

COUNCIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 30, 2009 – 3:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor David Corkum, Deputy Mayor Bernie Cooper, Councilor Bill Boyd, Councilor Nola Folker-Hill, Councilor Mark Pearl, Councilor Tony Bentley, Councilor Eric Bolland, CAO Keith Robicheau, Solicitor Peter Muttart, Town Clerk Carol Harmes.

Director Debra Crowell, Director Mark Phillips, Director Greg Kehoe

MOMENT OF SILENCE

A Moment of Silence was held in memory of John Fuller, a colleague and a Councilor of the County of Kings, whose recent passing will be a loss to the community.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

CAO Keith Robicheau reported that all Council members were present.

NOTE

“Points from Discussion” below show various comments made by individual councilors during debate. They do not necessarily represent the opinion of the group, nor do they always reflect accurate information.

PRESENTATION

(a) Kings Para Transit

Faye Brown (Operations Manager) and Ian Kroezen (Vice Chairman) of Kings Para Transit advised Council of the organization’s mandate and some of its history. This organization is recognized as a municipal service and with fluctuating gas prices, maintenance costs to vehicles and other operating costs for providing this service, it must seek funding from the community which it serves.

Points from Discussion

- Contract revenue cost \$5200 to provide and has a break-even outcome for the most part.
- Federal transit grants provided funding for the new bus, however, does not pay for operating costs.
- The 1709 individuals listed as Kentville residents are citizens who live within the Town limits.
- Kentville is more attractive to individuals requiring both physical and mental care because of the hospitals nearby and the lower costs of housing.

- The cost to Kentville is based on \$1.60 per capita and population.

(In closing it was noted that this funding request would be forwarded on to the budget process.)

(b) Shannex

CAO Robicheau reported that Darrell Dixon and Jason Shannon were unable to attend this evening's meeting, however, spoke with the CAO and senior staff through a teleconference earlier in the day. It appears that due to a number of projects (18 in Eastern Canada) that they have presently under construction, they are unable to undertake further work on the Kentville site at this time. However, Shannex would be interested in partnering with another developer or to be involved in other ways.

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

***Recommendation to
Town Council***

that a recommendation be made to Town Council that the solicitor review the contract between the Town and Shannex, and provide direction to the Town on moving forward with development of this piece of land.

MOTION CARRIED

**APPROVAL OF
AGENDA**

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Bernie Cooper and seconded by Councilor Eric Bolland

that the Agenda be approved with the addition of 10. In Camera (Land Negotiations)

MOTION CARRIED

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES**

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

that the Minutes of February 23, 2009 be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

**BUSINESS ARISING
FROM MINUTES**

(a) CLAS Purchase of Land – Recommendation from PAC

A letter from this organization expressed interest in purchasing a town-owned property known as 133 River Street to establish

a 9-bedroom group home. As Council was uncertain of the conformity of this use to the Land Use Bylaw and if the property could be made available to meet the deadlines of this project, the Planning Advisory Committee was asked to review the request and make a recommendation.

Following a meeting of PAC on March 23rd, Director Bev Gentleman noted that although the proposed group home would be a permitted use in this zone, the residential use for the CP property has already exceeded the 60% that was agreed upon by a motion of Council. Furthermore, other groups (i.e. new library, Kings Transit building) have indicated interest in that property, and further still, a portion of this will be required for the future extension of River Street. Of most concern, however, is that this property must be clean prior to its sale or future use, and the deadlines for this work may not coincide with the deadlines for the construction of the building for C.L.A.S. The Planning Department will work with this organization to find property.

With all things considered, this location on River Street would not appear to be the best choice at this point and therefore, it was moved by Councilor Mark Pearl and seconded by Councilor Nola Folker-Hill

*Recommendation to
Town Council*

that a recommendation be made to Town Council to assist the Community Living Alternative Society in its pursuit of property for the development of a 9-bedroom group home in the Town of Kentville

MOTION CARRIED

(b) Town Gift to KCA School

At a recent presentation on the progress being made for the new KCA, Director Mark Phillips asked Council if members were interested in discussing a possible gift (i.e. clock, green space, etc.) as part of the opening of this new facility. He felt that this might represent a type of legacy and that Council might wish to discuss this at a future date.

Following discussion, it was moved by Councilor Tony Bentley and seconded by Councilor Mark Pearl

*Recommendation to
Town Council*

that a recommendation be made to Town Council that the Town provides a gift to the new school and that this be determined from community input and

fiscal guidance by staff.

MOTION CARRIED

Points from Discussion

- Public expectations should be managed
- Some ideas should be presented to the public as reasonable options.
- In some communities facilities are added that may not be offered elsewhere in the community (i.e. swimming pool, theatre)

The issue of naming the new school was addressed and following discussion on this, it was moved by Councilor Mark Pearl and seconded by Councilor Tony Bentley

that a recommendation be made to Town Council that the department of education be notified that the Town of Kentville endorses the name “Kings County Academy” as the name of the new school.

Following further discussion, an amendment was moved by Councilor Bill Boyd and seconded by Councilor Eric Bolland

***Recommendation to
Town Council***

that a recommendation be made to Town Council to contact the School Board for permission to have some input into naming the school.

AMENDED MOTION CARRIED

Points from Discussion

- It is important to maintain the original name of the school, as Kentville has lost too much of its history already.
- The original school - “Kings County Academy” was named to incorporate the primary to grade 12 students living in the area, and perhaps it isn’t representative of the facility at this point in time.
- Perhaps a contest could be held to solicit potential names.
- It appears that the decision for the name is made by the Board of Directors for the AVRSB and not the Department of Education

FINANCE

(a) Projections

Director Crowell noted that the Town is reporting a deficit of \$2,000, which is more or less a break even situation. She

reviewed the various revenue streams, noting that overall, the actual revenue was over budget \$146,400. Conversely, however, she noted that expenditures were projected over budget \$148,400 and as a result, the Town Operating Fund is currently reporting a year-end deficit of \$2,000. Director Crowell reviewed the various department expenditures, pointing out areas that had impacted the specific budget.

Following some discussion, it was moved by Deputy Mayor Bernie Cooper and seconded by Councilor Tony Bentley

that the projection report from the Director of Finance be received.

MOTION CARRIED

Points from Discussion

- No headway has been made regarding the deficit for the Police Department
- Although policing staff are paid by the Town for the work done for the revenue generated, the revenue does not offset those costs.
- The province will not allow those policing costs to be reported, although next year, Director Crowell agreed to prepare an internal report to Council regarding this.
- The costs relating to the Ian Maxwell case have not yet been received and posted. These costs will be captured in this fiscal year as a payable.
- The Bonavista costs have been capitalized as part of the overall project.
- The surplus from Valley Waste does not show up here.

(b) Debenture Issuance Spring – Sanitary Sewer

Director Crowell reported that the Town requires debenture funding for Sanitary Sewer in the amount of \$50,000 and that a pre-approval resolution has been prepared for this debenture issuance.

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

***Recommendation to
Town Council***

**that a recommendation be made to Town Council
that the attached resolution for Pre-approval of
Debenture Issuance be approved for
Sanitary Sewer TBR 08/09-03 - \$50,000**

MOTION CARRIED

(c) Cost of Living Increases – Report and Recommendations

Director Crowell reported that in accordance with the Town's Personnel Policy, cost of living increases should be granted to non-unionized staff, at the first of each fiscal year and these are based on the provincial average over the last twelve month period, as determined by Statistics Canada.

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

*Recommendation to
Town Council*

that a recommendation be made to Council that the CPI rate applied to non-union employees' salary scales be based on 2.5%, effective April 1, 2009

MOTION CARRIED

(d) Dates for Budget Meetings

It was decided that a staff/Council Budget meeting be scheduled for April 23 at 4:00 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

(a) none

CORRESPONDENCE

(a) 2009 – The Year of the Lobster

A letter from the Municipality of the District of Barrington urged the Town to join with other municipal units to support of the concept of this year being the "Year of the Lobster."

The purpose of this initiative is to support the lobster industry and to recognize the difficult times which lobster fishermen have experienced this past winter, with low prices and lost markets for their catch.

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

that a recommendation be made to Town Council to support 2009 as the Year of Lobster.

MOTION CARRIED

(b) Buy Back Nova Scotia Initiative – Yarmouth

A letter from Sandra Phinney identified the concern being expressed in land (170,000 acres) that is currently for sale in Annapolis, Digby and Yarmouth Counties. Yarmouth Town Council has agreed to lobby all levels of government to engage

in dialogue, with the intent of buying back this property, instead of allowing it to be sold to foreign interests.

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

that this correspondence be received.

MOTION CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilors Bill Boyd and seconded by Council Mark Pearl

that the meeting adjourns to go In Camera to discuss land negotiation at 5:03 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

CAC RESUMES

It was moved by Councilor Bernie Cooper and seconded by Councilor Eric Bolland

that the CAC meeting resumes at 5:30 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

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

that the meeting adjourns at 5:32 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED