position, stating that he is very proud to do so. He shared some history on how he had become involved as a Town Crier and noted that next year will be his 35th anniversary. With this milestone, he will be the longest serving Crier in the country.

He added that next year he will also have a new uniform made, and hopes the Town will support the cost for this. The old uniform will be put on display and the new one unveiled during a ceremony sometime in May.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

(a) none

ADJOURNMENT

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

that the meeting adjourns at 8:23 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED