

Council Advisory Committee

MINUTES

June 9, 2014

PRESENT

Mayor David Corkum, Councilor Nola Folker-Hill, Councilor Bill Boyd, Councilor Eric Bolland, Councilor Bernie Cooper (left at 4:15), Councilor Tony Bentley, Solicitor Cris Shirritt, CAO Mark Phillips and Town Clerk Carol Harmes

Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl was absent with regrets.

Also present: Police Chief Mark Mander, Planning Director Bev Gentleman, Finance Director Deb Crowell, Town Engineer Fred Whynot and Recreation Director Rachel Bedingfield.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor David Corkum called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and CAO Mark Phillips reported that, except for Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl, all members of Council were present, along with Solicitor Cris Shirritt, Town Clerk Carol Harmes and himself.

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.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

that the agenda be approved with the additions of:
1 (a) Moment of Silence for Victims of Moncton Shootings
8 (e) HR Policy

MOTION CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS

(a) Danielle LeBlanc – KCA Cultural Exchange
Ms. LeBlanc, a French teacher from KCA brought four students who had participated in the Sevec 2014 Exchange. They prepared a slideshow of some of their activities and each student shared personal views on this experience and the benefits they have received from that opportunity. This exposure to the French language was quite different than classroom lessons and they learned the day-to-day language, along with having lots of fun and meeting new people. The exchange also allowed these students to host others from Quebec and to show some of the sites and highlights from our area.

(b) J.D. MacCulloch, COO- KDCL (update)

J. D. MacCulloch was welcomed to the meeting and asked to share some information with Council. He has been busy getting to know the community and businesses and meeting with some key business leaders. He thanked Lindsay Young for all her help during these early weeks, and noted that he is exploring alliances with organizations like Kingstec, the Center for Entrepreneurism and Education, the Halifax International Airport Authority and with Progress Media. These projects are expected to enhance the profile of Kentville.

He also reported that he is working with the KDCL Board on developing a strategic long term development program to attract new business to the community. To this end, there will be a meeting on June 17th to launch this new initiative on visioning the Town's future - "Imagine Kentville." Three prominent business leaders have been recruited to share with the attendees their perspective of how they perceive the Town and its potential. Phase 2 will invite the general community and public for an intensive session on what they see as the future. Phase 3 will develop a strategy to bring developers to Kentville. This will be brought back to Council sometime in the fall. This process will give KDCL a "game plan" with which they can move forward. Both the Board and Town staff have been very supportive and helpful in every regard.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**(a) Minutes of May 12, 2014**

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

that the Minutes be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED**BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES/OLD BUSINESS****(a) Council Size Review – Public Participation**

Town Clerk Carol Harmes reiterated that at the May 26th meeting of Town Council, Public Engagement Program # 1 was approved. She has begun preliminary work on advertisements for the various media, and in addition, Council will note the Public Q and A Session at the end of this agenda. As agreed upon as part of this citizen engagement program, the opportunity for the public to address Council on this issue would be included on CAC and Council agendas for the next few months. In an attempt to find a time prior to a CAC and Council meeting that could be a Public Input session, it was agreed that with some very busy meetings

being scheduled over the next month, and with the difficulty of getting people to meetings during the summer, a September meeting might be more appropriate. With a consensus that a Public Meeting would be scheduled in September, it was agreed that other media and survey options would be conducted in the interim.

(b) Special Constable – update

CAO Phillips reported that Special Constables will be an alternative to providing some levels of policing services in the future and the Kentville Police Service has been doing research and preparing a report on this issue. At this time, neither the Police Commission, nor the Chief and CAO have had the opportunity to discuss this document in detail.

(c) Central Kings Rural High School

This letter was brought back to this meeting of CAC to allow for input from the Police Chief. Central Kings regretted that the presentation previously done by Constable Pick to the Law class was being discontinued.

Points from Discussion

- The Police Commission should address this item at the Board level.
- A Community Policing Officer was hired for the Town and the position had been cut-back years ago.
- This school is in the RCMP jurisdiction and a dedicated officer is available to students at that school.
- There would appear to be no need for Kentville Police Services to participate.

(d) Animal Protection Act (update)

At the last meeting of CAC, it was agreed that this issue would be discussed with the Police Chief under the service provision of Animal Control. More work is required before the response can be given. Hopefully, it will return to next month's CAC agenda.

(e) AVRL / Kentville Library RFP

At a previous meeting of Council, it was agreed that the current RFP for the new Kentville Library could be withdrawn and rewritten to include extra space, should the Annapolis Valley Regional Library decide to merge accommodations. CAO Phillips reported that the new requirements of the RFP have been shared with the previous developers who gave submissions, and that if possible, each should re-submit.

A meeting is scheduled for Friday with the learning centre to

determine what the requirements would be if this organization was interested in sharing an area with the Kentville Library.

Councilor Bentley reported that a meeting on Thursday with the AVRIL Board should confirm whether or not this group is interested in becoming a stake-holder in this development.

(f) Council Correspondence (Sharing)

At the last meeting of CAC, a discussion took place regarding the sharing of written information with all members of Council, when that correspondence has been directed to only one member. As staff was given direction to review this matter and return suggestions to the next meeting of CAC, Clerk Harmes indicated that an additional item under Policy Statement G16 – Code of Conduct for Town Councilors, might effectively address the issue.

If Council agreed that this amendment to the existing policy would effectively address the matter, than it would be in order to have a motion to amend the policy. However, if there were other considerations to be made, than it might be in order to create a separate policy to address the matter in detail.

Points from Discussion

- Council members must determine when (or if) such correspondence arrives on Council’s agenda.
- Issues relating to operational matters should generally be directed to the senior administrators, policy issues should be discussed within the environment of Council.
- Sometimes citizens will request that an issue be addressed by Council in a public setting.
- The CAO or Department Heads should apply a “filter” so items are not brought to a Council meeting when another, more direct response might be in order.

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

***Recommendation to
Town Council***

that a recommendation be made to Town Council that the amendment proposed, be made to the Policy Statement - Code of Conduct for Town Councilors, as attached.

MOTION CARRIED

(g) Facility Naming Policy

Council has been asked on occasion to consider naming facilities after individuals who have made a contribution to the community. The Recreation Director was asked to give this matter consideration

and to make a recommendation.

She reported that a municipality will never be able to please everyone when it comes to public recognition, as there are many deserving individuals. Therefore, she suggested that rather than to name a facility after an individual, it might be more appropriate to have deserving individuals recognized by planting a tree in the community, installing a bench in a public place or having names placed on a brick (i.e. wall of fame) or by some other means that might include a wider circle of individuals.

Director Bedingfield will continue work on a draft policy regarding this matter and bring it back to a CAC meeting in the future.

Points from Discussion

- Planting a tree is a good idea, as trees relate to recreation and good health and allows for many people to be recognized.
- It might be possible to incorporate facility naming with street naming, for which a policy currently exists.
- The public should be involved in the selection process, as many would have knowledge of deserving individuals.
- Correspondence should be sent from the Recreation Department to the citizen currently requesting that an individual be honoured through recognition.

(h) Kings 2050 (update)

Director Beverly Gentleman noted that the Kings 2050 Project incorporates three phases – Phase # 1 – the creation of a Vision Statement; Phase # 2 – Stantec proposed four “Regional Statements of Interests (to be modeled on the Provincial Statements of Interest in the MGA) to realise the vision statement. The four proposed RSIs are:

- Settlement;
- Economic Development;
- Municipal Facilities; and
- Environmental Protection

Phase #3 (the next step) will be how to implement the RIS’s on a regional context.

Director Gentleman outlined the three options that were proposed by Stantec in their Phase 2 report and recommended in principle to pursue Option # 3. This was to adopt the Regional Statements of Interest within an Inter-Municipal Planning Strategy. However, in order to do so, consultation with Municipal Affairs is necessary to determine if amendments to the Municipal Government Act would

be required, prior to carrying out the proposed RSI's within an Inter-Municipal Planning Strategy. The expected result would be to have a consistent framework for the development/amendments of planning documents between the four units.

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

***Recommendation to
Town Council***

that the Town supports in principle, the adoption of Option 3 for the proposed Regional Statements of Interest, as outlined in the attached report.

MOTION CARRIED

Points from Discussion

- It is important to define and establish areas that will be growth centres, although, this is only 1 of the 4 statements.
- Changes should not be made to growth centres until policies have been approved.
- Settlement should be done in an effective way that allows for the provision of services.
- Urban sprawl is costly and threatens farmland.
- Although the Kings 2050 Project was originally a County project, the issue of governance should also be factored in.
- An amendment in the MGA would be binding and would require all four municipalities to agree and make the required changes to their Municipal Planning Strategy.
- It is important that all partners buy in and agree to adopt the amendments.

**DEPARTMENTAL
REPORTS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS**

(a) Finance

(1) Director's Report

Director Debra Crowell noted some highlights from the department:

- Fourth quarter utility bills and interim tax bills were due in May during which time the finance staff managed \$2.2 m.
- Auditors were onsite for 3 days, beginning on May 20 and also participated in a pre-audit meeting with Council. Draft statements will be released for Council's perusal prior to its June meeting.
- Town Operating and Town Capital budgets, along with the Utility and Sanitary Sewer Area Rate draft budgets will be presented later in the meeting.

She added that Schedules A and B (Revenue and Expenditures) and Schedule D (Sanitary Sewer Area Services) are not included at this time. Schedule C (Outstanding Taxes) indicates 87.4% of the current interim levy is collected, with \$599,959 outstanding at May

31, 2014.

Schedules E and F (Perpetual Investment Fund) are attached, along with the Balance Sheet (Schedule E) which shows investments at \$13.1m at cost. Schedule F (Statement of Reserves) attached shows capital gains at \$81,895, with management fees at \$2,793.

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

that the report from the Finance Director be received.

MOTION CARRIED

(2) Operating Budget (2014-15) Highlights

Finance Director Deb Crowell reported that early in the budget process, Council set objectives as follows: (1) no change in the total residential tax rate, (2) a reduction in the total commercial tax by 2 cents, and (3) the preservation of the current service levels, if possible.

As such, Director Crowell noted that the 2014-15 Operating Budget represents revenue and expenditures balanced at \$12,056,900, (an increase of \$180,500 or 1.5% from last year), resulting in the general tax rate set at \$1.71 per \$100 of assessed value.

The budget, however, does entail some reductions in service levels, most notably, with the core policing complement and the related provincial funding stream.

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

Recommendation to Town Council

that a recommendation be made to Town Council to ratify the proposed budget outlined as follows:

	Residential (per \$100)	Commercial (per \$100)
Municipal base rate	\$1.00 and 2/5 ¢	\$2.99 and 1/3 ¢
Provincial Mandatory Rate	37 and 2/5 ¢	37 and 2/5 ¢
Fire area rate	4 ¢	4 ¢
Hydrant area rate	7 ¢	7 ¢
Economic Development Levy	¾ ¢	7 and 4/5 ¢
Total Residential	1.49 and 2/5 ¢	
Total Commercial		3.55 and 2/5 ¢
	MOTION CARRIED	

(3) Capital Budget (2014-15) Highlights

Finance Director Deb Crowell reported that the Capital Investment Plan (CIP) identifies all construction projects and infrastructure improvements, and presents a meaningful perspective of both short and long range requirements.

With goals for 2014-2015, of maintaining debt service limits at 12-13% of own-source revenue, and keeping new borrowings under \$1 million, a \$2.6 million Capital Budget is proposed. In addition, future capital plans are included for the years 2015 to 2019, which will allow the Town to manage its financial position over the additional four-year period.

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

***Recommendation to
Town Council***

that a recommendation be made to Town Council to ratify the proposed 2014/2015 Capital Budget at \$2,615,800

and further,

that the future years' budgets be approved in principle, along with the related funding sources as follows:

2015/16	\$3,235,500
2016/17	\$1,824,500
2017/18	\$1,711,500
2018/19	\$1,297,500

MOTION CARRIED

(4) Withdrawal - \$6,395.53 – TBR Residual

Director Crowell noted that the Town's debenture funds were used to pay down the outstanding short term loans for the 2013-14 construction season. The request for long-term borrowing fell short at the end of the fiscal year and temporary funds remain in the amount of \$6,395.53. She recommended that this loan be retired with capital reserve funds.

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

***Recommendation to
Town Council***

that a recommendation be made to Town Council that a withdrawal of \$6,395.53 be taken from the Capital Reserve-General Allocation, to retire the residual short-term borrowing remaining after the issuance of debenture funds on June 5, 2014.

MOTION CARRIED

(b)Planning and Development**(1)Director's Report**

Director Bev Gentleman noted that there were 12 permits for the month, valued at \$1,241,500, bringing the year total to \$2,973,800. She added the following updates:

- Work continues on the MPS review, with the latest sections relating to institutional uses, Recreation and Open Space and Transportation.
- NSPDA Conference was held on May 14 to 16th in Halifax and the Kings 2050 Initiative was presented.
- The Kings 2050 Committee has reviewed the 4 proposed Statements of Regional Interest and the approaches to implementing them.
- West End Traffic Study. A final report is anticipated soon on this project which is for the required upgrades of the road for future development

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

that the report from the Director of Planning and Development be received.

MOTION CARRIED

Planning Report – Art Project

Director Gentleman noted that she has been in conversation with a Canadian artist, Ruth Abernethy, who has been commissioned by a resident of Wolfville for a piece of artwork recognizing his grandfather, Dr. Charles Eaves. While Dr. Eaves had been doing research at the Research Station in Kentville, he invented a methodology to provide better and longer storage options for fruit grown in the area. This process has been adopted worldwide and has allowed for global distribution.

Director Gentleman added that the installation of this sculpture in Kentville is at the proposal stage only, although the artist has asked for Council's commitment to finding a suitable public area for this art work and to provide some assistance with site preparation and future upkeep.

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

***Recommendation to
Town Council***

that a recommendation be made to Town Council that it endorses the proposed project for the sculpture of Dr. Eaves here in the Town of Kentville.

MOTION CARRIED

(2) Recommendation – Donald Hiltz Connector

Director Gentleman reported that during the May meeting of the Municipal Planning Strategy Review Committee, a discussion took place regarding the completion of the Donald Hiltz Road.

The committee members felt that the completion of this road would allow for future construction and development of the south part of the Town, and asked if it could be included in the Town's 5 year capital budget plan. She added that this project would involve four phases, with the segment between Chester Avenue and Prospect Road being Phase # 1, and that the cost of construction would be approximately \$2,000,000 per kilometer, not including municipal services like sewer, water and storm water.

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

***Recommendation to
Town Council***

that a recommendation be made to Town Council that construction of Phase # 1 of the Donald E. Hiltz Road be considered as part of the 5-year Capital Plan for the Town.

MOTION CARRIED

(3) Environmental Advisory Committee Report

Chairman Eric Bolland reported that an EAC meeting was held last week, and as the CAO attended in his place, asked if he could give an overview of the meeting. Therefore, CAO Phillips noted that:

- Deputy Mayor Pearl also attended that meeting.
- Discussions involved the Transit Study (metro transit); lighting retrofits and infrastructure (i.e. a commuter link from Kentville to Wolfville).
- A sustainability student has been engaged.
- An advocacy role vs. a committee role is being discussed on some of these issues.

(4) Community Development Coordinator's Report

CD Lindsay Young gave an update on the following items:

- An upcoming "Shop Kentville" campaign is underway on K Rock focussing on Father's Day and Graduation.
- The Force Four group has chosen not to proceed with its television program on a tax-free town, although positive relationships have been built.
- Rebranding – A kick-off meeting on May 14 was the first of many scheduled (public) sessions.
- Apple Blossom Festival – Events went well with the festival and a wrap-up session is planned for June 9th.

- Farmers' Market – The market has returned outdoors to Centre Square and plans are underway for a new indoor venue for the fall and winter months.
- TDI First Impressions – From the 2013 application, kiosks and signs for Centre Square have been installed and printed material is being produced for the kiosks and benches. For 2014, funds are being applied for, to offset re-branding costs.
- Fairn-Hickman Award presentation – Mayor Corkum was presented with this Award at Miner's Marsh on June 9th.

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

that the report from the Community Development Coordinator be received.

MOTION CARRIED

**(c) Parks, Recreation and Community Development
(1) Director's Report**

Director Rachel Bedingfield gave a presentation on how accessibility affects the Recreation Service. She noted that accessibility does not limit itself to physical accessibility (i.e. elevators, ramps, etc.), but also physical literacy (i.e. comfort with physical activities), leisure literacy (i.e. tools and skills for managing leisure time), welcoming environment (i.e. acceptance of diverse populations), healthy eating (i.e. able to develop a healthy lifestyle), and financial accessibility (i.e. able to afford to participate.) She identified some areas currently being addressed by the Department to enhance greater accessibility.

Director Bedingfield introduced Charles MacDougall, the Summer Intern who wanted to share information with Council regarding Bike Week and the many activities being offered to the public.

- This is the first time Kentville has held "Bike Week" scheduled June 22-28, with recreational, educational and community opportunities relating to bikes.
- A theme ride from Miner's Marsh – "bright colours" is scheduled.
- Bike with the Mayor – public event, involving Kings Transit and other politicians – Begins at KCA and continues on Trails.
- Adult Cycling Clinic – safety, maintenance.
- Youth Geo-caching event
- Bike Rodeo – children
- June 28th – Workshop by Trail Flow – Burgher Hill trail.

- Bike Movie night (documentaries on bikes and cycling – family event)
- Life Cycle – although not a Kentville event, it does relate.
- Some bikes are available for those who do not have one.
- Changes will have to be made in the “Bike with the Mayor” event, as there is a conflict with a Council meeting. More will follow on the date and time.

Following this, Director Bedingfield presented other aspects of her report, noting that:

- Apple Blossom Festival events went well and thanks to staff.
- Events continue at the arena – lacrosse, ball hockey, RCMP Tattoo preparation, routine maintenance and scheduling of ice season.
- Parks – all fields and green spaces are open; tournaments being planned, Wildcats, Jr. Wildcats and Midget AAA games scheduled; plants and hanging baskets expected soon.
- Programs – KCA after school program and Multi-sport programs continue; day camp registrations have been held with 60 campers registered.
- Princess Kentville – Thanks to Councilor Bentley, Bolland and Cooper for assisting with the events.
- Pool – scheduled opening on June 30th, staff hired and registration for lessons will take place on June 18th.
- Relay for Life – June 13th.

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

that the report from the Director of Parks and Recreation be received.

MOTION CARRIED

Points from Discussion

- There are some programs available in the community that could be offered, to address the issue of safety (i.e. babysitters course)
- The educational sessions given by the Director of Recreation are appreciated.
- There is a need for an additional life guard at the pool and any leads on available people would be appreciated.

(d) Police Report

(1) Chief’s Report

Police Chief Mark Mander presented a statistical report in which he noted that:

- Assaults were over the threshold, primarily due to Apple Blossom drinking/fighting.
- HRM has been assisting the Festival for over 30 years and a plaque was awarded in appreciation.
- There should be a Police Commission meeting on June 24.

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

that the report from the Police Chief be received.

MOTION CARRIED

Points from Discussion

- Media reporting on drunkenness in Wolfville was tied into the Apple Blossom Festival and this is not fair.
- Foot patrol appears higher, although visibility does not correspond to the numbers indicated.
- Some issues at the street dance will be discussed at the wind-up meeting of the Apple Blossom Festival.
- The TD Bank has hired a security guard to address loiterers around their building, as police presence is limited.
- As some aspects of policing are operational in nature, members of Council are not permitted to direct officers. The course of action would be through the Police Commission.
- There are a lot of groups gathering (and loitering) around certain services in Town, and although loitering may be unacceptable by some people, the downtown streets are the “back yards” of many downtown residents. Care must be taken not to segregate certain groups of the population.
- The police service provides many levels of service that might be jeopardized if loitering in downtown became the main focus of this service.
- Citizens have been charged with smoking on the streets, although more visible signs should be installed.

(2)Board Report

Councilor Nola Folker-Hill reported that there will be a meeting on June 24th and the loitering issue will be on the agenda once again.

(e) Transportation Services

(1) Directors Report

Director Whynot reported that:

- Capital project work involving heavy machinery began following the lifting of weight restrictions on the roads.

- The KCA demolition continues and dedication stones and “time capsules” have been separated from the rubble. A special opening ceremony and a contest for students to guess the contents are being planned.
- Asphalt Paving has seen the laying of 3500 tonnes of asphalt in 17 days, with some work remaining in subdivisions and side streets.
- The Park Street Storm Sewer project was completed, and infrastructure renewals on Exhibition and Caldwell Avenue should be completed soon.
- PW staff was busy with street sweeping and repairs to catch basins and manholes, prior to paving and line painting.
- The Technical Committee for the Regional Sewer System met to discuss proposed capital projects.
- Forcemain capacities and sludge digestion technology was reviewed and will hopefully result in costly sludge removal and off-site disposal substantially reduced.

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

that the report from the Director of Transportation Services be received.

MOTION CARRIED

Points from Discussion

- The Public Works staff did an excellent job meeting the deadlines and preparing for spring; appreciation should be extended to them.
- There has been no public response to the demolition of the old KCA.

(f) Water Commission

(1) Directors Report

Director Whynot noted that:

- All measured parameters for the water utility are within acceptable limits.
- Repairs were carried out to a few services, along with some hydrants; hydrant flushing took place in May.
- Work began on a new Source Water Protection Plan (identify location of private wells, zones of influence for potential contamination, hazards and general information on existing infrastructure)
- Exhibition Street and Caldwell Road project is nearing completion; also connections to existing mains on Cornwallis Street and Oakdene Avenue are completed. Following testing, residents will be connected to the new

- system.
- Watermains and other buried infrastructure were identified in readiness for entrance of new Cornwallis River Bridge. This work was needed for foundation design.

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

that the report from the Kentville Water Commission be received.

MOTION CARRIED

(2) Recommendation – Sanitary Sewer Budgets – 2014-2015 Operating and Capital

Director Fred Whynot reported that as the existing water rates have been in place since 2009, a sanitary sewer rate model was developed for the Town in order that it might meet proposed operating and capital budgets for the next 5 years.

He added that rates are based on meter size and consumption rates and by way of an example, increases per dwelling would be 37.4% in 2014, 9.8% in 2015, 5.4% in 2016, 6.2% in 2017 and 5.9% in 2018, as outlined in the rate charts included in this report.

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

*Recommendation to
Town Council*

that a recommendation be made to Town Council that the new sanitary sewer rates for the next five years, be approved, as attached, and that the Sewers Bylaw be revised as necessary.

MOTION CARRIED

(3) Recommendation for Sanitary Sewer Budgets – 2014-2015 Operating and Capital

Director Fred Whynot reported that the 2014-2015 Sanitary Sewer Area Service Operating Budget is attached, as a balanced budget of \$987,900. He pointed out that revenue should show an increase, as a result of sewer rate changes, however, he anticipates that expenses will increase due to sewer maintenance and treatment.

With the 2014-2015 Sanitary Sewer Area Service Capital Budget, he identified some projects and their funding sources, which amount to \$387,200. The four-year capital investment plan is also included in this report.

Following further explanation, it was moved by Councilor Bill Boyd and seconded by Councilor Tony Bentley

***Recommendation to
Town Council***

that a recommendation be made to Town Council that the 2014-2015 Sanitary Sewer Area Budgets for Capital and Operating be approved as proposed.

MOTION CARRIED

Points from Discussion

- At the FCM Conference, it was indicated that the Canada Building Fund has been significantly reduced and this could adversely affect the work being done in Town.
- It appears that the applications for this work may not be approved until October, which will not allow for projects such as Chester Avenue to be completed this year.

(3)Commission Report

Mayor David Corkum had nothing further to add.

(g) Kings Partnership Steering Committee

Councilor Bill Boyd noted that he was unsure when the next meeting would be, as the County of Kings is hosting this year's meetings and there appear to be no meetings scheduled yet.

Points from Discussion

- It seems odd that some individuals on this committee wanted meetings every month, and this group has not been able to get together on a quarterly basis.

(h) Regional Enterprise Network (REN3)

CAO Phillips reported that the Board of Directors has been meeting regularly and a Press Release is being prepared. This is a very talented group, which is making progress, albeit slowly. The Liaison Committee will be meeting to transition the CAOs away from that group. Peter Muttart is the Chairman and has been an excellent choice. A recruitment firm has been engaged to hire an Executive Director and this is anticipated shortly.

(i) Administration

(1)Chief Administrative Officer's Report

CAO Phillips provided a verbal report, noting that:

- KPSC – Council has supported the engagement of Gordon MacIntosh to facilitate the joint council workshop.
- REN – Next steps have been identified in the report.
- JFSC – Meeting on June 5th – Rate payers meeting – June 23rd at the Fire Hall.

- Spring Conference AMA – nobody attending.
- UNSM – Presentations from the conference can be viewed on the website.
- Police Commission Meeting - The next meeting will be June 24th, 25 or 26. A joint Council and Commission meeting is being proposed to address the recent service reductions. Work will be done to set the frequency of these meetings, the existing policies and procedures and the objectives.
- Joint Police Services and Community Safety Advisory Committee – Confirmed 12 appointments as per the report, and the first meeting is this upcoming Thursday.
- CAMA –highlights were best practices, asking police and fire chief the right questions, the keynote speaker Marnie McBean who was inspiring. The CAMA website has presentations available for viewing.
- FCM sessions addressed similar issues, and Ric Mercer was the keynote speaker, with a message relating to reaching the right demographics with public engagement.

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

that the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.

MOTION CARRIED

(ii)Town Clerk’s Report

Clerk Carol Harmes noted that several of her issues have been address already on this agenda, with a remaining policy on complaints. She suggested that due to the lateness of the hour, that review of this new policy might be deferred to another CAC meeting.

(h) Council Reports from Workshops and Conferences

Mayor David Corkum – Planning Conference, the UNSM Ivany Workshop, New Tax Policy Media Session, FCM Conference (He will run for the Atlantic Region Caucus position at another time.)
Councilor Bill Boyd – attended FCM Conference in Niagara and enjoyed topics on smart solutions, smarter communities (good opportunities to see how things are going in other parts of the country.) Attended a session on recycling and would say that NS is far ahead in this particular issue. He enjoyed a presentation by Elizabeth May who gave an interesting perspective on global warming. There was an interesting session on the use of bio-solvents being mixed with garbage to produce electricity.
Councilor Bernie Cooper – not present
Councilor Eric Bolland – UNSM Workshop on the Ivany Report

(the regional approach was stressed, while doing more with less)
Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl - not present
Councilor Nola Folker-Hill – She attended the annual Planning Conference in Halifax and the FCM Conference in Niagara Falls. The average policing costs are 22.5% of the annual budget and ours is in line with these national percentages.
Councilor Tony Bentley – He helped out at KCA’s Spring Fling, attended the Princess Tea and noted that Kentville’s Princess did an excellent job; 4 students were picked for the annual bursary awards and each was excellent, including lots of volunteering and extra-curricular activities.

Points from Discussion

- Some schools offer a course in volunteering which is so beneficial to students and the future of a community.
- Princess Kentville should be invited to a future meeting of Council.

CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Kings County Citizen Coalition

CAO Phillips noted that a letter from this group asked if they could be updated on discussion points from the previous meeting, and to also be included on the mail-out list, along with other citizens, for upcoming meetings. In addition, this group asked that members be given the opportunity to hear the Stantec Report to the Kings 2050 project, and to be allowed to participate in this discussion.

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

that the letter from the Kings County Citizens Coalition be received.

MOTION CARRIED

Points from Discussion

- There has been some contradiction on what has happened during the last KPSC meeting.
- The Agenda for this CAC meeting was on the Town’s website and at the front counter by Wednesday last week, with revisions made as they were known. Each CAC and Council meeting is advertised in the local paper

NEW BUSINESS

(a) Municipal Property Taxation – Summary and Final Report

CAO Phillips shared the highlights of this report, noting that:

- The study will evaluate the effectiveness of property taxation in the province.
- Retain market value property assessment for tax base.

- Re-examine the list of exempt properties to ensure that there is a strong public rationale for their continuation, and further to re-examine payments in lieu of taxes, to ensure that the province is paying its fair share.
- To minimize spikes in assessed values, the Property Valuation Services Corporation should ensure that the assessment system captures changes to property values from additions and renovations in a timely manner.
- The province should implement fiscal disclosure rules which require municipalities to put the revenue-neutral municipal tax rate on the tax bill following a reassessment, and record any tax rate above that amount as a tax levy increase for that year.
- In conjunction with the recommendations for a one-year assessment lag, timely reassessment for additions and renovations, and fiscal disclosure, the province should phase out the capping program by increasing the capping rate.
- The province should index the forest acreage levy annually to reflect the rate of inflation. The relatively lower rates levied on agricultural and forestry properties should only apply to lands currently used for agriculture and forestry purposes.

Points from Discussion

- One comment from Mayor Corkum as the President of UNSM was that there has been a great deal of effort put into this project in the name of fairness. Although property assessment is fair, the assessment cap is not fair, as a lot of lower valued properties are paying very high taxes, at the same time that million dollar properties and apartment buildings have capped rates and do not pay their share.
- This unfairness is detrimental to future development, to young people trying to buy a home and to those wishing to downsize to a smaller property.
- The recommendations have been scrutinized and should create revenue-neutral results, although some uneducated opinions are that they are “tax grabs” for municipalities.
- If one home has a higher value than another, those taxes should be higher, not the other way around.
- A cap phase out is necessary, as some home owners might find their property suddenly more valuable (ocean frontage) and as a result can’t afford the taxes.
- The public and the press must try to understand this issue.

(b) Downtown Police Presence

This issue had been addressed during the Police Chief’s report,

however, a few comments were added:

- The reporting process does not always work, as sometimes issues need to be addressed prior to the next Police Commission meeting, as this could be months away.
- The attraction of the TD Bank location for loitering is because the flat window ledges serve either as seats or tables to put coffee on.
- Council and the Police Commission must have an understanding of what services are given and at what level these will be delivered. Joint meetings will allow for that.
- It is important that Council educates itself on some of these issues prior to criticizing the police service.
- If rules are in place, they must apply to everyone. Loitering is a difficult situation to handle as situations vary.
- Loitering around the Open Arms must be monitored, so as to not negatively affect neighbouring property owners.

(c) Complaints Handling Policy Statement

This issue will be brought to another meeting of CAC.

(d) Nomination of Miner’s Marsh (Recreation NS Award)

Councilor Bill Boyd felt that this very special park, in the heart of Kentville, is worthy of special recognition under the Recreation Nova Scotia Award program. He asked if CAC members would endorse this by way of a recommendation to Council, so that the venue can be nominated. Those involved at the Miner’s Marsh development should be recognized.

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

*Recommendation to
Town Council*

that a recommendation be made to Town Council that Council supports the nomination of Miner’s Marsh for a Recreation Nova Scotia Award.

MOTION CARRIED

(d) HR Policy Update

Councilor Nola Folker-Hill asked that this issue be placed on the agenda. She felt that this was a regional project, meant to provide consistency from one unit to another. However, Kentville has not moved forward with its adoption.

Points from Discussion

- After the regional work was completed, an internal committee was established to review the policies specifically to the Town.
- About a year and a half was spent with this review process, however, the policies have since been “parked.” They are

being reviewed by the Finance Department.

- The old policy has been effective and although created decades ago, continues to serve the Town well.

PUBLIC Q & A

Review of Council Size

It was noted that this item will be added to the CAC and Council agenda for the upcoming months, allowing the public to ask questions relating to the work of Council. No one was present at this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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

that the meeting adjourns at 5:38 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED