



Truro Town Council Meeting
Monday, December 1st, 2014
Council Chambers – Civic Building

44

A regular public meeting of Truro Town Council was held on Monday, December 1st, 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 B. Kinsman, R. Tynes, C. Fritz, G. MacArthur and T. Chisholm

Regrets: Director of Planning J. Fox

In Attendance: Director of Finance A. Currie, Building Inspector K. MacLeod, 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 M. Dolter

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The CAO requested that under New Business “Election of Deputy Mayor” be added and under Old Business that “Presentation of Flood Mitigation Work Progress” be added.

On motion of Councillors B. Kinsman and C. Fritz, the agenda was approved as amended. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Councillors T. Chisholm and G. MacArthur, the minutes of the Public Hearing and Public Council Meeting held November 3rd, 2014 were approved as circulated. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

a) Amendments to Taxi Bylaw – 2nd Reading

The CAO advised that Council had previously 1st reading of amendments to the Taxi Bylaw, and after a review of the proposed amendments by the Taxi Committee, 1st reading of another amendment was approved at a previous meeting. At today’s meeting, 2nd reading of all of the amendments would take place.

The Town Solicitor advised that the changes to the Bylaw arose from an attempt to coordinate the Town’s Taxi Bylaw with a Taxi Bylaw being considered by the County of Colchester. He noted that when the first set of amendments came before Council, a representative from the taxi industry appeared before Council and requested that the Taxi Committee review the proposed amendments before they were approved by Council. The Committee met and was satisfied with the proposed changes, and was also recommending an increase to the maximum allowable fare, which Council gave 1st reading to at their last meeting.

The Town Solicitor stated that the first set of amendments would allow for smaller, more fuel efficient vehicles to be used as taxis and setting a maximum rate on fares instead of setting the rate.

On motion of Councillors G. MacArthur and T. Chisholm, 2nd reading and approval was given to amendments to the Taxi Bylaw to allow smaller, more fuel efficient vehicles and set a maximum rate for fares. Motion carried.

The Town Solicitor advised that the second set of proposed amendments deals with the schedule of fares: the maximum rates for a drop would increase by 10 cents to \$3.10, the mileage rate would increase to \$2.50 a mile, the waiting time would increase to 10 cents for each 16.4 seconds, which changes the hourly rate from \$20 an hour to \$22 an hour, and the addition of a new charge of \$50 for soiling the interior of the taxi by vomit or bodily fluid.

On motion of Councillors R. Tynes and G. MacArthur, 2nd reading and approval was given to amendments to the fare schedule of the Taxi Bylaw. Motion carried.

The Town Solicitor advised that the amendments do not come into effect until they are published in the newspaper.

b) Presentation of Flood Mitigation Work Progress

The CAO advised that the Director of Public Works had prepared a presentation for Council regarding all the work undertaken for flood mitigation.

The Director of Public Works made his presentation to Council. He noted that the Joint Flood Advisory Committee has been meeting and identified a number of projects that were then submitted to the Province for approval for funding; all projects that were maintenance were approved. He stated that a Flood Risk Study was also undertaken and the final report should be ready by the end of the month. The Director of Public Works advised that projects completed included raising the Lorne Street dyke, riverbed restoration projects on the North and Salmon River, and improvements to the Park Street area. He stated that all of these projects added capacity to the river channels and mitigated the flood intervals and intensities. He advised that work remaining for next year includes the lowering of the water main and riverbed restoration from the Walker Street bridge to the CNR bridge.

Councillor B. Kinsman noted that public flood meetings were held previously and some of the concerns were in the Harris Drive area and asked for an update on those projects.

The Director of Public Works advised that there were four or five different neighbourhoods that had concerns and Harris Drive, Young Street and Upham Drive projects have been completed. He noted there were still issues on Coburg and a few homes on Harris that would be dealt with.

Councillor B. Kinsman requested that a more formal update be provided to Council.

Councillor R. Tynes wanted to advise residents that flooding would never be completely eliminated.

