

KENTVILLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

February 24, 2014

PRESENT Mayor David Corkum, Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl – Via Skype, Councilor Bill Boyd – Via Skype, Councilor Nola Folker-Hill, Councilor Bernie Cooper, Councilor Eric Bolland, Councilor Tony Bentley, CAO Mark Phillips, Solicitor Cris Shirritt, Town Clerk Carol Harmes

MOMENT OF SILENCE Mayor Corkum asked for a moment of silence to recognize the passing of Dr. Harris Young and Frank Salter, residents of the area, who were well known and respected in the community.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL Mayor David Corkum called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and CAO Phillips reported that all members were present, including the solicitor, the Town Clerk and himself.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA It was moved by Councilor Eric Bolland and seconded by Councilor Bernie Cooper

that the agenda be approved as presented

MOTION CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS (a) **Housing First – Lia Renaud**
Not present.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (a) **January 27, 2014**
It was moved by Councilor Tony Bentley and seconded by Councilor Bernie Cooper

that the Minutes of January 27, 2014 be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (a) **None**

RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS (a) **Old KCA Building Demolition**
Councilor Tony Bentley noted that at the February 11, 2014 meeting of Council Advisory Committee, CAO Mark Phillips reported that although the buildings, which once formed part of the old Kings County Academy complex, continue to be monitored for safety and vandalism, these structures have begun to deteriorate to the extent that it would seem unlikely that they

would be renovated as part of any future development.

He added that the costs of demolition would be approximately \$350,000 and this has been factored into the purchasing price of the property. However, if the Town undertook the demolition itself, and relisted this vacant parcel of land at an adjusted price, this might stimulate more interest from developers. The proposed market value would be presented to Council for approval prior to the list price adjustment and could be somewhere between \$425,000 and \$475,000.

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

that the existing buildings on the old KCA site, at 25 School Street, be demolished.

MOTION CARRIED

(b) Tax Exemption – Low Income Property Owners

Councilor Tony Bentley noted that at the February 11, 2014 meeting of Council Advisory Committee, Director Crowell reported that each year the Town provides a partial tax exemption to individual property owners who meet certain requirements as defined in *Section 69* of the *MGA*. She provided an analysis of the exemptions over the years and added that applications will be sent to those individuals who have received an exemption in the previous year and that notices will be placed in the local paper.

During discussion of this issue, members of CAC asked if the \$200 exemption was reasonable and fair, considering the rising cost of living over the years. As Council has the authority under the *MGA* to set the exemption rate at an amount it deems appropriate, staff was asked to review the issue once again.

In response, Director Crowell prepared a report which involved comparisons with other municipal units, a calculation showing the effect of the cost of living on the \$200 exemption over a 10 year and 20 year span, and a sliding scale based on income ranges. The costs to the Town were included and were considered fiscally manageable.

She therefore, proposed that Council consider the option that offered the greatest financial assistance for those who qualified for a reduction on their property taxes. She added that as this issue is addressed by Council each year, the cost of living should be an ongoing consideration at that time, as well.

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

that Low Income Tax Exemptions be made for 2014-15 in the amount as outlined on the sliding scale relating to income range, with an income ceiling of \$24,988, and a deadline for applications being June 27, 2014, and further, that this exemption be increased annually by the cost of living figure used for the assessment CAP by Property Valuation Services Corporation.

MOTION CARRIED

Points from Discussion

- Thanks should go to the Finance Director for putting together a very comprehensive report so quickly.

(c) Withdrawal – Sanitary Sewer

Councilor Tony Bentley noted that at the February 11, 2014 meeting of Council Advisory Committee, Director Crowell noted that the 2013-14 Sanitary Sewer Area service capital budget requires a withdrawal from the Town’s Capital Reserve fund. The project – lift stations (East Main and Bonavista) shows a budget from reserve at \$67,000, from which a withdrawal of \$15,119.52 is being requested.

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

that a withdrawal of \$15,119.52 be approved from the Town’s Capital Reserve, Sanitary Sewer Portion, to fund sanitary sewer capital construction incurred during 2013-2014.

MOTION CARRIED

b) Fire

(i) Chief’s Report

CAO Phillips noted that 2 reports have been received from the Fire Chief – one from December 2013 and the second dated January 2014. He advised that in December the statistics recorded showed 49 alarms for the month, with 15 for the Town, with a total of 102 kilometers traveled in Town and 1381 traveled in the County. For January, Fire Chief MacEachern noted that the 2014 budget will be submitted to the Joint Fire Services Committee, and the first phases of the Walsh Management system is being implemented, as elections and officers are now complete. Captains are now playing more of an administrative role in the

APPROVED BY COUNCIL - March 31, 2014

operation of the Fire Department. Statistics for the month saw 100 kilometers traveled in town in response to 4 alarms, while the county saw 1026 kilometers traveled to respond to 12 alarms.

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

that the reports from the Fire Chief be received

MOTION CARRIED

(ii) Joint Fire Services Committees Report

Councilor Bill Boyd reported that the next meeting will be Thursday, March 28th and the budget will be reviewed at that time

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

that the report from the Joint Fire Services Committee be received.

MOTION CARRIED

(d) Valley Waste Resources Management – Representative's Report

The alternate on this committee, Councilor Bernie Cooper, reported that copies of the Minutes of both meetings are in the Council package. However, he added that at the second meeting (February) the Budget Advisory Sub Committee brought forth a budget with a reduced deficit of \$100,000, and that the General Manager Ross Maybee will be visiting the various partners to sign the inter-municipal agreement to include the Town of Annapolis Royal.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl and seconded by Councilor Tony Bentley

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

MOTION CARRIED

d) Kings Transit Authority

Councilor Tony Bentley reported as the alternate on this committee, noting that although there was no written report this month, there was a meeting on January 29 at which the costs of fuel was discussed, along increases of 2.5% to staff wages. A new route to Port Williams has been implemented and budgets 70 new

passengers a day at a fare of \$2.75 a ride. Three new busses have been purchased for Digby, Annapolis East and another to stay in the core.

Two busses, with over 1,000,000 kilometers each, require new engines, which will each cost \$12,000. The budget is expected to increase by 9%, however, the Board has asked if it can be reduced to a 5% increase.

Statistically, ridership is up apart from Annapolis West and Digby. The Interim Manager is doing a good job and the future of this position will be determined in June. The next meeting will be on Thursday.

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

that the report on the Kings Transit Authority be received.

MOTION CARRIED

(e) Councilor's Report

Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl had nothing to report.

Councilor Bill Boyd had nothing to report.

Councilor Bernie Cooper reported he attended all required meetings, however missed the event yesterday with Force Four.

Councilor Tony Bentley attended Force Four production and found the process very interesting.

Councilor Nola Folker-Hill attended all meetings required and the session on the Kings 2050 in New Minas

Councilor Eric Bolland attended a meeting of EAC, Eco Kings Action Team, the Sustainability Conference and stood in for the Olympic Opening at KCA with the Parks and Rec Director, and spent some time at the Force Four Pilot filming.

f) Mayors Report

Mayor Dave Corkum reported that:

- The Force Four production was interesting and he hopes that at the end of the day, citizens will appreciate what their tax dollars do pay for. There may be opportunities for the Town to reexamine some service delivery in light of cost saving measures introduced by citizens.
- If this reality series goes forward, it would be good for Kentville.
- He met with Minister Furey at the end of January and feels confident that this individual will work very well with municipalities. The Minister stated that although he felt

that there would be things that he could not deliver on, he would try his best to negotiate a compromise that was acceptable.

- He spoke at the Chamber of Commerce for Hants County on UNSM priorities
- He attended the Review of the Ivany Report, at which there was a good crowd
- The UNSM Board Meeting dealt with the infrastructure deficit, the Ivany Report and the PVSC review of the tax system. As a result he has been interviewed a number of times on these issues.
- He attended the Lions Club 65th Charter Night and one individual Mr. Elmo Tupper is still a member of that Club.
- He was not able to attend the Coldest Night Fundraiser, as there was a conflict with the Lions Club event, however did apologize for not being able to accept the challenge from the Warden of the County of Kings. There was a great turnout and lots of funds raised for a worthy cause.

CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Nova Scotia Power (Integrated Resource Plan)

A letter from Bob Hanf, the President and CEO of Nova Scotia Power stated that a long-term planning process (IRP) will be developed in consultation with the UARB and other stakeholders. Although the last IRP was completed in 2009, there have been many changes in the way electricity is now generated and used, such as the increase in renewable energy like wind, reductions in industrial electricity use and environmental requirements.

As part of this process, NS Power will seek the involvement of different communities and organizations, as well as organize public engagement opportunities. The Town will be asked to participate in this process, however, in the interim, a website has been set up to introduce the process to customers. The web address is tomorrowpower.ca/irp.

CAO Phillips added that he will advise Council of the date of this meeting and perhaps, a discussion can take place at a future meeting of CAC to address any concerns.

NEW BUSINESS

(a) KCA Yard Sale

CAO Phillips reported that with the pending demolition of the remaining buildings at the School Street location, and the considering the ongoing deterioration of the buildings and contents, a Yard Sale is being held to dispose of some of the contents. Organizations, service clubs and the general public are invited to the gymnasium at the old KCA school which is

proposed for March 11, 2014.

(b) Now or Never – Ivany Report

CAO Phillips urged Council to read the report, or at least the “goals” and “game changers” sections. These will lay out the framework for the future and these will be dissected and discussed at the staff level, with discussion notes prepared for debate at a future CAC meeting. The intent is to identify who owns which issue, what resources are available and the next steps to be taken.

The CAO will also prepare some notes for the Mayor for future speeches and interviews.

He added that the REN met earlier this afternoon and also addressed some of the items in the report.

Points from Discussion

- The UNSM endorses this report and noted that the Town’s Task Force should be completed.
- Federal, Provincial and Municipal Governments will play a role in the future changes addressed by the Ivany Report, however, individuals will play the major role, through business and personal attitudes.
- The responsibility for much of the outcomes will mean a change of attitudes and the way we do business. This will rest on the shoulders of the general public.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Wendy Elliot from the Kentville Advertiser asked if the organizers for the Open Arms facility could be given the opportunity to view some of the yard sale items at KCA, as items like a fridge, stove, etc. are things they need and don’t have at the moment.

ADJOURNMENT

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

that the Council meeting adjourns at 7:39 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED