

KENTVILLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

June 29, 2015

PRESENT

Mayor David Corkum, Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl, Councilor Nola Folker-Hill (late arrival – 7:02 p.m.), Councilor Bill Boyd, Councilor Bernie Cooper, Councilor Eric Bolland (sent regrets), Councilor Tony Bentley, Solicitor Geoff Muttart, 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, except for Councilor Eric Bolland, all Council members were present, (although it appeared that Councilor Folker-Hill would be a bit late). In addition, the solicitor, the Town Clerk, the Director of Finance and the Town Engineer, along with himself, as CAO.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

that the agenda be approved with the additions of:

8(c) CUPE Contract

8(d) Non-Union Staff

MOTION CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS

(a) Burton Russell

Mayor Corkum welcomed Burton Russell and Gordon Whiteway to the meeting. He introduced Burton Russell, noting that following many years as a coach, mentor, sports author and participate in sports-related functions, Burton Russell has been named to the Maritime Sports Hall of Fame. He was congratulated by the Town and presented with a print of the Town in acknowledgement of his achievements.

Mr. Russell thanked the Town for the honour of being asked to come for this presentation. He gave a brief history of his career and noted that the presentation here this evening will be one of the highlights of his life.

Comments from Deputy Mayor Pearl

(It is extremely disappointing that no one from the Press was in attendance for this presentation, as this was a “good news” story and worthy of celebration. The administration office is being asked to

contact Transcontinental to make Council's feelings known.)

**APPROVAL OF THE
MINUTES**

(a) April 27, 2015

It was moved by Councilor Bill Boyd and seconded by Councilor Tony Bentley

**that the minutes of May 25, 2015 be approved as
circulated.**

MOTION CARRIED

**BUSINESS ARISING
FROM THE MINUTES**

(a) none

**RECOMMENDATIONS
AND REPORTS**

(a) Council Advisory Committee

**(1) Sanitary Sewer Operating and Capital Budgets 2015-
2016**

Councilor Tony Bentley reported that at the June 15th, 2015 meeting of Council Advisory Committee, Director Fred Whynot presented the Operating and Capital budgets for the Town of Kentville Sanitary Sewer Area Services for 2015-2016. He noted that a \$22,500 excess in revenue is resulting from an increase in sewer rates, although expenses increased slightly relating to the Kings County Agreement, to depreciation and to a sewer renewal.

In the Capital Budget, he noted that projects include the sewer renewals on Maxwell Place, Campbell Road and Chester Avenue, along with an upgrade of four lift station panels.

Therefore, it was moved by Councilor Bill Boyd and seconded by Councilor Nola Folker-Hill

**that Council approves the Sanitary Sewer Area Service
Operating Budget in the amount of \$1,066,500, and the
Capital Budget in the amount of \$430,000 for 2015-2016.**

MOTION CARRIED

(2) Policy G28-Requests for Funding from Organizations

Councilor Tony Bentley reported that at the June 15th, 2015 meeting of Council Advisory Committee, Clerk Harmes noted that during the recent budget review process, the issue of funding requests and grants to organizations was discussed. It was noted that the current policy did not set forth a deadline date for the submission of applications for grants, and therefore, staff was asked to draft amendments to this

policy for Council's consideration.

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

that those amendments, and the inclusion of the deadline date of February 28th, as proposed in Policy G28 – Requests for Funding from Organizations, be adopted.

MOTION CARRIED

(3) Interest Charge on Outstanding Accounts

Councilor Tony Bentley reported that at the June 15th, 2015 meeting of Council Advisory Committee, Director Crowell referenced a policy statement regarding interest charges on outstanding accounts, pointing out that the MGA provides authority for such charges. She noted that the Financial Condition Index, recently released from the Province, indicated that the potential lost revenue from uncollected taxes could threaten the financial stability of a municipal unit.

Director Crowell further pointed out that over the last many years, the rate charge at 2% per month (26.8% per annum) has proven to be an incentive to pay, thereby providing the Town with cash reserves, while reducing both internal and external costs associated with uncollected taxes. She recommended that this rate of interest be maintained for the upcoming year.

Therefore, it was moved by Councilor Nola Folker-Hill and seconded by Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl

that the interest rate on outstanding accounts for the Town of Kentville remain at 2% per month, or part thereof (26.8% per annum) for the year April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016.

MOTION CARRIED

(4) Sundry Account Write-Offs

Councilor Tony Bentley reported that at the June 15th, 2015 meeting of Council Advisory Committee, Director Crowell noted that \$1,819.61 remains uncollected as a sundry receivable, in spite of internal attempts for collection. She recommended writing this account off, however noted that it is currently in the hands of an external collection agency, so any funds received after the write-off

will be recorded as income in the future.

Therefore, it was moved by Councilor Nola Folker-Hill and seconded by Councilor Bill Boyd

that the Sundry Receivable account for \$1,819.61 be written off.

MOTION CARRIED

(5) Renewal TBR - \$130,000 – Demolition of KCA

Councilor Tony Bentley reported that at the June 15th, 2015 meeting of Council Advisory Committee, Director Crowell reported that the Temporary Borrowing Resolution for the costs of demolition of KCA, has expired and must be replaced with current authorization, as attached.

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

that Council authorizes the renewal of TBR 12/13-01, in the amount of \$130,000 for the Demolition of the School.

MOTION CARRIED

(6) Audit Committee Restructuring

Councilor Tony Bentley reported that at the June 15th, 2015 meeting of Council Advisory Committee, CAO Phillips reported that members of the Finance and Administration Committee recommended that the councilors on that committee also represent Town Council on the Audit Committee, and further, that a citizen representative be appointed. To accommodate this amendment, Policy Statement G-57 – Committees of Council was revised and presented for review at that time.

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

that Policy G57 – Committees of Council be amended to reflect the structural changes of the Audit Committee from its current model, to include members of the Finance and Administration Committee, plus one citizen appointment.

MOTION CARRIED

b) Fire

(i) Chief's Report

CAO Phillips reported that Fire Chief MacEachern submitted a written report, noting that there were 8 calls in the Town, for a distance travelled of 82 kilometers; 15 calls in the County, for a distance travelled of 1182 kms; and 5 Mutual Aid calls for 744 kms.

These calls ranged in scope from alarms sounding, smoke conditions, medical conditions and structure fires, to propane leaks, grass fires and motor vehicle accidents.

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

that the report from the Fire Chief be accepted.

MOTION CARRIED

Points from Discussion

- The detail in the Fire Chief's report provides a good oversight into the operation.

(ii) Joint Fire Services Committee Report

Councilor Bill Boyd reported that at the upcoming July 16th meeting, a priority agenda item will be the County's freezing of the fire budget at last year's level. If not adjusted, this will result in a shortfall at the end of the year. Members of the JFSC must determine how this deficit will be handled.

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:

- At a meeting on June 17th, the audited statements were reviewed, which showed a surplus of \$399,881.
- These surplus resulted from a reduction in disposal costs at the Chester Landfill, amongst other things, and will be distributed proportionately to the funding partners.
- The Organizational Review is underway and Stantec is

- expected to deliver the final report at the next meeting.
- Site preparation work is being done for the installation of the small wind turbine, which is expected to be operational in the fall.
 - With the NS Environment Regulations Review, work continues on the PPP regulations, which will then be taken to Cabinet. A great deal of work continues on this project.
 - Disposal costs will be monitored closely for the upcoming year.
 - Daily Stewardship Funding is available from the Atlantic Dairy Council for the recycling of milk and dairy containers. It is anticipated that \$96,000 could be sent to VRWM for this project.
 - Funding contracts are being finalized for enforcement, education and a regional coordinator.
 - Road-side collection at Valley Waste has the lowest service cost in the province.

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

Deputy Mayor Pearl reported that:

- A lack of a quorum for the last scheduled meeting resulted in its cancellation.
- Ridership and fare revenue was trending downward last month.
- Murray Keddy, a 25 year staff member, has retired and a send-off for him was held on June 7th.
- The next meeting will be July 22nd.
- There appears to be no change in the Windsor transit service

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

that the report from Kings Transit Authority be received.

MOTION CARRIED

(e) Councilor's Report

Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl – the Town of Hantsport's membership to the VWRM is begin debated as the UARB ruling had no language on

this issue. Hants West say “business as usual” and a member of their council may sit on the board, although no new details are available. The Town of Hantsport has not given their notice to withdraw from the agreement and this is required one year previous to withdrawal.

Councilor Bill Boyd – attended FCM and reported at CAC.

Councilor Bernie Cooper – attended all meetings

Councilor Tony Bentley – attended the County meeting regarding the library and all other meetings.

Councilor Nola Folker-Hill – attended all meetings and numerous Apple Blossom activities.

Councilor Eric Bolland – not present

f) Mayors Report

Mayor David Corkum noted that he attended:

- Meetings regarding the library, KDCL, Apple Blossom Festival, FCM and CAC.
- He thanked members of Council for their support of his position on the FCM Board.
- During FCM, he met with the Mayor of Camrose, the twin town of Kentville, and also with the Mayor of Whitecourt, who gave him a tour of the town hall and a new hotel project.
- He also attended UNSM meetings, the Water Commission and the Audit Committee.
- Events involved the New Minas Princess Tea, the Concert in the Park, the Parade, the Michelin Rodeo, Relay for Life, Life Cycle, a dinner with staff, and the Opening Event for the Run, Jump, Throw and Ride program.
- An Olympic athlete won a bronze medal for track and field.
- He did the presentations of the bursaries to the 4 NKCC students who won the Town’s bursaries.
- The Audit Committee earlier today indicated that the Town was in good financial health and therefore, the finance staff should be thanked for their hard work in this effort.

CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Queen Annapolis

A thank you note was received from Caitlin Bridson-Pateman in appreciation of a gift during the Royal Party visit during the Festival.

(b) Princess Port Williams and Second Lady in Waiting

A thank you note was received from Sarah MacKinnon in appreciation of a gift during the Royal Party visit during the Festival.

(c) Minister of Municipal Affairs

A letter was received from Mark Furey regarding a recent discussion at the Spring UNSM Workshop regarding binding arbitration. He referenced some examples of shared service agreements that were successful and expressed his concern that binding arbitration would be counterproductive and undemocratic. As an alternative, he suggested a facilitated mediation.

Mayor Corkum added that he took this letter to the UNSM Board and members had a lively debate. He added that this recommendation was included in the Town's Task Force and that UNSM fully supported that document. The UNSM Board unanimously agreed with binding arbitration and the President is sending a letter to the Minister asking to reconsider this important recommendation.

For those municipalities who have difficulties creating shared service agreements, another means of settling the dispute is required. It seems unlikely that facilitated mediation would have an impact.

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

that the letter from the Minister of Municipal Affairs be received.

MOTION CARRIED

Points from Discussion

- The Town should continue discussions with Kings County to voluntarily enter into a MOU, through the CAOs Group and the Warden and Mayors Committee. This could resolve our own issues and show some leadership.
- The Minister has promised the UNSM to have an agreement in place and signed, that includes recommendations, before the changeover.
- This issue should be on the short list for recommendations.

(d) Princess Digby

A thank you note was received from Courtney Doucette in appreciation of a gift during the Royal Party visit during the Festival.

NEW BUSINESS

(a) Tender Awards – Single Axle Truck and Sidewalk Plow

Director of Engineering and Works Fred Whynot noted that RFPs had been issued and closed on June 25th, with a capital cost estimate at \$205,000 for both pieces of equipment. Trade-in allowances were also

factored into the bids.

Three proposals were received and evaluated for price, warranty, engine type, maneuverability, service, delivery date and other issues. Consideration was also made for the reuse of the existing truck box and the installation costs for this, along with the costs and sale of the plow blade.

Four proposals were received for the sidewalk plow and these were also evaluated for price, warranty, engine type, maneuverability, service, delivery date and other issues. Director Whynot also considered the value of selling existing attachments to the plow, or keeping them for spares.

In final analysis, Director Whynot recommended that the plow truck be purchased from East Coast International and that the sidewalk plow be purchased from MacFarland's Truck and Utility Equipment.

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

that the Town purchase the single axle truck from East Coast International for \$112,048.95, plus HST.

MOTION CARRIED

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

that the Town purchase the sidewalk machine, including attachments, from MacFarland's Truck and Utility Equipment for \$110,898.00, plus HST.

MOTION CARRIED

Points from Discussion

- A new blade and other equipment overruns could be funded through Equipment Reserves.
- Heavy equipment is amortized over 10 years.
- Sidewalk machines would last about 7 or 8 years.

(b) Audited Consolidated Financial Statements

At an Audit Meeting earlier in the day, the Town's Auditors (Harold Duffett and Andy Forse) met with Council to review the Audited

Consolidated Financial Statements. Following this, the Audit Committee received the documents, and have brought these forward at this time to be ratified by Council.

As chairman of the Audit Committee, Mayor Corkum asked Deputy Mayor Pearl to assume the chair, to allow him to move acceptance of the financial statements.

Subsequently, it was moved by Mayor David Corkum and seconded by Councilor Bill Boyd

that the Annual Finance Report and Audited Consolidated Financial Statements, dated March 31, 2015, be received by Town Council.

MOTION CARRIED

(Mayor Corkum assumed the chair following the vote.)

(c) CUPE Negotiations

CAO Phillips reported that CUPE Negotiations have reached a satisfactory position and he is bringing a recommendation to Council for endorsement. This Collective Agreement is for a four-year term, with a 2.5% per year increase for each of the 4 years. He added that CUPE staff members work in Transportation Services, Public Works, Parks and Recreation, the Water Commission, and in custodial roles.

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

that Council endorses the Collective Agreement for a 4 year term for CUPE employees, with 2.5% salary increases for each of the 4 years.

MOTION CARRIED

(d) Non Union Employees

A report from Finance Director Deb Crowell noted that Council had previously approved an increase of 1.4% for all non-union personnel, effective April 1, 2015. However, the Town has historically increased this percentage to mirror the wage lift of the Town's CUPE employees. This year CUPE will receive an increase of 2.5% and she recommended that Council grant non-union employees that amount as well.

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

Councilor Bill Boyd

that an additional 1.1% be granted to the non-bargaining employees, effective April 1, 2015, thereby, bringing the total increase to non-union personnel to 2.5% for the year 2015-2016.

MOTION CARRIED

Points from Discussion

- It may not always seem fair that non-unionized staff receive the same increase as unionized staff, as they do not have to pay union dues and go through negotiations.
- Non-unionized staff are eligible for the cost-of-living increase, as per the policy, although the Town has always tried to match the percentages.
- The CUPE bid for increases is in line with the norm, whereas, those in the APA union have received disproportionate increases.
- Administration staff have not received complaints from unionized staff about non-unionized staff receiving the same increase.
- Staff with the Town's joint authorities attempt to adhere to practices and policies of their partners, however, this increase is not consistent with these practices.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

(a) none

ADJOURNMENT

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

that the meeting adjourns at 8:09 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED