

KENTVILLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

July 29, 2013

PRESENT

Mayor David Corkum, Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl, Councilor Nola Folker-Hill, Councilor Bernie Cooper, Councilor Bill Boyd, Councilor Tony Bentley, CAO Mark Phillips and Town Clerk Carol Harmes.

Also present - Town Engineer Fred Whynot (arrived at 7:55 p.m.)

Absent – Solicitor Cris Shirritt

Absent due to illness - Councilor Eric Bolland

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Corkum called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and CAO Phillips reported that, except for Councilor Bolland, who was ill, and Solicitor Cris Shirritt, all members of Council were present, along with the Town Clerk and himself.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

**that the agenda be approved with the inclusion of:
8 (c) Deer Haven - Asphalt**

MOTION CARRIED

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.

PRESENTATIONS

Annapolis Valley Poverty Coalition – Joy Warner and Nancy Stewart

The information included in this presentation involved a report called “Rural Poverty in Nova Scotia – A Position Paper”, which portrayed the differences in the experience of poverty in rural settings in NS, as compared to those of urban settings; a resolution for UNSM to the Province, promoting dialogue on this topic, and a power point presentation prepared for Council.

Points from Presentation:

- Rural poverty is different from urban poverty and the current support mechanisms in place do not transfer between the two groups.
- Difficulties accessing transportation, health care, child care, secure food, well-rounded education and work help contribute to poverty in rural areas.
- Mental health challenges also contribute to poverty.
- Out migration is a tremendous problem in rural Nova Scotia. (employment, lack of opportunities)
- Homelessness and poor housing conditions can be “invisible” in the rural setting.
- Rural people need a voice on their own issues.
- Centralized services make sense from an economic level, however, does not provide the same accessibility of rural people as that of urban citizens.
- Industries in the rural areas are disappearing, leaving only short-term, low-paid seasonal employment, which can contribute to poverty.
- The Coalition has been created to research the issue of rural and urban poverty and to urge municipalities to support a resolution through UNSM which would encourage the Provincial Government to create policies that address rural poverty, as well.

Points from Discussion

- The Province should take the lead, with the support of municipalities to create policies that allow for great rural accessibility to services.
- Municipal government must be careful the role they take in such issues, as the Province can be quick to pass along the responsibility to municipal governments.
- Many individuals living in poverty are too proud to ask for and accept help.
- More urban areas like Kentville need to support the resolution for this rural issue, as the whole of the Annapolis Valley is viewed as a rural area.
- Urban citizens are often very resourceful and simply

“make do” with what they have.

- If this issue is discussed on the CAC agenda in September, Council will still have time to send its endorsement to UNSM Resolution Committee, prior to the Fall Conference in November.

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

that this issue be discussed at the September meeting of Council Advisory Committee.

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

(a) Minutes – June 24, 2013

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

that the Minutes of June 24, 2013 be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/OLD BUSINESS

(a) Chapter 94 – Vending Bylaw

Clerk Harmes reported that this bylaw was created to replace Chapter 71 – Vending Bylaw, which required a number of amendments to address the issue of yard sales. Yard sales now have their own bylaw, just recently adopted.

First Reading was given to adopt the Vending Bylaw at the June 24th, 2013 meeting of Town Council, following which a Notice of Second Reading was published in the local paper on July 2, 2013.

As no opposition has been received regarding the approval of this document, the clerk recommended that the adoption process continue, and therefore, it was moved by Councilor Bill Boyd and seconded by Councilor Bernie Cooper

that Second (Final) Reading to adopt Chapter 94 – Vending Bylaw be given at this time.

MOTION CARRIED

(b) UNSM Caucus Structure Review

CAO Phillips reiterated the history leading up to the request

for input from each council member on the structure of UNSM Caucus. He reviewed the questions being asked and then the written input from those councillors who reported back (Councilors Bill Boyd, Eric Bolland and Bernie Cooper). Verbal reports were also given from the other council members. It was noted that the response to UNSM was needed prior to July 31.

Points from Discussion

- Benefits for caucus – provides a forum for all units to allow for discussion relative to their specific issues.
- To allow the provincial government to “level the playing field” between the rural and urban municipalities.
- As for alternate models to the caucus, any other proposal would be reviewed for its merit.
- Responding about UNSM Caucus at this time is difficult considering the current discussion on regional government.
- Meeting regionally is important, along with meeting with the caucus units, as each has its own issues.
- Removing the caucus structure as it now exists would be difficult for towns to have their voices heard.
- Perhaps changing the term of service of the President, from 1 year to a 2 year term would allow for long term planning and the completion of tasks.

It was agreed that these comments would be sent to UNSM, along with the recommendation for a 2 year term of service for the President’s position.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(a) Council Advisory Committee

(1) TBR Town Various \$847,800

Councilor Nola Folker-Hill reported that at a meeting of CAC on July 8th, 2013, Director Crowell reported that a TBR in the amount of \$847,800, which relates to various capital projects in the Town’s 2013/14 program (see Schedule A attached), is being brought forward for Council’s authorization.

Therefore, it was moved by Councilor Bill Boyd and seconded by Councilor Tony Bentley

that Council approves TBR 13/14 – Various Purposes for \$847,800.

MOTION CARRIED

(2) TBR Water 2013-2014 - \$57,500

Councilor Nola Folker-Hill reported that at a meeting of CAC on July 8th, 2013, Director Crowell reported that the Kentville Water Commission's 2013/2014 capital budget included 3 Building Canada Fund projects, 1/3 of which will be funded by the Water Commission. These projects total \$1,072,900, which includes Phase 2 of the construction and demolition of the old water tank and a water main extension to the New Minas border. The attached TBR relates to this funding.

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

that Council approves the attached Temporary Borrowing Resolution identified as TBR 13/14-01 – Water - \$57,500.

MOTION CARRIED

(3) Interest Rate on Outstanding Receivables 2013-2014

Councilor Nola Folker-Hill reported that at a meeting of CAC on July 8th, 2013, Director Debra Crowell reported that the Policy Statement Respecting Application of Interest Charges on Outstanding Accounts currently indicates that 2% per month (26.8% per year) is being charged on outstanding accounts. As this amount has served to deter delinquent payment of accounts, thereby ensuring that the Town has the cash reserves required to operate its entities, and cuts down on internal costs and external collection expenses and write-offs, she recommended that the rate be maintained.

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

that the interest rate on outstanding accounts remain at 2% per month (26.8% per annum) for the year April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014.

MOTION CARRIED

Points from Discussion

- Deputy Mayor Pearl wanted it known that he would be voting against this motion, as he felt that the interest rate was too high at 26.8%, especially in view of the statistics we have on poverty here in this area.
- This is an opportunity to help those citizens who are struggling to meet their financial obligations.
- Many people will hold their payment back because they can earn higher rates keeping their money in a savings account, or borrowing money from a bank at a much lower rate.

(4) Regional Governance Study (Support in Principle)

Councilor Nola Folker-Hill reported that at a meeting of CAC on July 8th, 2013, CAO Phillips noted that both the Kings Partnership Steering Committee and the County of Kings are asking the Town to enter discussions regarding regional governance, with the possible outcome of engaging an independent feasibility study.

Although members of Council acknowledged the cooperation currently between the various municipal units and the success with a number of inter-municipal agreements, they agreed that other opportunities may exist that would better serve Kentville tax-payers.

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

that Council supports in principle, a regional governance study, providing the Terms of Reference are acceptable.

MOTION CARRIED

Points from Discussion

- Over the next few weeks (prior to CAC in September) council members should jot down some of their thoughts on the Terms of Reference.
- Any questions or suggestions from staff should be brought forward to be included in the Terms of Reference.
- The KPSC will have the task of coordinating all the

information and presenting it in a format that can be discussed and agreed upon by the members. In many cases this will mean a compromise.

- Each municipality must submit its own rendition of what is palatable in the Terms of Reference.
- I may take several months for all units to agree on a Terms of Reference.
- If 2 or more units want to move ahead with a project, then under the protocol of the KPSPC, it can be on the agenda as an issue; however, in this case, the issue of regional governance affects everyone.

(5) Sales and Services Agreement (Checkwell Decision Corporation)

Councilor Nola Folker-Hill reported that at a meeting of CAC on July 8th, 2013, Council discussed the Sales and Services Agreement between the Town of Kentville and Checkwell Decision Corporation (Back Check), as it is due for renewal.

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

that Town Council enters into the Sales of Services Agreement with Checkwell Decision Corporation, effective April 1, 2013.

MOTION CARRIED

(6) Rezoning Old KCA Property

Councilor Nola Folker-Hill reported that at a meeting of CAC on July 8th, 2013, Director of Planning and Development Bev Gentleman reiterated that with the current interest by developers in this property, a rezoning from its current (I) Institutional Zone would allow for a more varied use of the property.

She felt that a rezoning to C1 – Commercial would allow for a mixed use of residential and commercial, which would be conducive to surrounding zoning and uses. This would also allow for a simple rezoning without requiring a Municipal Planning Strategy amendment.

Therefore, it was moved by Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl and seconded by Councilor Bernie Cooper

that Town Council gives First Reading to amend the Land Use Bylaw, as it relates to the rezoning of PID#55267488 (Old KCA Property), from Institutional (I) Zone to Commercial General (C-1) and further that Town Council holds a Public Hearing on September 19, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Kentville Council Chambers on this issue.

MOTION CARRIED

(7) Rescind Old Policies

Councilor Nola Folker-Hill reported that at a meeting of CAC on July 8th, 2013, Clerk Harmes submitted a report requesting consideration to rescind four old policies currently in the Town's active documents, although they serve no purpose.

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

that the following policies be rescinded:

Policy 11 – Cancellation of Parking Tickets

Policy 1 – Grass Fires

**Policy 2 – Memorandum of Agreement –
Town and Fire Department**

Policy 3 – Fire Bylaw and Regulations

MOTION CARRIED

(b) Fire

(i) Department Report

CAO Phillips reported that although there is still no written report, discussions with the Chief indicate that the fire service continues to be excellent with volunteer efforts from both current and past fire fighters returning to the ranks. An individual has been hired in the administrative capacity and more will follow as to his identity. Kentville's Finance Director Deb Crowell was on the hiring committee and was very impressed with this individual.

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

that the report from the Kentville Fire Department be accepted.

MOTION CARRIED

(ii) Joint Fire Services Committee Report

Councilor Boyd reported the next meeting will be on August 29.

(c) Valley Waste Resource Management Authority's Representative's

Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl reported that the Management Minute has been included in Council's agenda package, however, pointed out that:

- Recyclables, organics and residuals to Chester were up.
- The Audited Statements showed a \$140,000 surplus and cheques will be distributed to the partners.
- Orientation visits continue with new board members.
- At the Regional Chair's meeting (for NS), there was a presentation from the Resource Recovery Fund Board – indicating that next year there will be a major drop in funding to the units.
- This reduction translates to a shortfall for next year if there are no unbudgeted revenues.
- The Polystyrene Program proceeds with a slight stumbling block with the RRFB.
- A request from the Town of Annapolis Royal to join Valley Waste Resource Management Authority, as a full partner will be dealt with later on the agenda.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED

(e) Kings Transit Authority's Representative's Report

Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl reported that a report has been received from the acting General Manager (Brian Taylor) indicating that there has been an increase in passengers compared with the same quarter last year, with Annapolis East showing the greatest increase. He added that fares have

increased over \$5,988 over the same quarter last year, and again, Annapolis East and Annapolis West show the biggest increase.

A number of cyclists traveled on the Kings Transit busses during June, in support of “recreation month.” Free transit will be provided to Acadia students on August 29th as a promotion. Discounted rates are provided to groups offering summer camps in the area.

A tender for 3 new low floor busses closed on May 15th and from the 4 proposals received, Cityview was selected, and will be delivering these new busses between mid-December and February 2014.

Promotion of schedule times, route information, fares, etc. will be posted at specific locations to better educate the public. This project, along with collaboration of other providers, will be of benefit to transit users. CUTA Atlantic meetings will be hosted by Kings Transit this September. The Authority-approved Audited Statements shows a \$25,000 increase over the previous year. Lastly, he noted that the search continues for a General Manager for the Transit Authority and a permanent placement is anticipated shortly.

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

that the report from Kings Transit Authority be received.

MOTION CARRIED

(h) Councilors’ Report

Councilor Bill Boyd – Attended all meetings

Councilor Tony Bentley – Attended all meetings, did some officiating at the Special Olympics and was impressed with the enthusiasm and efforts made by the participants.

Councilor Nola Folker-Hill – Attended all meetings and will be attending the Canadian Association of Police Boards Conference in Saskatoon in August.

Councilor Bernie Cooper – Attended all meetings.

Councilor Eric Bolland – Not available to report.

Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl – Had nothing further to report.

(i) Mayor's Report

Notes from Report were:

- Attended NKEC for bursary presentations.
- Attended Brison's Breakfast on July 3, along with NS Fruit Growers 150th anniversary party.
- Attended the Land Force Atlantic Change of Command on July 5, along with Sid Davies funeral.
- Attended Special Olympics and brought greetings from the Town. He agreed with the enthusiasm and commitment of the participants.
- Attended the Gunn Balderssen Soccer Tournament.
- Attended a Regional Sub Committee Town's Task Force meeting in Halifax.
- Attended a planning meeting and a Finance and Administration meeting.
- Met with Peter Hayes Re: Environmental Hub.
- Lindsay Young and he brought a welcome to the new owners of the Savour's restaurant on Webster Court.
- Attended a Rotary Club social; a Halifax Main Street Program announcement, a Wolfville Main Street Program announcement (resulted from a recommendation from the UNSM Task Force). Funding presented is for a \$1,000 commitment to each project.
- Attended the Kingstec meeting for a funding announcement from Peter MacKay to the Chrysalis House.

CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Carl Knox

A thank you card was received, in which retiring employee, Carl Knox, thanked the Town for the parting gift.

(b) Glooscap Curling Club

A letter was received from this organization thanking the Town (through Finance Director Crowell) for supporting their fund-raising efforts which went towards their renovations at the club. It was noted that these improvements give them the

opportunity to host events throughout the year and will add comfort and safety to the building.

(c) Blake Fairclough

A thank you note was received from this young man who had been a recipient of the Town's Student Bursary.

(d) Parking – In Style Hair Design

A letter and petition was received from this business in which it was noted that staff of the hair salon use all-day parking spots, however, their customers were not happy with the 2 hour parking found in most lots around Town. Petitioners, who want some changes to parking in Town, were urged to contact the Mayor.

CAO Phillips noted that a staff report will be ready for September's CAC meeting and that this letter would be forwarded to that meeting. A webinar on parking downtown will be held in early September and this might give some ideas of any new ideas to resolve parking issue.

Points from Discussion

- Information on the required number of parking (staff and customers) should be gathered from each downtown business.
- There are several types of service businesses in the downtown whose customers or patients would require longer parking periods than 3 hours.
- This issue will be back on the agenda with a staff report in September.

(e) Jacqueline Little

This recipient of a bursary towards secondary education costs thanked the Town for selecting her.

NEW BUSINESS

(a) Valley Waste Resource Management (Membership Request)

CAO Phillips noted that a request has been received from Annapolis Royal for membership in this inter-municipal partnership agreement along with a briefing memo from the

General Manager, Ross Maybee. It was noted that upon being admitted to membership, the Town of Annapolis Royal will initially contribute to the existing partners, its pro-rated share of 0.78% of the investment costs of the organization to date, and will guarantee their proportional share in both the acquisition of new capital assets and in the ongoing fiscal servicing and program related operational costs. It is expected that service provision would begin on October 1, 2013.

The briefing further reiterated that new members would be admitted to the current agreement only if a majority of the current members voted in favour.

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

that Town Council supports the Resolution as presented, accepting Annapolis Royal as a new member of the Valley Waste Resource Management Authority and will be made a signatory to the Agreement, being made subject to, and the beneficiary of, all rights, duties, obligations and services exercised and enjoyed by the existing membership, in the same manner and to the same extent as it would have, had it been one of the original founding members of the Authority and signatories to the agreement.

MOTION CARRIED

Points from Discussion

- The Town of Annapolis Royal will be the smallest member and will contribute proportionately.
- The municipal agreement will be amended to reflect the membership changes.
- Annapolis Royal must “buy their way into the authority” sharing the costs associated to the services and programs financially supported by other members in the past. The funds (approximately \$55,000), paid by Annapolis Royal, will be contributed back to the other partners.

(b) Award of Fox Hollow Surface Works

Town Engineer Fred Whynot noted that five proposals were received for paving, curbing and associated work for Fox Hollow Drive, as per the approved 2013-14 Capital Program for Transportation Services. The amount estimated for this work was \$125,000, and Director Fred Whynot proposed that Council select lowest bidder, Dexter Construction Company Limited, as he felt that this company was experienced in providing the work required. The cost to the Town would be \$103,488.25.

Therefore, it was moved by Councilor Bill Boyd and seconded by Councilor Tony Bentley

that the Fox Hollow surface work would be awarded to Dexter Construction Company Limited for \$103,488.25, including HST.

MOTION CARRIED

(c) Deer Haven – Asphalt

Mayor Corkum passed the chair to Deputy Mayor Pearl, so he could introduce the issue of paving Deer Haven Subdivision. He reported that several residents of that subdivision have asked if the streets could be paved, which has also been a concern of the contractor, who has reported that the lack of paving has proven to be a deterrent for new development.

After further discussion, it was moved by Mayor David Corkum and seconded by Councilor Tony Bentley

that staff researches any grants that may be made available, or if they could determine if funds could be allocated next year to allow for paving of this subdivision.

MOTION CARRIED

Points from Discussion

- This paving project should be examined to make sure that it does not jeopardize another project already on the schedule.

- Perhaps staff can look at this request and report back at a future meeting.
- There are some very nice homes in this subdivision and those taxpayers, who pay a lot of taxes, are feeling like their concerns are not being met.
- There would be a plan for such capital work and it's important to respect the priority of the work being done.
- This subdivision falls under the old arrangement whereby the Town would pave the streets when 70% of the houses were built.
- The new arrangement involves the contractor doing the paving.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

(a) none

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilor Nola Folker-Hill and seconded by Councilor Bernie Cooper

that the meeting adjourns at 8:27 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED