

KENTVILLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

November 24, 2014

- 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 Cris Shirrett, 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 members of Council were present, along with the solicitor, the Town Clerk and himself as CAO.
- APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA** It was moved by Councilor Bernie Cooper and seconded by Councilor Eric Bolland

that the agenda be approved with the addition of:
8(c) Fiscal Review

MOTION CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS

(a) Ken Crichton – Kings/Hants CBDC

Mr. Crichton presented some highlights from the previous year noting that he would like to not only keep Council up to date on the work being done, but would also like to seek its assistance in directing potential clients to CBDC.

- A new training program (provided by ACOA) is called “Counseling Assistance Services” for up to \$5,000 plus HST.
- Another program which provides efficiencies for truckers is called “Efficiency Freight Program” for up to \$20,000 as a grant to truckers who want to improve their fleet. The Province is involved in this initiative, as this would allow for the hauling larger loads by the same tractor.
- Older programs remain like the loan programs, including the Service Canada program called the “Self Employment Benefit Program.”
- There are some changes in the Board of Directors and some in part-time and temporary staff.
- The operating budget is designed to be a ‘break-even’ budget.
- A list of communities with their loans broken down, shows that Kentville received 11 loans for a value of \$953,225. (1/6 of total disbursements).
- Numbers are looking good for this year, as well.
- With the Self Employment Benefits Program, Kings County represents a large portion of these funds.

- With the financial information, the statement of income and expenses shows that excess of revenue over expenses is \$1,199,995 which in 2014 was the first year that CBDC topped \$1 million.
- Money is available for investment for those who qualify under specific criteria.
- From the 11 Kentville loans, most were service related - some retail, others in construction and the like.
- A big disappointment this year was as a result of a request for funds from KDCL for financial assistance for a strategic plan. The funds were not immediately available, and as this group had begun work on the project outside of the loan program, they did not meet the criteria when funds became available.
- Client training funds would be available to any client, whether that client is still repaying the loan or needs funds for training later on. These funds would be used for HR, marketing or financial assistance and are provided through ACOA.

Points from Discussion

- Investment Income of \$1.2m is derived from money put out for clients.
- The range of percentage on loans is 0% for student loans, youth loans at 5% and others are around 6.5%. Sometimes, on under-secured loans, the range might be 8%.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

(a) October 27 , 2014

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

that the minutes of October 27, 2014 be approved, as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(a) none

RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS

Council Advisory Committee

(1) Appointment of Deputy Mayor

Councilor Bill Boyd reported that at the November 10th meeting of Council Advisory Committee, an election was held for the annual position of Deputy Mayor on Town Council. Following this, Mayor Corkum declared the winner.

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

that Councilor Mark Pearl be appointed as Deputy Mayor

for the term 2014-2015

MOTION CARRIED

(2) Committees of Council 2014-2015

Councilor Bill Boyd reported that at the November 10th meeting of Council Advisory Committee, members reviewed the annual appointments to committees, boards and affiliations, making adjustments where necessary.

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

that the attached list of Committee Appointments of Council be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

(3) Kings Point-to-Point Funding Agreement

Councilor Bill Boyd reported that at the November 10th meeting of Council Advisory Committee, a discussion took place between members of Council and the manager of Kings Point-to-Point regarding the services offered by this organization, the funding sources available and budgets for the current year and years 2015-2016 and 2016-2017. Based on population served, Kentville's share of funding would be based on 12.6% of these budgets.

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

that the Funding Agreement from Kings Point-to-Point for the term 2014-2018 be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

(4) Chapter 46 – Building Bylaw (withdraw recommendation)

It was noted that although this item was brought to CAC for consideration to rescind, a discussion between the Director of Planning and the Town's solicitor regarding the transition to a more up-to-date document, it was felt that this bylaw should remain until the new one has been approved.

b) Fire

(i) Chief's Report

CAO Phillips reported that a written report was received outlining this month's activities. Chief Ryan MacEachern reported that:

- All department members attended a respectful workplace workshop.
- The 10-year outlook will be completed by month-end.

- Radio room upgrades have been awarded to Nova Communications.
- Matt Boates has been hired as the administrative assistant upon Nikki Morse's departure.
- 7 new members have joined in 60 days
- The agreement between Aldershot and KVFD is due for renewal.
- The Fire Pro Management Program has been purchased to help manage and track fire calls, training, consumables, vehicle maintenance, incident reporting, etc.
- Rescue 31 is being sold and replaced.

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

that the report from the Fire Chief be received.

MOTION CARRIED

(ii) Joint Fire Services Committee Report

Councilor Bill Boyd noted that this group met in October and reviewed the Municipal Agreement which expires March 31, 2015. Another meeting will take place on November 27 at which time this process should be completed. This will be brought to the units for final approval with the hope that it will be implemented in April 2015.

The re-appointment of Matt Boates may result in more consistent reports to Council, however, there is a transition period for the administrative aspect of the service.

At the Fire Services Meeting this week at the County of Kings, Councilor Boyd and CAO Phillips attended on behalf of the Town. The meeting invitees were Fire Chiefs from Kings County and others having interest in this service. Originally noted as a meeting to deal with boundaries, however, the agenda changed and dealt instead with the application process for funding to the County. This change of agenda and new approach to granting funds for the service, created some mistrust from the fire fighters who felt their future funding might be in jeopardy.

The facilitator of the meeting failed to diplomatically handle the issue of villages with fire departments and as a consequence, there may remain some hostility for some time. Councilor Boyd noted that Kentville and Wolfville are fortunate in having a municipal agreement in place for this service, as this eliminates any anxiety around funding issues.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED

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

Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl noted that the Management Minute is attached, however, added that:

- The draft budget for 2015/2016 will be reviewed in December, with final budgets available for the partners in February. A surplus is anticipated at this point in time.
- The Electronics Products Recycling Association has approved the authority as a receiving facility.
- Provincial funding is being sought for requests for proposals for an organizational review.
- Diversion credits for the 2013-14 year are expected to be distributed to the regions by the end of December.
- A group of municipal and provincial representatives will present finding to the regional chairs on December 5th regarding the development and implementation of a Packaging and Printed Paper stewardship program and the NSE (Nova Scotia Environment) may plan another summit in January with stakeholders.
- A Fiscal Analysis of proposed Regulations will be explored.
- The Official launch of the polystyrene recycling project on November 19th and information will be made available to the public about proper disposal.
- This Styrofoam is sorted and washed at VWRM, compressed into a log, shipped off-shore and then reused for decorative moldings, picture frames and the like.

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 Mark Pearl noted that:

- Previously New Minas, and now Waterville Volunteer Fire Departments have participated in an opportunity to learn about the features on the new busses.

- The proposed changes to the service within Hants West came into effect, with some delays along the route, resulting from slow traffic due to road construction.
- The Canadian Urban Transit Associations has accepted Kings Transit's proposal to host the 2015 CUTA Executive Meetings in February, with the official date to be set shortly.
- This year's CUTA Conference was held in Niagara Falls and 2 staff attended.
- Staff continues to work with Kings County's IT department on new service software and this should be working within weeks.
- Tools for Life – Kings Transit supported the Annual Tools for Life Conference by providing transportation to and from the event at Horton High. 84 passengers used the free shuttle service.
- Radio system – last month the Board approved upgrading the radio system with the TMR 2 system and this should be complete within a few months.
- An RFP for snow removal will close on December 1.
- Financial information has been included and this allows Council to have a higher level snapshot of how this operation is going. Currently indications are that the authority is running 2% under budget.

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

that the report from the Kings Transit Authority be received.

MOTION CARRIED

(e) Councilor's Report

Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl – nothing further to report

Councilor Bill Boyd - attended the UNSM Conference, the Torchlight Parade, Kings Co. Firefighters meeting.

Councilor Bernie Cooper – attended all meetings, except Valley Waste. At the last Police Commission meeting, he accepted the position of Chairman.

Councilor Tony Bentley – attended the Torchlight Parade, the meeting of AVRL and noted that Frances Newman is retiring and the new CAO will be announced shortly.

Councilor Nola Folker-Hill- attended all required meetings, the Remembrance Day service, a 3.5 hour conference call on Remembrance Day with CAPG and an additional meeting since then with this same group.

Councilor Eric Bolland – attended AVCC Tourism meeting and another one will be held on November 25; attended the AVCC Awards Dinner; KCA/PTA meeting last week; hosted an EcoKings Meeting at

Town Hall (discussions regarding the rapid transit project to the city and a funding formula for the Sustainability Coordinator); attended the Torchlight Parade and then worked on the LED light-exchange table at the rink, as part of the free skate program.

f) Mayors Report

Mayor Dave Corkum made reference to his written report which was distributed earlier, however, wanted to thank Council and Staff who helped so much during his term of service as President of UNSM. He added that he is always proud of the Town for professionalism, commitment of time, participation at meetings and in taking their obligations seriously. He especially thanked Mark Phillips for his time and commitment to his job.

CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Annapolis Valley Chamber of Commerce

A letter from President Sue Hayes has stated that AVCC members have asked for an independent review of municipal governance and operational effectiveness, so as to provide an environment for economic growth. She asked for information regarding the position of each municipal unit as it relates to engaging in this process.

Points from Discussion

- Mayor Corkum felt that it might be appropriate to invite the President and members of AVCC to a meeting of Council to engage in a discussion on municipal governance and especially the negative concerns that were expressed about lack of leadership having created barriers to prosperity in our area.
- It seems inappropriate for the Chamber to state the position of the community when the survey is still open for input.
- The Chamber does have an investment in the business and the economy of the community, and therefore, their role in moving a governance study forward might fit into that mandate.
- The Ivany Report mentions a need for municipal reform, however, this matter is being addressed in our area.
- This Council has gone on record to endorse a local study of municipal government, even before the Ivany Report was released.
- The Valley is a role-model for good governance across Canada, not only for this area, through Valley Waste as leaders in solid waste, Kings Transit initiatives, the Regional Economic Network and several other projects.
- It might be appropriate to ask the press to do an article on what has been done for joint partnerships in the Valley area, as that might eliminate the negativity about local government.
- The Town should send a letter to AVCC clarifying the Town's commitment to participating in a joint study.

- The people in the Valley need to understand the terrible condition this province is in, but in contrast, what great condition the Valley is in.
- These same people must be made aware of the fact that the comments made by a self-interest group, are not always factual, nor do they always represent the opinions of the community.
- Perhaps the partnership could prepare a statement on what has been done in the community as joint ventures and the number of successes that we have had.
- It appears from the website of AVCC that the survey indicating the need for governance reform was from last December, not from the survey currently ongoing.

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

that a letter be written to the AVCC that Kentville Town Council has gone on record, at its July 2013 meeting of Town Council, to support in principle, a regional governance study, providing the Terms of Reference are acceptable.

MOTION CARRIED

(b) Valley Search and Rescue

A letter from President Perry made a formal application for the Town to include a residential area tax rate for the purpose of acquiring and maintaining a more adequate base for their operations. New facilities would allow this emergency service provider to maintain their equipment in a building, which would drastically improve response time and reduce maintenance on equipment which is currently exposed to the elements.

Points from Discussion

- There are many missing pieces in this request (budget, location of building, amount requested, and so on.). There is a process involved in requesting an area rate.
- The CAOs for Kings County (except Hantsport) have discussed this issue and it appears that the County offered the Search and Rescue a surplus building at the airport and this building can be relocated. The training centre (flight school) has also been offered, and, in addition, the Greenwood base had offered some space.
- Andrew Mitton has been invited to the next CAOs meeting in January at which time a discussion from an operations point-of-view will take place.
- It is interesting to note that when this group is called out, they

are paid (sales of service) by the group calling them (i.e. fire department, police, etc.).

- It might be worthwhile to wait until the meeting, so some of the unknowns can be clarified.
- The service they provide is important and of value and is supported mostly by volunteers.
- An area rate spread over a wider area would be more affordable.
- The province should be financially supporting this operation, and it appears that no other municipality assumes the costs for such operations.
- This organization also provides locator bracelets for vulnerable children, and adults who may have dementia, and this has been proven to be a life-saving tool.

It was agreed that the CAO would write a letter to this group to advise them that although the Town supports the value of this service, there is a procedure that would be required prior to establishing an area rate.

NEW BUSINESS

(a) **Appointment of Acting Police Chief (recommendation)**

CAO Phillips noted that with the ongoing absence of Police Chief Mander from his duties, it has become necessary to establish some leadership for the Kentville Police Service. There is no policy in existence regarding an acting police chief, however, a simple motion of Council will suffice in this instance.

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

that Inspector Ken Reade be appointed as Acting Police Chief during the Chief's absence until December 29, 2014, following which the situation will be reviewed by Council.

MOTION CARRIED

Points from Discussion

- There will be a bump in salary for the Acting Police Chief during this time.
- Chief Mander has indicated that he hopes to return on December 29th, and if this does not occur, Council will have to re-evaluate the situation.
- Several years ago, a recommendation came forward to Council (and a motion was approved) to eliminate the position of Deputy Chief, as a cost-cutting measure.
- The Police Commission can bring forward a policy that relates to the Acting Police Chief.

(b) Appointment to Police Board (recommendation)

It was noted that during the November 13th meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners, applications were reviewed for the citizen vacancy on the Board, and that following this procedure, a recommendation was made.

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

that Gary Candow be appointed to the Board of Police Commissioners for a two-year term of office.

MOTION CARRIED

Points from Discussion

- Allowing a committee to decide which citizens are on the Board is not normally the practice.
- The commission would be in a better position to assess the need of certain skill-sets on the Board and in ensuring diversity.
- In accordance with the Police Act, Council is given the authority to appoint citizens to the Board and if Council disagrees with the recommendation, it reserves the right to make changes.
- The process undertaken by the Board to review the applicants was fair, well thought out and appropriate for the situation.

(c) Fiscal Review

Mayor Corkum read correspondence which noted that discussions are required of municipal units with response of their support or non-support of the recommendations made in the Fiscal Review. This response is required prior to December 15th, 2014. He added that the Province has reviewed the recommendations, supports them and will make a decision following receipt of municipal feedback.

He added that there have been several workshops throughout the province and these have been well-attended. For the most part, it appears that the municipal units are in favour of the recommendations, although locally, some concerns have been expressed about 2 of the recommendations that deal with villages. This may not be a deal-breaker, as it relates to the concept of “less government” as identified in the Ivany Report.

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

that Kentville Town Council endorses and supports the recommendations made in the Provincial – Municipal

Fiscal Review.

MOTION CARRIED

Points from Discussion

- The CAO will send a letter to the Province regarding Council's support.
- This support is in favour of all the recommendations.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

(a) none

ADJOURNMENT

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

that the meeting adjourns at 8:45 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED