

KENTVILLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

October 27, 2014

PRESENT Mayor David Corkum, Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl, Councilor Nola Folker-Hill, Councilor Bill Boyd, Councilor Bernie Cooper, Councilor Eric Bolland, Councilor Tony Bentley, Solicitor Cris Shirrett, CAO Mark Phillips and Clerk Carol Harmes.

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 of Council were present, along with the solicitor, the Town Clerk and himself as CAO.

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

that the agenda be approved with the addition of:
8(a) Canadian Federation of New Business
6 (a) 5 - Kings Partnership Steering Committee – Meeting Dates

MOTION CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS (a) none

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (a) **September 29, 2014**
It was moved by Councilor Bill Boyd and seconded by Councilor Tony Bentley

that the minutes of September 29, 2014 be approved, as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (a) none

RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS **Council Advisory Committee**
(1) Partial Tax Exemption

Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl reported that at the October 14, 2014 meeting of Council Advisory Committee, CAO Phillips stated that the Open Arms is a non-profit organization, owning property in Kentville, and has applied for consideration of a partial tax exemption, as per the Town's bylaw – Chapter 87 – Partial Tax Exemption.

To ensure fairness and equitable treatment of all applications for

funding, this bylaw was reviewed, along with policy G28 – Requests for Funding from Organizations. Following this, the CAO reported that in his opinion the bylaw for Partial Tax Exemption is the proper document to respond to the request from Open Arms, and therefore, added that the current commercial taxes are \$4,584.92, whereas, residential taxes are \$1,926.87. With consideration of a 100% usage for the building, the residential rate would apply, resulting in a savings to Open Arms of \$2,658.05.

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

that Open Arms Resource Centre Society be granted a partial tax exemption which, based on 100% of the whole, would equal an exemption of \$2,658.05 in the current year, in accordance with Chapter 87 – Partial Tax Exemption Bylaw, effective April 1, 2014

And further,

that a recommendation be made to Town Council that the amendment of Chapter 87 – Partial Tax Exemption Bylaw and Schedule A be made to reflect the inclusion of the Open Arms Resource Centre Society.

MOTION CARRIED

(2) G67-Recognition of Community Contributions Policy

Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl reported that at the October 14, 2014 meeting of Council Advisory Committee, Town Clerk Carol Harnes submitted a policy statement that related to public recognition of the contributions made by citizens (either individually or as a group) towards the programs, special events, facilities and well-being of the Town, and further, that equity and fairness be ensured during the selection process.

As members agreed that the policy provided a good balance between specific guidelines and flexibility, it was moved by Councilor Eric Bolland and seconded by Councilor Tony Bentley

that Policy Statement G67 Recognition of Community Contributions Policy be adopted.

MOTION CARRIED

(3) Kentville Town Council Size Review

Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl reported that at the October 14, 2014 meeting of Council Advisory Committee, Town Clerk Carol Harnes reiterated that UARB requests each municipality (every 8 years) to “conduct a study of the number and boundaries of polling districts in

the municipality, their fairness and reasonableness, and the number of Councilors.” As this request deals with two separate issues, one on boundaries and another on Council size, each was discussed separately.

Following a review of the number of councilors at municipal units of similar size and services, and considering the public input received, Council was asked to consider four issues prior to supporting either an increase in council numbers, a decrease in council numbers or in maintaining the status quo. These considerations were:

- Is the workload and time commitment required in balance with the number of councilors?
- Does the number of councilors allow for diversity?
- Does the number of councilors allow for future participation on additional committees and projects?
- What can Kentville afford?

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

that Town Council submit an application to the Utility and Review Board asking for consideration that the Town maintains the status quo of 6 councilors and the Mayor.

MOTION CARRIED

(4) Kentville Town Boundary Review

Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl reported that at the October 14, 2014 meeting of Council Advisory Committee, Town Clerk Carol Harnes reiterated that UARB requests each municipality (every 8 years) to “conduct a study of the number and boundaries of polling districts in the municipality, their fairness and reasonableness, and the number of Councilors.” As this request deals with two separate issues, one on boundaries and another on Council size, each was discussed separately.

At first consideration, it would seem logical that a boundary review would not be a part of this process, as the Town of Kentville does not have “ward” divisions as found in larger municipal units. In these cases, changing populations in some wards could affect voter representation by Council and might trigger the need for a boundary change. However, the *Municipal Government Act, s.357 and 358* also allows boundary changes in cases of annexation with neighbouring municipalities, where boundary expansions would be considered logical to incorporate peripheral populations. However, as such changes in the Town of Kentville and County of Kings boundaries would require a financial and political commitment by both

municipalities, this would not appear to be a priority at this time.

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

that Town Council submit an application to the Utility and Review Board asking for consideration that the Town boundaries remain the same.

MOTION CARRIED

(5) Kings Partnership Steering Committee – Meeting Dates

Councilor Bill Boyd noted that he has been contacting members of KPSC to coordinate a date for a Joint Council/KPSC meeting, at which Gordon MacIntosh would facilitate. He added that Mr. MacIntosh is heavily scheduled, however, could be available in April 2015.

b) Fire

(i) Chief's Report

CAO Phillips reported that there is no written report, however, he added that the statistics are being sent to the Town, although the breakdown is not similar to previous reports. Whereas Ryan MacEachern is a part time chief, and that a new employee has now taken on the administrative role, the reports have not been generated routinely for Council's use. He assured Council that the statistics are being examined and any discrepancies explored.

Points from Discussion

- The financial aspects of the KVFD are handled through the Town's Finance Department, and it might be possible to include some financial information through the Joint Fire Services Report.
- The Town is keeping abreast with the ongoing situation at that Department.
- Any boundary changes for the fire districts may affect the Town only in response issues, as the current boundary concerns seem to relate to New Minas/Greenwich area.

(ii) Joint Fire Services Committee Report

Councilor Bill Boyd noted that this group will meet on October 30th at the Fire Hall. He added that the Director of Finance comes to these meetings and gives a very comprehensive report.

Matt Boates has returned to the administrative position with the fire services, following the recent departure of the employee previously

holding that position. In this administrative role, with his CA designation, Matt will provide strong leadership in that the department.

(c)VWRM – Video

A video was shown, in which General Manager Ross Maybee gave a tour of the administration building of Valley Waste Resource Management, pointing out how this facility had been constructed to extend the message of environment consciousness. Re-used items (i.e. wood repurposed for doors, glass recycled for hard surfaces, natural lighting, etc.) all played a part in the LEED and Passive House certification.

Valley Waste Resources Management –Representative’s Report

Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl noted that the Management Minute is attached, however, added that:

- Work has begun on the 2015-16 Operating and Capital Budgets.
- Endurance Wind Power provided a comprehensive report on the proposed wind tower project, and review was carried out on the COMFIT program.
- The turbine is projected to provide about \$70,000 per year in direct revenue for the Authority.
- Acquisition and installation of the wind turbine would be about \$550,000.
- There would be an immediate year-one return on investment, fully offsetting the associated amortized borrowing costs and adding a new revenue stream to the budget.
- Staff will investigate operating and maintenance costs on the turbine.
- A retro-fit of the existing lighting system at the Centre with LED lighting could offer significant operational savings, based on the initial investment of \$17,000, with an annual savings of \$8,000.
- The Authority has received the 2014 Efficiency NS Bright Business award.
- The Authority’s Last Re-Sort Reuse Centre was awarded the Innovation in Waste Reduction Award and another award for the Waste Reduction Education Program was made to Acadia University which is used with school tours at the management Centre facility.
- An organizational review will be conducted as step 1 and will form the foundation for a full review of all programs and services.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED

d) Kings Transit Authority

Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl noted that the report is in the package but added that:

- Revenue has increased by 9.14% over the past month and is 3% over the same period last year.
- Ridership has increased 13.87% for the period ending September 30, 2014 - an increase over the same period last year.
- Kings Transit staff participated at the Wilson's Wellness Fair held in Berwick.
- UARB has approved service operation times in Hants West, of 6:00 am until 7:00 p.m. weekdays and 9:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. Saturdays. A new 27-foot low floor bus will save an estimated 47% on the costs of service delivery to this area and will come into effect on November 3rd.
- Kings Transit is working with NSCC to provide free transportation for anyone traveling to any of the four valley locations for the Open House on October 21st.

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

that the report from the Kings Transit Authority be received.

MOTION CARRIED

Points from Discussion

- Benches in bus stops are the responsibility of the host municipality, although funding might be available.
- Staff can look at the availability of benches and report back to CAC.

(e) Councilor's Report

Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl – nothing further to report.

Councilor Bill Boyd – attended the Multicultural workshop, the Recreation Conference, (at which the Mayflower Award was presented to Kentville's Miners Marsh, and those involved in the effort were recognized.)

Councilor Bernie Cooper – attended all meetings and the conference.

Councilor Tony Bentley – attended the KDCL meeting, Karen Outerley's farewell lunch, the Pumpkin Mile, and noted that at AVRL Frances Newman has retired from this organization.

Councilor Nola Folker-Hill – attended all events and meetings and noted that the ad was run the vacancy on the Police Commission, and 3 applications have been received. A Commission meeting will be called to review these.

Councilor Eric Bolland reported that he was invited to Acadia University to lecture on environmental issues and his work with this issue. He attended an EcoKings meeting and the Pumpkin Mile Event, which was successful once again.

f) Mayors Report

Mayor Dave Corkum recapped some highlights from his report which related to activities over the last month:

- He enjoyed the branding sessions and felt that input was very good.
- Work on the Fiscal Review has been time-consuming and has resulted in 41 recommendations having been made. A meeting will be held on Friday at the Old Orchard Inn from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. The CAO will book another meeting of Council to respond to these recommendations and therefore, attendance at this workshop would provide some good information for helping with future decisions.
- \$21m has been asked of the Province as a result of the recommendations, and it is uncertain if this will be available.
- A REN Oversight Committee was held last week, and while he was attending a Fiscal Review Committee in Yarmouth, he was selected as Chairman of the Oversight Committee.

CORRESPONDENCE

(a) KCC – Call for Study

The Kings Citizen Coalition is asking the Towns of Wolfville and Kentville, along with the County of Kings, to participate in a governance study.

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

that the correspondence be received.

MOTION CARRIED

Points from Discussion

- The Coalition's position on the New Minas situation is confusing, as it appears that this group is in support of creating

another level of government with the creation of a town, which is increasing government, not decreasing it, as has been their position.

- Wolfville and Kentville are both already on record in support of a governance study and therefore, this letter appears redundant.
- The Town of Kentville is open to discussions with the Village of New Minas, should there be interest in exploring an amalgamation.
- It was agreed that the Town would send another letter to KCC restating its position and reminding members of KCC that the recommendations have not yet been adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

(a) Canadian Federation of New Business

Mayor Corkum noted that a report from the Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses addressed the status of Entrepreneurial Communities, based on scale of growth of business ownership, industrial diversity, indicators of optimism, growth plans and actions of local government. St. John's, Newfoundland was rated as the most entrepreneur-friendly city in the Atlantic Provinces, with Kentville, Nova Scotia a very close second.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

(a) none

ADJOURNMENT

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

that the meeting adjourn at 7:50 p.m. to go into an In Camera meeting to discuss land negotiations.

MOTION CARRIED