



**Truro Town Council Meeting**  
**Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014**  
**Council Chambers – Civic Building**

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A regular public meeting of Truro Town Council was held on Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 1:00 pm in the Council Chambers of the Truro Civic Building.

Present: Mayor W. R. (Bill) Mills, Deputy Mayor D. Joseph, Councillors C. Fritz, R. Tynes, B. Kinsman, G. MacArthur and T. Chisholm

In Attendance: Director of Finance A. Currie, Director of Planning J. Fox, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture D. MacKenzie, Police Chief D. MacNeil, Fire Chief B. Currie, Director of Public Works A. MacKinnon, Town Solicitor J. Rafferty and CAO J. Langille

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On motion of Councillors T. Chisholm and B. Kinsman, the agenda was approved as circulated. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion of Deputy Mayor D. Joseph and Councillor T. Chisholm, the minutes of the Public Hearing and the Public Council Meeting held March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 were approved as circulated. Motion carried.

**MOTIONS AND NOTICES OF MOTIONS**

**a) Budget Resolutions – 2014/15**

Deputy Mayor D. Joseph provided the budget presentation for the 2014/15 fiscal year. The presentation reviewed the highlights of the 2014/15 budget. The Residential tax rate will increase by 1 cent to \$1.78 per \$100 of assessment and the Commercial tax rate will increase by 1 cent to \$4.46 per \$100 of assessment.

Deputy Mayor D. Joseph presented the resolution to establish the tax rate for the 2013/14 fiscal year, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

Councillor R. Tynes stated that he had a concern with the budget, specifically the part involving the deficit at the RECC. He noted that the Town had made attempts to meet with County Council to discuss the RECC and their budget, as this was a joint operation between the two municipalities, but that the County had declined the invitations. Councillor R. Tynes noted that Town departments had to make cuts not only to capital projects but to operational costs in order to cover the deficit at the RECC.

The Mayor stated that as a board member of the Operations Board at the RECC, the board and management are looking at the budget and trying to find cost savings, but one of the biggest challenges has been the cost of electricity.

Councillor B. Kinsman stated that he agreed with Councillor R. Tynes about the RECC budget and not having a joint meeting with the County Council. He noted that he is a supporter of the RECC, but had concerns over Council not having a change to review the proposed budget from the RECC in detail before today's meeting. He advised that the Town needs to send a clear message to County Council that on this project, and future joint projects, there needs to be joint meetings and discussions on budgets before either Council passes their budgets.

Deputy Mayor D. Joseph stated that Council could ask the RECC outside of the budgetary process to meet a specified a target reduction, and from there approve or disapprove subsequent budgets outside of the budgetary process.

Councillors G. MacArthur, T. Chisholm and C. Fritz also expressed concern over the several attempts to meet with County Council that were declined.

On motion of Deputy Mayor D. Joseph and Councillor T. Chisholm, the resolution was approved and the tax rates for the 2014/15 fiscal year were adopted as presented. Motion carried.

**b) Water Utility Budget**

The CAO advised that a motion was being sought for approval of the 2014/15 Water Utility Budget. He noted that the projected revenue is \$4,414,000, with projected expenses from operations of \$3,928,000, non-operating expenses, and debt servicing totalling \$461,000. The CAO stated that this budget is based upon the rates and the expenses and revenues as established by the Utility and Review Board..

On motion of Councillor R. Tynes and Deputy Mayor D. Joseph, it was moved to approve the Water Utility Budget for the 2014/15 fiscal year as presented. Motion carried.

**c) Tax Exemptions – 2014/15**

Deputy Mayor D. Joseph presented the resolution to establish the property tax exemption level of less than \$197 for the 2014/15 fiscal year, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

On motion of Deputy Mayor D. Joseph and Councillor R. Tynes, the property tax exemption level was adopted as presented. Motion carried.

### **PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS**

#### **a) Presentation – Art Show Winner**

Councillor C. Fritz, on behalf of the Truro Art Acquisition Committee, presented to the Town the newest art piece by Diane Redden, selected by the Committee at the recent Art Show.

#### **b) Presentation – Music Nova Scotia**

Scott Long, the Executive Director of Nova Scotia Music Week made a presentation to Council about the Nova Scotia Music Week being held in Truro this fall. He gave a brief background on the history of Nova Scotia Music Week, and that it attracts fans, industry delegates and international buyers to the host community every year. Mr. Long advised that the budget for this year's festival was \$320,000 and that the festival runs from November 6<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup>, with an expected total attendance of approximately 6000 people.

The Mayor thanked him for his presentation and advised that funding for the Nova Scotia Music Week was in the budget to be approved at today's Council meeting.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **a) Report – Vera Clyke Tree Statue**

The CAO reviewed a report submitted from the Public Works Department regarding the Vera Clyke tree statue. The report noted that a Core sample was taken to determine the extent of decay of the statue to decide whether or not repairs could be undertaken. The core sample crumbled due to extensive decay and at the Tree Committee meeting on March 19<sup>th</sup>, the Committee decided to recommend to Council that the statue be removed, but the concrete base left for another department or group to consider for use for another type of monument or plaque.

On motion of Councillors R. Tynes and C. Fritz, it was agreed that the Vera Clyke statue would be removed due to the extensive decay and a suitable memorial be erected in its place. Motion carried.

#### **b) New Library – Contract with L&R Construction**

The CAO advised that the Joint Library Construction Committee, consisting of representatives from both Truro Council and County Council, passed a motion at a recent meeting to approve the plans for the new library, and recommend to both Councils that they approve the plans and sign the contract with L&R Construction.

On motion of Councillors T. Chisholm and G. MacArthur, the contract with L&R Construction for construction of the new library in the old Normal College building was approved for signing. Motion carried.

### **IN-CAMERA SUMMARY REPORT**

The CAO advised Council that there were two personnel issues and two legal issues discussed by Council at the last In-Camera meeting and requested Council meet after this meeting to discuss four legal issues.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Finance Report**

The Finance report for the month of March was presented to Council.

Councillor C. Fritz asked when the projected start date for new Business Development Officer was.

The CAO advised that interviews would occur in the next week or two, with an expected start date of approximately 3-4 weeks.

On motion of Councillors T. Chisholm and C. Fritz, it was moved that the Finance report for the month of March, 2014 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

#### **Fire Report**

The Fire Report for the month of March was presented to Council.

On motion of Deputy Mayor D. Joseph and Councillor T. Chisholm, it was moved that the Fire Report for the month of March, 2014 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

#### **Planning and Development Report**

The Planning and Development report for the month of March was presented to Council.

Councillor G. MacArthur asked about the progress for signage for Victoria Park.

The Director of Planning advised that this was a large project that was taking a lot longer than originally anticipated, but that the department was in the process of finalizing the tender document that would be going out soon. He suggested that the fabrication of signs could be started within a month.

On motion of Councillors G. MacArthur and B. Kinsman, it was moved that the Planning and Development report for the month of March, 2014 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

#### **Bylaw Enforcement Report**

The Bylaw Enforcement Report for the month of March was presented to Council.

Councillor T. Chisholm noted that 25 Dominion Street was on the list for unsightly premises, and that property is on the list often. He asked if there was anything the Town could do long term regarding that property.

The Director of Planning advised that the department could only monitor the property and issue tickets as needed. He noted with this property there has been an ongoing issue of locating the two owners.

Councillor G. MacArthur asked if there was an update on 11 Alice Street.

The Director of Planning advised that he did not have a complaint on file for that property.

Councillor R. Tynes noted that the Town is complaint driven for a lot of issues, and suggested the policy be reviewed to determine if the Town could be more proactive. He also asked if a property is brought up at a Council meeting, if that constitutes a complaint.

The CAO advised that the Director of Planning would take the comments made today on 11 Alice Street as a complaint and have it investigated. He noted that Council is a reactive Council, reacting to complaints with respect to most of the Town's Bylaws and Policies because the Town does not have the resources to be aggressive in the implementation of them.

The Mayor suggested that if Council notices an issue with a specific property, perhaps they could talk to the neighbours who might agree and they could file a complaint with the Town.

On motion of Councillors C. Fritz and T. Chisholm, it was moved that the Bylaw Enforcement Report for the month of March, 2014 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

#### **Police Report**

The Police Report for the month of March was presented to Council.

On motion of Deputy Mayor D. Joseph and Councillor C. Fritz, it was moved that the Police Report for the month of March, 2014 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

#### **Public Works Report**

The Public Works report for the month of March was presented to Council.

Councillor B. Kinsman asked for a report next month on the tree planting program and its progress.

On motion of Councillors C. Fritz and B. Kinsman, it was moved that the Public Works Report for the month of March, 2014 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

#### **Parks, Recreation and Culture Report**

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Report for the month of March was presented to Council.

On motion of Councillors G. MacArthur and C. Fritz, it was moved that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Report for the month of March, 2014 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

#### **Safety Coordinators Report**

The Safety Coordinators Report for the month of March was presented to Council.

On motion of Councillors G. MacArthur and B. Kinsman, it was moved that the Safety Coordinators Report for the month of March, 2014 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

#### **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

Deputy Mayor D. Joseph thanked everyone who was responsible for his recent trip to Bolivia.

The Mayor noted that the Deputy Mayor's trip to Bolivia was part of an exchange program the Town is participating in with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and that the FCM is responsible for the costs.

Councillor R. Tynes noted that local resident Ms. Louis Brown turns 105 today.

The Mayor noted that he attended the celebrations yesterday and presented Ms. Brown with a picture of a copy of the article from the newspaper and letter of congratulations from Town Council and citizens.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **a) Amendments to Credit Card Policy**

The CAO advised that an amendment to the Credit Card Policy was being suggested for Council approved. The amendment states that: "If a credit card is used for either one of the purposes listed above, the cardholder will be issued a "first warning" and reimbursement of the expenses will be made immediately. If a credit card is misused a second time following a first warning, the cardholder's credit card will be cancelled and reimbursement of the expenses will be made immediately. The cardholder will not receive any payments from the town, including pay cheques or expense cheques until reimbursement has been made in full."

Councillor T. Chisholm noted that it is good governance to have consequences within a policy for when it may not be followed.

On motion of Councillors T. Chisholm and G. MacArthur, the amendment to the Credit Card Policy was approved as presented. Motion carried.

### **b) Amendments to Conference & Travel Policy**

The CAO advised that two amendments to the Conference & Travel Policy were being suggested for Council approval. The first amendment states that "Every member who attends must have a summary report prepared for Council's consideration or make a presentation to Council. If a report is not submitted or a presentation does not occur, then that Council or committee member will not be permitted to attend any more conferences with that organization". The second amendment states that "If an organization invites a member of Council to an event or conference, the travel expenses will be paid from that Council member's budget, subject to availability of funds. If an organization invites a specific member of Council to speak or present at an event or conference, the inviting organization will be expected to pay for the travel expenses of that Council member."

On motion of Councillors C. Fritz and R. Tynes, the two amendments to the Conference & Travel Policy were approved as presented. Motion carried.

### **c) Funding Request – Screening of NFB Documentary**

The CAO reviewed a request received from Persons against non-state torture, noting that April is Sexual Assault Awareness month, and requesting that Council provide financial support in the amount of \$384 for screening at the Marigold Cultural Centre of the National Film Board documentary, "Buying Sex" on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 7:30pm, with free admission. Council agreed to this request.

### **d) Tethering Dogs**

The CAO reviewed a letter received from Trudy Boland, with a copy of a petition, asking Council to change the Dogs Bylaw to deal with the tethering of dogs and neglected animals.

The Mayor noted that this issue had been receiving a lot of attention in the media lately and that the Provincial Government has adopted a new policy on this issue. The Mayor advised that the Town Solicitor had been asked to investigate this issue and report to Council at today's meeting.

The Town Solicitor advised that the Town of Truro has authority to enact bylaws only within the scope given to the Town under the Municipal Government Act. He stated that in his opinion, the Municipal Government Act does not empower the Town to implement the Bylaws that Ms. Boland recommends. The Town Solicitor noted that two other municipalities had enacted bylaws that Ms. Boland noted in her letter, but it was the Solicitor's opinion that those Bylaws are invalid and unenforceable.

### **e) Door to Door Mail Delivery Resolution**

The Mayor advised that Saint John, New Brunswick, had recently passed a resolution regarding Canada Post's decision to eliminate door to door delivery. He noted that he believed a similar motion would suit what the Town of Truro would be trying to accomplish regarding Canada Post's decision.

On motion of Councillors G. MacArthur and C. Fritz, Council requests that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities request the Federal Government to direct Canada Post to maintain some system of residential door to door postal delivery in Canada and further that a copy of the resolution be sent to Scott Armstrong, MP, for his information. Motion carried.

#### **f) Passenger Rail Resolutions**

The Mayor advised that a representative met with him last week and asked the Mayor to bring these resolutions to Council. He noted that if Council approved the resolutions today, he would be taking them to the Atlantic Mayors Congress later this month and then the FCM Conference next month.

On motion of Deputy Mayor D. Joseph and Councillor R. Tynes, the following resolutions were passed:

*Whereas Passenger Rail played an instrumental role in building the modern Canada we know today by linking people and communities from coast to coast, we believe it can and should continue this role in the twenty-first century.*

*Whereas in recent decades passenger rail services have not kept pace with increasing population, better technology and growing ecological considerations. Instead, the experience of Via Rail, Canada's national passenger rail service, has been one of chronic funding reductions, cutbacks in service and employment, and this has increases isolation of communities. Our national passenger rail service is underperforming as a public utility*

*Whereas Canada is at a crossroad when it comes to passenger rail. A choice will have to be made whether to let a once-vibrant public utility continue its decline and eventually perish. The alternatives are to either keep Via Rail on life support (its current underfunded state) or, more optimistically, to revitalize the network through new investments that improve service, win back customers and generate massive spin-off benefits for everyone nationally and locally.*

*Therefore be it resolved that our municipal council encourage the Government of Canada, the opposition parties, provincial government, Via Rail and other stakeholders to participate in a national discussion about the future of passenger rail in Canada.*

*Be it further resolved that our municipal council call on the provincial government and the federal government to urgently invest in passenger rail in Atlantic Canada, specifically to keep service running between Bathurst and Miramichi, NB, the 70kms of track that CN will abandon in July of 2014.*

*Be it further resolved that our municipal council call on the Government of Canada specifically to make railway renewal a priority. The revitalization of Via Rail could help realize many important public policy goals including: the safe and fast transport of people; energy conservation; reduced congestion, pollution and greenhouse gas emissions; greater geographic integration; and the renewal of Canada's manufacturing sector. A new approach to the funding and organization of Via Rail must include increased employment and improved service delivery.*

*Be it further resolved that we call on the federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to support the revitalization of passenger rail and lobby the federal government on our behalf for a national transportation strategy.*

Motion carried.

#### **g) Temporary Borrowing Resolutions re: Fire Truck and Wastewater Treatment**

The CAO advised that the Town had recently purchased a new ladder truck for the fire service, for a total cost \$1.1 million dollars. He noted that \$600,000 of that money came from reserve funds, and today staff were asking that Council approve a Temporary Borrowing Resolution for the remaining \$500,000.

The CAO also advised that Council was being asked to approve a Temporary Borrowing Resolution for \$4 million for Council's share of the improvements undertaken at the wastewater treatment plant.

On motion of Councillors R. Tynes and G. MacArthur, the Temporary Borrowing Resolutions for \$500,000 for the ladder truck and for \$4 million for improvements to the wastewater treatment plant were approved as presented. Motion carried.

#### **h) Letter from Terrance Sack**

The CAO reviewed letter received from Mr. Terrance Sack, a business owner on Inglis Place. Mr. Sack was expressing concern over the smoking that was occurring in alleys and parking lots behind the stores and next to the buildings on Inglis Place, indicating that it is a fire waiting to happen.

It was agreed that the Town Solicitor would determine the exact definition of Inglis Place in the Town's No Smoking Bylaw and whether that included the alleys and parking lots, or just the main street. The Town Solicitor will have a report for the May Council meeting.

#### **MUNICIPAL GRANT REQUESTS**

##### **a) Cobequid Christmas Tree Producers Association**

The CAO reviewed a request from the Cobequid Christmas Tree Producers Association, asking Council to support the real fresh local promotion campaign in the amount of \$1,000.

Council agreed to table this request and discuss it at an incamera meeting.

**ACCOUNTS**

It was moved by Deputy Mayor D. Joseph and Councillor T. Chisholm, that Council approve for payment the accounts as presented be approved for the month of March, 2014. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of Councillors R. Tynes and G. MacArthur, it was moved that the meeting be adjourned at approximately 3:20 p.m. Motion carried.

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W.R. (Bill) Mills  
Mayor

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J.K. Langille  
CAO