

This month in **KENTVILLE COUNCIL**

The monthly municipal update from Kentville Nova Scotia



The Kentville Girl Guides explored Miners Marsh this month and found lots of natural treasures.

IN THIS ISSUE

**LOW INCOME TAX
EXEMPTION**

STREET SIGN PLAQUE

**REGIONAL SEWER
BUDGETS APPROVED**

DEED TRANSFER TAX

**ALL MOTIONS
APPROVED BY COUNCIL**



Each month, staff bring together the highlights from the month’s Council meeting. On March 25, Council met and talked about a number of issues. Here are the highlights!

Council Approves Annual Low Income Tax Exemption

Director Wanda Matthews presented the calculations for the proposed low-income tax exemption for 2024-2025. She explained the change in threshold levels from previous years to accommodate residents facing financial stress in this difficult economic period.

Cornwallis Street Sign Plaque

Council approved the following wording to accompany the street sign loan to the Kentville Historical Society:

“On January 8, 2024, Cornwallis Street in Kentville was officially renamed Bridge Street. This street name change came after 4 years of policy development, public engagement and consultation with the First Nation community.

At the Street Renaming and Reconciliation Ceremony on January 9, 2024, residents spoke about the harm and pain caused by Edward Cornwallis against First Nations people, and the desire from Treaty People to move forward together in love and peace.”

Regional Sewer Budget

The four partners of the sewer committee begin budget meetings, typically early in the calendar year with proposed Operating and Capital budgets prepared and presented to the Committee by the County of Kings Finance and Operations staff which upon review and input from the partners is typically approved in March so that recommendations can go to the individual partners Council, Commission or Board for approval and acceptance of the new Budget. Budget details can be found on the town's website.

Dog Park Named Marshview

CAO Jeff Lawrence described the process of public engagement, selecting names, research the names, and selecting the final name for this park: Marshview Dog Park. New Minas is in support of this name for the park.



Kentville Announces Plan for New Fire Services Agreement

Councillor Craig Gerrard reviewed the structure of the Joint Fire Services committee with the County of Kings, and the need to update the existing contract to reflect current practices and policies that satisfies both parties.



Kentville Considers Deed Transfer Tax

Mayor Snow reviewed the past meetings where the deed transfer tax was introduced, and reviewed the report provided to Council at the Special Council Meeting earlier in the day. In Nova Scotia, all municipalities except the Town of Kentville and Municipality of Kings have deed transfer tax provisions. Deed Transfer Tax (DTT) rates range from 0.25% to 1.5%. Currently, the bulk of the Town's revenues are generated from commercial and residential taxes.

The Town of Kentville is on the verge of impending development and growth and will require significant investment by the Town for a number of infrastructure improvements and future developments. As well, our five-year capital investment plan projects expenditure levels that require a significant increase of revenues or reserves.

Motions Passed

- March 25, 2024, Special Council Meeting
- That Council approve the 2024 – 2025 Capital Investment Plan in the amount of \$4,872,425 including the funding sources.
And further
confirm the 2023 – 2024 carry forward budget previously approved in the amount of \$2,854,400 utilizing funding sources as defined in the ratified 2024 – 2028 CIP
and further
That Council approve in principle \$18,515,869 in projected capital expenditure for 2025 - 2026 through 2028 – 2029 including the funding sources.
- That Council authorize the CAO to investigate and bring forward to Council 2025 – 2026 capital expenditures for items that would benefit from an early tendering process.
- That Council approve the plan for capital plan renewal to ensure sufficient balances are available to fund Capital Investment Projects projected capital purchases from Year 2 onward. In particular,
- Increase annual reserve allocation from operating in the amount of \$169,000
- Secure or provide for funding allocations totaling \$ 963,937 to bring General Capital Reserve unfunded projects to nil at the end of the Capital Investment Plan.
- Maintain a \$500,000 contingency in Kentville Futures Capital Reserves
- That Council approves moving forward on the Deed Transfer Tax through the Bylaw process.

- March 25, 2024, Council Meeting
- That Council approve the Low-Income Tax Exemption for the 2024-25 year, And further,
That the exemption amount be set between \$385 to \$640, and further,
That the income ceiling be set at \$31,732, and further,
That the deadline for application be June 28, 2024.
- That Council approve the recommended wording to accompany the Cornwallis Street sign being loaned to the Kentville Historical Society.
- That Council approve the 2024-2025 Regional Sewer Operating Budget of \$2,00,500 with the Kentville share of \$1,031,200
and
further broken down by capital contribution at \$313,100 (45.43% of total Capital); and further Operating contribution at \$718,000 or 54.75% of the total Operating Budget
- That Council approve the name Marshview Dog Park for the Kentville New Minas Dog Park.
- That Council direct the CAO and Mayor to write a letter of notice to the Kentville Volunteer Fire Department to terminate the current contract on March 31, 2025.
- That Council direct the Kentville CAO to work with the Kings County CAO on the Joint Fire contract.
- That Council approve First Reading of the Deed Transfer Bylaw.