

Approved – June 29, 2015

KENTVILLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

May 25, 2015

- 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 Geoff Muttart, 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 Council members were present, as were the solicitor, the Town Clerk and himself.
- Finance Director Crowell was in attendance to present the budget.
- MOMENT OF SILENCE** Mayor David Corkum asked everyone to stand for a Moment of Silence in remembering the recent passing of Brian Kingsbury, who was a long-standing fire-fighter with KVFD.
- APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA** It was moved by Councilor Bill Boyd and seconded by Councilor Eric Bolland

that the agenda be approved with no additions.

MOTION CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS

(a) French Exchange Students – KCA (Danielle LeBlanc)

A group of students from KCA, involved in a program in which they travel to Quebec to experience French culture, and in return, host a group of French students, wanted to share this experience with Town Council and ask for financial support for this project. STIC (Student Travel in Canada) is a program that provides opportunities for a bilingual, cultural and educational exchange and a chance to learn about another part of Canada and to make friends.

Mayor Corkum congratulated the program organizers and participants, and promised that the Town will make a donation towards the costs of this event prior to their trip in August.

(b) Princess Kentville – Meredith Moore

Princess Kentville Meredith Moore was introduced to Council, whom she thanked for their support during the Apple Blossom Festival. She

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expressed her pleasure in representing the Town during the festival and throughout the coming year.

(c) Teen Youth Council / Girl Power – Award Presentation

This group of teens, who are associated with a program at the Kentville Library, recently undertook an event that involved the cleaning up of the Miner's Marsh area. The Town wanted to thank them and to present them with an award for their hard community work and for making such a valuable investment in our community.

**APPROVAL OF THE
MINUTES**

(a) April 27, 2015

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

**that the minutes of April 27, 2015 be approved as
circulated.**

MOTION CARRIED

**BUSINESS ARISING
FROM THE MINUTES**

(a) none

**RECOMMENDATIONS
AND REPORTS**

(a) Council Advisory Committee

(1) VREN Amendments

Councilor Bill Boyd reported that at the May 11, 2015 meeting of Council Advisory Committee, three amendments were proposed to the VREN agreement by the Liaison/Oversight Committee, and subsequently, each funding partner is being asked for its support.

The first two amendments deal with a change in establishing what is a quorum at a meeting – one relating to the appointees to the Board of Directors and the other relating to the Liaison and Oversight Committee. The third amendment deals with a change in the funding formula, which would involve a uniform base amount paid by each unit, along with an additional amount based on uniform assessment/population. In the case of Kentville, the new formula reduces the amount to be paid.

Therefore, it was moved by Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl and seconded by Councilor Eric Bolland

**that Town Council endorses the three amendments
proposed to the Inter-Municipal Agreement for the Valley
Regional Enterprise Network (VREN), as per the attached
report.**

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Points from Discussion

Although all units have not yet addressed this issue at their council level, it is hoped that there will be total support.

(2) MOU Kings County Units – Resolution for Service Issues.

Councilor Bill Boyd reported that at the May 11, 2015 meeting of Council Advisory Committee, a discussion took place regarding recommendations made in the document known as “A Path to Municipal Viability”. It was noted that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities has previously endorsed those recommendations, although Provincial support appears to be lacking.

The recommendations in Goal # 3 of this document would lessen confrontation between municipalities, by creating an arbitration program, a dispute mechanism clause and a binding arbitration process to be engaged when disputes arise between municipalities on service delivery and funding agreements.

Therefore it was moved by Councilor Bernie Cooper and seconded by Councilor Tony Bentley

that the municipal units in Kings County create a Memorandum Of Understanding regarding a process by which service delivery issues can be resolved.

MOTION CARRIED

Points from Discussion

- This MOU can either be taken to the KPSC for discussion or can be distributed to each municipality individually.
- The MOU addresses a short-coming to Provincial support and might end up being a catalyst for other areas, should it be successful in Kings County.
- If there is enough interest throughout the Province, then that government level might take responsibility for this issue.
- It is important to ensure that future councils will have a governance structure in place that supports fairness.

b) Fire

(i) Chief's Report

CAO Phillips reported that since Council's motion to delete the Fire Chief Reports from the agenda last month, reports have been received from the Kentville Volunteer Fire Department. In these, it was noted that there had been a total of 29 calls during April, with 9 calls in

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Kentville, for 128 kilometers travelled and 18 calls in the County of Kings for a distance travelled of 1438 kilometers. Two calls were for mutual aid for 188 kilometers travelled. The calls ranged in scope from flooded properties, house fires, and medical emergencies, to Hazmat calls, MVAs and lift assistance.

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

that the report from the Fire Chief be accepted.

MOTION CARRIED

(ii) Joint Fire Services Committee Report

Councilor Bill Boyd reported that the next meeting will be July 16th. The Fire Chief has sent notice that a stand-by crew will be in place for the Apple Blossom Weekend.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED

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

Deputy Mayor Pearl reported that a meeting was held on May 20th at which representatives were asked to send a letter in support of their municipal unit's approval of the 2015-2016 Operating and Capital budgets. RFPs are being issued and work towards the wind turbine project and the Organizational Review is underway. The Annual Audit is also underway and funding partners can anticipate their share of the surplus identified.

A substantial reduction will be made to the per-tonne rate for disposal services at the Kaizer Meadow Landfill which should show a significant saving in the 2015-2016 budget. Work also continues on the Nova Scotia Environment Regulations Review project on which the Municipal-Provincial Priorities Group meets to establish its input. Work continues with the Safe Sharps Program and bank compliance standards.

Statistically, recyclable processing was on par with last year's

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numbers, with substantially reduced organic processing over last year and a reduction in residuals to Chester.

Lastly, best wishes were extended to Operations Manager, Ken Redden upon his retirement.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED

d) Kings Transit Authority

Deputy Mayor Pearl reported that:

- Ridership for April was lower than expected due to weather conditions.
- Revenue was down, however, is on track with the 2015-2016 budget.
- A student completing office tasks and another doing heavy duty equipment repairs have been doing on the job training with the Transit Authority.
- Patrick LeClerc has been appointed President and CEO of the CUTA Board of Directors.
- A 3-year agreement with West Nova Fuels for bulk diesel should add consistency and financial benefits to the authority.

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

that the report from Kings Transit Authority be received.

MOTION CARRIED

Points from Discussion

- Although Windsor is withdrawing from the Transit partnership, there may be some political interest to reinstate the service on a smaller scale.
- Those passengers who use the Windsor service have been calling with their concerns.
- All is status quo at this point, as Windsor has had to give a 6 month notice.

(e) Councilor's Report

Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl – nothing further to report.

Councilor Bill Boyd – Attended the UNSM Conference (excellent

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presentation from Don Mills regarding the urban concept) and a follow-up article was in the Chronicle Herald.

Councilor Bernie Cooper – attended all meetings, except Princess Tea.

Councilor Tony Bentley – attended AVESTA Awards and Brian Kingsbury's funeral.

Councilor Nola Folker-Hill – Attended all meetings and the Princess Tea.

Councilor Eric Bolland – attended all meetings, KCA's PTA meeting, (missed CAC meeting); note that the Annual KCA Spring Fling is June 3rd.

f) Mayors Report

Mayor David Corkum noted that he attended:

- Meetings with Minister of Education and Speaker of the House, the Day of Mourning, Police Negotiations, Hospice Walk, Budget meetings, and UNSM Workshops,
- The Ceremony for the Governor General Medals, where several very deserving young people, some from Kentville, received awards.
- Meetings in Antigonish on One Nova Scotia.
- Meeting with Warden of Kings and the CAO regarding the Library and the Town's recommendation will be taken back to County Council on June 16th.
- The recent Sammy Kershaw Concert was well attended and enjoyed by everyone there.

CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Ian Godfrey, John Cochrane, and Harvey Gilmore (Library Location)

A letter signed by these individuals showed support of the proposal being presented by John Parsons for the relocation of the library in the sanctuary of the United Church of St. Paul and St. Stephen. They pointed out the advantages of this location - sufficient space, good, accessible parking, opportunities for other community programs and/or commercial projects and public accessibility with an elevator, all in central downtown. They urged the Town to consider the reuse of this now vacant building for the purpose proposed.

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

that this correspondence be received.

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(b) Hal Henderson (Library Location)

Mr. Henderson submitted a similar letter of support for the relocation of the Library into the United Church of St. Paul and St. Stephen.

It was moved by Councilor Bill Boyd and seconded by Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl

that the correspondence be received.

MOTION CARRIED

For the information of the audience, the Mayor added:

- Some years ago, the Friends of the Library were the driving force behind the construction of a new library in Kentville. A “green” building, (estimated at about \$3m), situated on River Street, with park-like space near the river, was part of their vision and concept plan.
- The Town gave \$30,000 towards this construction, however, many obstacles intervened over the years, and now with the pending demolition of their current library, a heightened commitment has come forth to find a new space.
- RFPs have been released, reviewed and re-written to allow for additional space and tenants. However, during the last tendering process, several feasible development proposals were submitted.
- One of the proposals received, and preferred above the others, was a new construction – an energy efficient, LEEDS certified structure, with potential for future growth, situated on River Street at the originally preferred location. Other tenants have committed to sharing the space and the cost of the building.
- The project, as with any of the other proposals, would involve financial support from the County of Kings, as the majority of the users at the Library do not pay taxes in Kentville, but to the County of Kings.
- Additional features to the library, such as expensive furniture and embellishments could be provided from fund-raising efforts by the Friends of the Library.
- Support from the Province is not a possibility due to its current financial situation.
- The United Church of St. Paul and St. Stephen is a close second choice, so if the negotiations for the new construction on River Street does not move forward, the Town would be happy to accept that offer.
- Other development proposals received, also have great

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potential could also fulfil the needs of the Library.

- Council rated each of the proposals based on the same criteria, but the new construction won out.
- Councilor Bentley, the Town's representative on the AVRL Board, noted the statistics for the library, with user numbers, material circulation and the programming offered. It was also noted that this is one of the busiest libraries in the province.
- CAO Phillips added that the Town is in negotiations with the developer, however, more information will become public, when the agreement has been signed.
- Public engagement and involvement of the Friends of the Library is an important part of this process.
- Anyone wanting to hear the County's discussion on their financial support, should attend their meeting on June 16th.

NEW BUSINESS

(a) **VWRM – Guarantee for TBR (\$66,564)**

A letter from Valley Waste noted that a Temporary Borrowing Resolution in the amount of \$860,000, represents the Capital Borrowing requirements in the 2015-1016 budget. This TBR will cover the purchase of a wheel loader (\$225,000), an outgoing scale (\$80,000) and a small wind turbine (\$555,000)

Each of the funding partners is being asked to approve a guarantee for their percentage that will allow for interim financing. The Town's portion of this amount is \$66,564.

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

that the Town of Kentville approve the guarantee (TBR #15/16-1) for its portion of the Capital Borrowings, in the amount of \$66,564, as per the Authority's 2015-16 Budget.

MOTION CARRIED

(b) **2015-2016 Operating Budget**

Director Debra Crowell reported that the 2015-16 Operating Budget shows a balanced budget totaling \$12,378,600, which is an increase of \$321,700 (2.7%) from last year. Although many of the economic drivers affecting the operating budget are beyond the Town's control, Town Council directed that there should be little, if any, change in the total residential tax rate, a reduction in the total commercial tax rate (if possible) while maintaining the current service level for the 2015-16 year.

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Following several budget meetings with Council and many senior staff working session, the proposed budget was drafted. This proposal has no new town-based programs; it has few enhancements to the current programs; includes the mandatory increased expenses for Provincially run programs; and the increased costs and needs of a growing town, all while meeting the objectives set by Council.

Following an extensive report on the expenses of the Town and how the tax dollar is spent, Director Crowell stated that the proposed budget provides a balanced and strategic approach.

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

that the 2015-2016 Operating Budget for the Town of Kentville be approved as follows:

Revenue	\$12,378,600
Expenses	\$12,378,600
General Tax Rate	\$1.70 per \$100 assessed value

And further,

that the following proposed tax rates for the year April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016 be ratified as follows:

	Residential (per \$100)	Commercial (per \$100)
Municipal Base rate	\$0.98 ¢	\$2.94 1/5 ¢
Provincial Mandatory Rate	38 3/5 ¢	38 3/5 ¢
Fire Area Rate	4 3/5 ¢	4 3/5 ¢
Hydrant Area Rate	7 4/5 ¢	7 4/5 ¢
Economic Development Levy	1/3 ¢	9 1/3 ¢
Total Resident	\$1.49 and 2/5 ¢	
Total Commercial		\$3.54 and 2/5 ¢

MOTION CARRIED

(c) Resolution – 2015-2016 Tax Rates

Mayor Corkum reported that the Resolution is part of the package, however, it does not need to be read into the record, as its content has been expounded upon and adopted during the previous agenda item.

(d) Capital Investment Plan

Director Crowell reported the highlights of the 2015-2020 Capital Investment Plan, noting that this is a financial planning tool that identifies construction projects and infrastructure improvements, on a

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short and long-term basis. With external funding resources scarce and infrastructure needs exceeding these resources, the Town must rely on its own reserve funds and / or long term borrowing to offset the cost of capital acquisitions.

She added that the proposed Capital Investment Plan is separated into two parts – the current year and future years, with Council ratifying the projects and funding for the current budget, while future years are ratified in principle only. Each future year will be revisited annually and adjusted accordingly to ensure viability and affordability.

Following a very in-depth report on various aspects, she recommended that the proposed capital budget be approved and that future budgets be approved in principle, along with related funding sources.

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

that the proposed 2015-2016 Capital Investment Plan for the Town of Kentville, along with the related funding sources, as noted in the attached report, be approved as follows:

2015-2016 - \$2,396,000

And further

that Council approves the CIP for future years in principle, along with related funding sources, as follows:

2016-2017 - \$3,349,500

2017-2018 - \$1,986,500

2018-2019 - \$1,849,500

2019-2020 - \$1,422,500

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

(a) none

ADJOURNMENT

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

that the meeting adjourns at 8:42 p.m. to go In Camera to discuss land negotiations.

MOTION CARRIED

IN CAMERA

An In Camera meeting was held regarding land negotiations (Library update) from 8:43 p.m. until 9:07 p.m.