Councillor R. Tynes asked if anything had been done regarding the brook that goes towards Millbrook.

The Director of Public Works advised that plans have been completed and submitted to the Environment Department and Fisheries Department and the Committee was waiting for approval.

The Mayor requested that updates be provided on a quarterly basis.

IN-CAMERA SUMMARY REPORT

The CAO advised Council that there were four legal issues discussed by Council at the last In-Camera meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CAO Report

The CAO report for the month of November was presented to Council.

Councillor G. MacArthur noted that even though November 30th is the deadline for grant applications, he suggested that for this year the deadline be extended. He also wanted groups and organizations to be aware that there are provincial grants available as well.

The CAO advised that the grant application also applies to groups who receive an annual grant.

On motion of Deputy Mayor D. Joseph and Councillor G. MacArthur, it was agreed that the deadline for grant applications would be extended until December 31st and an advertisement would be placed in the local paper. Motion carried.

Councillor B. Kinsman suggested that along with the implementation of a phone system, a tracking system be developed to ensure calls are followed up on in a timely fashion.

The CAO advised that he would look into a tracking system.

On motion of Councillors G. MacArthur and B. Kinsman, it was moved that the CAO Report for the month of November, 2014 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Finance Report

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

Councillor R. Tynes asked for an update on the African Heritage Month discussion that was scheduled for the next Equity and Diversity Committee meeting.

The Director of Finance advised that she could not comment on that section of the report as it came from the Human Resources Officer.

Councillor C. Fritz, as the Chair of the Equity and Diversity Committee, noted that the discussion that is going to take place is in regards to the report mentioned by Councillor R. Tynes at a previous Council meeting. She advised that she and the Human Resources Officer had reviewed old files and found the agreement which will be distributed to the committee members. Councillor C. Fritz stated that as for an event for African Heritage Month, she did not believe that it is the Committee's responsibility to organize an event, that groups can plan their own events. The Town will proclaim February as African Heritage Month in Truro and have a brief reception prior to that announcement at the February Council meeting.

On motion of Deputy Mayor D. Joseph and Councillor B. Kinsman, it was moved that the Finance report for the month of November, 2014 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Fire Report

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

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

Planning and Development Report

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

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

Police Report

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

Councillor R. Tynes advised that he was receiving a lot of complaints from citizens about drivers not respecting crosswalks, especially at right hand turns. And he asked the Traffic Authority to investigate the possibility of adding a few more seconds to the crosswalk sign lights.

Councillor G. MacArthur stated that he attended the recent police long service awards and wanted to congratulate Cst. Shari Pictou on receiving her award.

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

Public Works Report

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

On motion of Councillor T. Chisholm and Deputy Mayor D. Joseph, it was moved that the Public Works Report for the month of November, 2014 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Parks, Recreation and Culture Report

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

Councillor G. MacArthur noted that a park or playground was originally planned for the Alice Street development and asked that a public consultation be organized to plan for the area.

On motion of Councillor G. MacArthur and Deputy Mayor D. Joseph, it was moved that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Report for the month of November, 2014 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Safety Coordinators Report

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

On motion of Councillors R. Tynes and T. Chisholm, it was moved that the Safety Coordinators Report for the month of November, 2014 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Councillor T. Chisholm asked for an update on the solar panel installation on the roof of the old fire hall.

The CAO advised that he was not sure of the current status, but would get an update and email Council.

Councillor C. Fritz noted that a few months ago there was a public meeting regarding the odours from Rothsay and that there was to be an update from them and she had not received one yet.

The Mayor stated that he did not believe an update has been provided and he would contact the manager tomorrow and advise Council.

Councillor C. Fritz advised that there were a few major pothole concerns; one on Abenacki Road by the bridge and another one on the corner of Coach and Fern, if the Public Works Department could have a look at those.

Councillor R. Tynes noted that the Public Works supervisor travel over all streets in Town and asked if there was a system that could be put in place that would allow them to log these issues.

Councillor R. Tynes stated that perhaps it would be a good idea to have Property Valuation Services make a presentation at a Council meeting on exactly what they do, how they go about assessing and how it helps the Town arrive at a decision regarding tax rates.

It was agreed that Property Valuation Services would be invited to make a presentation at the February Council meeting.

Councillor G. MacArthur advised he had spoken to the CAO about preparing a new garbage bylaw as there are issues with some landlords moving garbage from one of their properties to another and that garbage sitting out for days before the scheduled pick up.

Councillor G. MacArthur suggested that when developers are issued a development permit for construction on a piece of land purchased from the Town, that they should be required to put money down. If the construction proceeds, those funds will be used towards the project. If the project does not proceed, the Town would keep sign.

Councillor B. Kinsman noted that at last month's Council meeting, there was a discussion about the concern for safety at the corner of Pleasant and Charles streets. He asked if consideration was being given to a 4 way stop for that intersection.

The Director of Public Works stated that he and the Police Chief had discussed that area and looked at it, and decided the first course of action was going to be approaching the owner of the property about the line of vision.

Councillor B. Kinsman asked for a report for the January Council meeting.

Councillor B. Kinsman advised that he had received a letter from a resident of Glenwood Drive who was concerned about the amount of truck traffic on Glenwood Drive and asked if that is a truck route.

The Director of Public Works advised that it is a truck route, either during the day or at night.

Councillor B. Kinsman noted that on Glenwood at Mt Pleasant Boulevard, there is a "no left turn" sign and there is a concern that it is not being enforced.

Councillor B. Kinsman also noted that there is a "no exit" sign at the same intersection and a resident believes that may be left over from when the Town was completing construction on the street, because there is clearly an exit from that street.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Appeal – Side Yard Variance, 35 Laurie Street

The CAO advised that this appeal was originally scheduled for last month, but was rescheduled for this month as the appellant could not attend the previous meeting. He stated that the appellant had called this morning and advised that he again would be unable to attend. The CAO advised that the appellant was notified that this appeal would be on the agenda in January and if he was unable to attend, the Town would not support the appeal.

Councillor G. MacArthur expressed his concern over this appeal being delayed again. He recommended that the variance go forward and not be postponed and he did not support waiting another month to hear the appeal.

The CAO stated that the appellant was already advised that the appeal would not go forward today, but that Council could advise him that if he did not attend in January, that that would be the last opportunity.

The Town Solicitor stated that since the appellant was advised that the appeal would be heard in January, it would not be wise to go ahead with a decision at today's meeting.

Deputy Mayor D. Joseph stated that he agreed with the variance.

Councillor R. Tynes stated that it could wait until January but that he supported the variance as well.

The Mayor noted that the fact that two Councillors have supported the variance before the appeal has been heard could pose a problem.

The CAO advised that a follow up letter stating that January would be the final opportunity to appear would be sent.

b) Amendments to Purchasing Policy

The CAO advised that amendments to the Purchasing Policy were being proposed. The proposed amendments include: to increase the limit for purchasing by way of an informal quotation from \$500 to \$2000, to change the minimum amount of purchases by way of formal written quotes from \$500 to \$2000, to allow for purchases by way of standing offer for goods and services for more than \$10,000 in addition to purchases for less than \$10,000 which is already permitted under other sections, to delete Section 14 d so that in an emergency, an employee may make a purchase in any amount of money without prior approval.

On motion of Councillors B. Kinsman and C. Fritz, the proposed amendments to the Purchasing Policy were approved as presented. Motion carried.

c) Letter from Truro Music Festival

The CAO reviewed a letter received from the Truro Music Festival, thanking the Town for the \$3500 grant they recently received.

d) Building Canada Fund Resolution

The CAO advised that the Town has been asked to participate in the Building Canada Fund Small Communities funding application for the coming year. He noted that Nova Scotia and Canada are currently negotiating the Small Communities fund agreement which is part of the New Building Canada Fund. Through the Small Community Fund, Nova Scotia and Canada will provide one third of the \$42.6 million to the province. The CAO advised that to facilitate the project for 2015/16, Nova Scotia has initiated a call for applications, with only one application to be accepted for each eligible application. An application by the Town requires a resolution.

On motion of Councillors R. Tynes and B. Kinsman, the following resolution was passed by Council:

Be it resolved that the Town of Truro will be submitting the Willow Street McClures Mills intersection improvement project for consideration under the Small Communities Fund agreement which is part of the New Building Canada Fund.

Motion carried.

e) Request for Tax Exemption – Colchester Community Workshop

The CAO advised that request for a tax exemption has been received from the Colchester Community Workshop, a renewal of the 3 year tax exemption that currently exists for the group, for the properties located at 96, 98 and 100 Young Street and 63 Charles Street. He stated that staff has determined that the workshop fits within the policy and therefore the extension for 3 more years is recommended.

On motion of Councillors R. Tynes and T. Chisholm, Colchester Community Workshop was granted a 3 year tax exemption for their properties at 96, 98 and 100 Young Street and 63 Charles Street. Motion carried.

f) Letter from NS Mi'kmaw Summer Games 2015

The CAO reviewed a letter from the organizers of the NS Mi'kmaw Summer Games 2015, requesting sponsorship from the Town. He advised that the Town had a preliminary discussion with one of the organizers as to what the Town could assist with, mainly the use of recreational facilities. He noted that perhaps the Town should respond with a letter advising them that the Summer Games will be part of budget deliberations next year.

On motion of Councillors R. Tynes and C. Fritz, it was agreed that the Town would support the NS Mi'kmaw Summer Games in principle, send the request for budget deliberations and advise the organizers. Motion carried.

g) Polling Boundary Review

The CAO advised that it had come to his attention a few weeks ago of the requirement of the Town to complete a polling boundary review. He noted that at some point this was missed and would not be completed in time for the deadline. A letter has been sent to the Utility and Review Board requesting an extension until mid-2015, and a verbal approval has been received.

The Town Solicitor noted that this review involved the internal polling boundaries in Town and any shifts because of population changes; the issue of expanding the Town's boundaries into Millbrook was a separate process.

h) New Police Vehicle

The CAO advised that the Police Chief was requesting permission to transfer money from the Police Service reserve to purchase a new vehicle. The Police Chief had originally budgeted \$54,000 for a new vehicle, plus the expense of installing the appropriate equipment for a police vehicle. The CAO stated that a demonstration vehicle already equipped was available for purchase at \$32,330.

On motion of Councillors T. Chisholm and G. MacArthur, approval was granted for the transfer of \$32,330 from the Police reserve account to purchase the demonstration vehicle. Motion carried.

i) Surplus Fire Truck

The CAO advised that the Fire Chief has identified the pumper stored at the Public Works building as surplus and was requesting Council's permission to sell the pumper.

On motion of Councillors R. Tynes and G. MacArthur, it was agreed that the pumper belonging to the Fire Service and stored at the Public Works building would be declared surplus, and it would be advertised for sale. Motion carried.

j) Election of Deputy Mayor

The CAO advised that election of a new Deputy Mayor was required at today's meeting for the 2015 calendar year.

The Mayor called for nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor. Councillor G. MacArthur nominated Councillor R. Tynes for position of Deputy Mayor. Councillor R. Tynes accepted the nomination.

The Mayor called two more times for nominations.

There being no further nominations, Councillor R. Tynes was elected Deputy Mayor for the Town of Truro for the 2015 calendar year.

ACCOUNTS

It was moved by Councillors C. Fritz and R. Tynes, that Council approve for payment the accounts as presented be approved for the month of November, 2014. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councillors R. Tynes and G. MacArthur, it was moved that the meeting be adjourned at approximately 3:35 p.m. Motion carried.

W.R. (Bill) Mills
Mayor

M.W. Dolter
CAO