

Approved - APRIL 27, 2015

KENTVILLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

March 30, 2015

- PRESENT** Mayor David Corkum, Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl (skyped), Councilor Nola Folker-Hill, Councilor Bill Boyd (skyped), Councilor Bernie Cooper (arrived at 7:40 p.m.), Councilor Eric Bolland, Councilor Tony Bentley, Solicitor Cris Shirrett, CAO Mark Phillips and Clerk Carol Harnes.
- 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 Council members were present, (with Councilor Cooper expected to arrive shortly); the solicitor, the Town Clerk and himself, as CAO, were also present.
- APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA** It was moved by Councilor Nola Folker-Hill and seconded by Councilor Eric Bolland

that the agenda be approved with no additions.

MOTION CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS

(a) Jeana MacLeod - Clean NS/Efficiency NS

Jeana MacLeod the Outreach Coordinator of Clean Foundation (formerly known as Clean NS) presented some information on the Home Warming Program. She noted that this is an energy efficient program for low income homeowners and involves curtailing heat loss and other negative impacts on energy efficiency.

She added:

- There appears to be little involvement from citizens of the Kentville area and it is her purpose to help deliver the program to Kentville citizens who qualify.
- A series of questions answered by the homeowner will indicate which program the resident would be eligible for.
- Restrictions may apply if homeowners have already taken advantage of this type of program.
- The applicants must own their own home; not be planning to sell their home shortly and cannot have tenants.
- Both Efficiency NS and Clean Foundation will arrange for the

Approved - APRIL 27, 2015

work to be done (once approved) and will ensure that any construction is up to code.

- Word of mouth and having a sponsor in a particular area help to get the word out.
- Staff at the Town and the EcoKings Committee can help promote the program.
- Homeowners who currently take advantage of the Town's Residential Tax Exemption program might also be eligible for this one and the Town can make sure that information is passed along.
- The program relating to Interest Free Loans Program, the Home Assessment Program and the Residential Direct Install Program might also be of value to Kentville citizens.

**APPROVAL OF THE
MINUTES**

(a) February 23 , 2015

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

that the minutes of February 23, 2015 be approved, with the amendment of the spelling of names referenced.

MOTION CARRIED

**BUSINESS ARISING
FROM THE MINUTES**

(a) none

**RECOMMENDATIONS
AND REPORTS**

(a) Council Advisory Committee

**(1) Withdrawal Town Capital 2014-15 Construction -
Various**

Councilor Eric Bolland reported that at the March 9, 2015 meeting of Council Advisory Committee, Director Crowell noted that the 2014-15 capital budget provided for partial funding of capital construction from the Town's Capital Reserve Fund, and with various projects now completed, or substantially completed, a resolution is required of Council to withdraw funds. The withdrawals identified were for budgeted projects and for others those which ran over or were added.

Therefore, it was moved by Councilor Tony Bentley and seconded by Councilor Nola Folker-Hill

that the attached resolution be approved for:

- **A withdrawal of \$38,940.54 from the Town of Kentville Capital Reserve-General Allocation,**
- **A withdrawal of \$10,832.23 from the Town of Kentville**

Approved - APRIL 27, 2015

Capital Reserve – Recreation

- **A withdrawal of \$5,932.00 from the Town of Kentville Capital Reserve – Recreation Soccer**
 - **A withdrawal of \$51,675.55 from the Town of Kentville Equipment Reserve,**
- to fund various capital construction projects for 2014-2015.**

MOTION CARRIED

(2) Tax Exemption – Section 69 – 2015-2016

Councilor Eric Bolland reported that at the March 9, 2015 meeting of Council Advisory Committee, Director Debra Crowell reported that the Town provides a partial tax exemption to homeowners who meet certain requirements. She provided a history of how the income ceiling has increased over the years and noted that in 2014, Council included a sliding income/exemption scale to allow for an annual increase based on the cost of living.

Therefore, it was moved by Councilor Eric Bolland and seconded by Councilor Tony Bentley

that the attached Resolution for Low Income Tax Exemption for the 2015-2016 year be approved as follows:

Exemption Amount - \$240 to \$510

Income ceiling - \$25,359

Deadline for applications – June 30, 2015

MOTION CARRIED

(3) Police Vehicles – Purchase and Sale

Councilor Eric Bolland reported that at the March 9, 2015 meeting of Council Advisory Committee, Acting Police Chief Ken Reade apologized to those Council members on the Police Commission, however, due to time restraints, prepared a report for CAC regarding police vehicles. In this he noted that one Dodge Charger and the 2008 Mazda 6 (300) should be sold, with funds received to be used to purchase the Honda CRV (307) which is due to be returned to the dealer as the lease has expired. The buy-out would be \$13,296.30.

As the lease for the Honda CRV (314) is also expiring, the newly purchased CRV could be used as the GIS vehicle. This arrangement will provide GIS with a vehicle, eliminating the need to purchase a replacement. Although he realized this would reduce the fleet, he felt it would be manageable and would subsequently save repair costs and

Approved - APRIL 27, 2015

money for a lease payment.

In addition, the Acting Police Chief recommended that a new marked vehicle be purchased to replace the Dodge Charger (311) at \$45,000, and subsequently that the Charger be sold.

Therefore, it was moved by Councilor Eric Bolland and seconded by Councilor Nola Folker-Hill

that, subject to the approval by the Board of Police Commissioners, that the vehicles be bought and sold, as proposed by the Acting Police Chief.

MOTION CARRIED

b) Fire

(i) Chief's Report

CAO Phillips reported that there was no written report from the Fire Chief.

(ii) Joint Fire Services Committee Report

Councilor Boyd reported that the next meeting would be April 16th.

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

Deputy Mayor Pearl referenced the attached Management Minute and pointed out that:

- The 2015-16 budget has been approved by many of the partnering Councils.
- A projected surplus of \$350,000 resulted from reduced fuel costs and additional revenue from scrap metal, along with unbudgeted funding from the RRF.
- The decrease in land-fill costs at Kaiser Meadows for the upcoming year will result in savings to all partners.
- An organizational review is underway, involving meetings with staff and board members.
- Welcome to Jeff Martin the new Operations Manager, who brings experience from previous employment with Midland Transport.

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.

Approved - APRIL 27, 2015

MOTION CARRIED

Points from Discussion

- The regulation for the cost for tonnage (at Kaiser Meadows) is an operational issue between Chester and Valley Waste.
- Best wishes were given to Ken Redden on his recent retirement.

d) Kings Transit Authority

Councilor Tony Bentley reported that ridership on Kings Transit was down during the month of March, primarily due to weather related situations, although revenue continues to show positive growth for the core routes. One of the busses is being refitted at a cost of \$85,000 but should last for at least 7 years. Also, the Town of Windsor has decided to withdraw from the Municipal Agreement and the loss of their financial support is being addressed by the manager.

He added that the Canadian Urban Transit Association reported that a new President and CEO will be hired shortly and that the 2015 Annual Conference will take place this year in Winnipeg.

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

that the report from Kings Transit Authority be received.

MOTION CARRIED

Points from Discussion

- Although Windsor has withdrawn, Hantsport and West Hants have not given notice; this will create an awkward situation for those citizens who currently rely on this public transportation.
- The busses serving Windsor were leased through a service agreement in which Kings Transit use their own fleet.
- No significant impact should be made to the proposed budget.

(e) Councilor's Report

Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl – nothing further to report.

Councilor Bill Boyd – nothing further to report.

Councilor Bernie Cooper – nothing further to report.

Councilor Tony Bentley - nothing further to report.

Councilor Nola Folker-Hill – attended all meetings required.

Councilor Eric Bolland – attended the skateboard workshop and a budget meeting. He appreciated all the concern and good wishes to his

Approved - APRIL 27, 2015

wife who had been involved in the plane crash on Saturday night.

f) Mayors Report

Mayor Dave Corkum noted that his attached report is self-explanatory.

CORRESPONDENCE

(a) none

NEW BUSINESS

(a) Resolution – Possible Withdrawal – Operating Reserve – Snow Removal.

Finance Director Debra Crowell reported that over the last two months of major snowfall amounts, the snow removal budget has become over expended \$28,901 (as of March 20), with the budget having been set at \$252,000 and the expenses to date at \$280,901.

The Town does not wish to report an operating deficit, and therefore, she suggests that plans be made for the possible withdrawal from the Operating Reserve – Snow removal, to offset costs up to \$50,000. She suggests that should this fund be completely depleted, the funds can be replenished during the next budget year.

Therefore, it was moved by Councilor Eric Bolland and seconded by Councilor Bill Boyd

that Council approves the withdrawal of up to \$50,000 from the Town of Kentville Operating Reserve - Snow Removal, to partially offset over-expenditures of snow clearing for 2014/2015, should the Town be facing an operating deficit position at March 31, 2015.

MOTION CARRIED

(b) CPI Salary Increases – April 1, 2015

Finance Director Debra Crowell reported that the Town's Personnel and Policy Manual states that the cost-of-living increase shall be granted at the first of each fiscal year for non-union employees and the percentage is based on the average CPI for the province, as posted by Statistics Canada. This year that percentage is 1.4%.

Therefore, it was moved by Councilor Bernie Cooper and seconded by Councilor Eric Bolland

that the cost-of-living increase be granted to non-bargaining employees of the Town, effective April 1, 2015,

Approved - APRIL 27, 2015

and further

that the rate applied to non-union employees' salary scales be based on the statistics from March 2014 to February 2015, at the rate of 1.4%.

MOTION CARRIED

Points from Discussion

- Funded partners should ensure that the COL percentage given to their employees follow those set by the Town, as there have been times when their increases have far exceeded those given by the municipalities who fund their operations.

(c) Councilor Appointment- Town Bursary(ies) Selection Committee

Each year Council appoints a representative to sit on the Selection Committee to assist with the review and selection of a candidate, or candidates, for the Town's bursary. A policy exists that outlines the procedure and criteria for qualifications and this process will begin shortly.

It was moved by Councilor Bill Boyd and seconded Councilor Nola Folker-Hill

that Councilor Tony Bentley sit on the Town's Bursary Selection Committee.

MOTION CARRIED

Points from Discussion

- Applications are sent to Central Kings, Northeast Kings Educational Centre and Horton, with all Kentville students eligible to apply.
- In the event that there is a conflict with the bursary presentation dates, Councilor Eric Bolland volunteered to assist.

(d) KVFD – Area Rate Application

Fire Chief Ryan MacEachern submitted a request to the Town, to consider during its budget deliberations, an area rate in the amount of \$0.0457%/\$100 of assessed value, for all occupancies to which this rate applies. He added that this rate will support the total budget request of \$631,300, for a total of \$221,000 from taxation, \$7,200 from Grants in Lieu and a 4% administration charge. This rate will apply to those properties served by the KVFD within the boundaries of the Town of Kentville, as defined in the assessment role, provided by the

Approved - APRIL 27, 2015

Municipal Tax Office. (A budget to support the proposed area rate, and a declaration regarding the area rate meetings and voting results were also attached.)

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

that the Town accepts the area rate proposed by the KVFD in the amount of \$0.0457%/\$100.

MOTION CARRIED

Points from Discussion

- Some upgrades need to be made for the construction of showers at the fire hall, so firefighters can avoid taking contaminants to their vehicles and homes.
- The pagers used by the fire-fighters need to be updated, along with some other equipment.
- Other fire districts in Kings County have higher fire area rates than being proposed by Kentville.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lynn Pulsifer – 43 Deer Haven Drive - asked Council for an update on the status of construction of a new library.

Mayor Corkum replied that negotiations continue with interested developers and at this time there are a couple of rental opportunities being proposed, although a more permanent relocation would be preferred. Other more permanent locations would require a partnership for funding, and the Town hopes that either or both the Annapolis Valley Regional Library Board and the County of Kings will come “on board” with this project. His rationale comes from the fact that the majority of the users at the library are county residents, and as the AVRLB is currently seeking new quarters, their support as partners is being encouraged.

With the pending construction of the new bridge, the current library building will be demolished, to allow for the approaches of the bridge. Preparations for this will ensure that the library will find a home, either temporary or permanent, causing no disruption in library service during this transition.

Points from Discussion

- The AVRLB does not provide a service directly to the public.
- Partnership with the Board would be beneficial, and although their current facilities are not suitable, their relocation in Bridgetown (or nearby) might be a political decision.

Approved - APRIL 27, 2015

ADJOURNMENT

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

that the meeting adjourns at 8:07 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED