



A regular public meeting of Truro Town Council was held on Monday, December 7th, 2015 at 1:00 pm in the Council Chambers of the Truro Civic Building.

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

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Deputy Mayor R. Tynes and Councillor T. Chisholm, the agenda was approved as circulated. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Councillors C. Fritz and B. Kinsman, the Public Council minutes of November 2nd, 2015 were approved as circulated. Motion carried.

MOTION AND NOTICES OF MOTIONS

a) Public Hearing – 199 Willow Street, Development Agreement Amendment

The CAO reviewed a letter received from the Town Planning Advisory Committee, recommending that Council establish a public hearing date to consider an application by Meech Holdings Limited to amend a 2008 Development Agreement to permit two new 6 unit residential buildings at 199 Willow Street.

The Director of Planning reviewed his staff report with Council. Planning staff is recommending that Council accept the amendment to the development agreement.

On motion of Deputy Mayor R. Tynes and Councillor T. Chisholm, it was agreed that the application by Meech Holdings Limited for a development agreement amendment regarding 199 Willow Street be approved as presented. Motion carried.

b) Public Hearing – Amendments to Land Use Bylaw re: Commercial Vehicles

The CAO advised that first reading of amendments to the Land Use Bylaw regarding Commercial Vehicles would occur at today's meeting, with second reading to occur at the January Council meeting. He reviewed a letter received from the Town Planning Advisory Committee, recommending that Council establish a public hearing date to consider proposed amendments to the Land Use Bylaw to define a commercial motor vehicle based on the number of axels and length rather than tare weight.

On motion of Councillors T. Chisholm and B. Kinsman, 1st reading of amendments to the Land Use Bylaw regarding commercial vehicles was approved as presented. Motion carried.

On motion of Councillor G. MacArthur and Deputy Mayor R. Tynes, it was agreed that second reading of amendments to the Land Use Bylaw regarding commercial vehicles would occur at the January Council meeting. Motion carried.

PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

a) Presentation – Solar Power for Truro

Susan Corning of the Living Earth Council and Michael Barton gave a presentation to Council on how the Town might encourage increased use of solar power in Truro.

The Mayor thanked them for their presentation. He noted that the Town has had some experience with solar power, and there is a lot of interest in clean energy generation.

Councillor C. Fritz asked if there were any statistics available on the savings experienced by people.

Mr. Barton advised that conservation measures are difficult to capture, and that solar panels for instance are most cost effective over a long time.

Councillor T. Chisholm asked if the cost of panels has come down in the last few years.

Mr. Barton stated that costs of panels have come down. He purchased panels years ago for \$10 per watt of energy generated, but if someone was to buy panels in bulk, they are available for as little as \$1 per watt of energy generated.

Councillor B. Kinsman asked if, with the recent popularity of heat pumps, would an alternate energy source compliment the pumps.

Ms. Corning stated that solar panels would reduce the electricity used for a heat pump, so it would in fact compliment it.

Mr. Barton advised that with the current Nova Scotia Power net metering program, if you have a surplus of energy generated in the summer, you can feed that into the grid and that will reduce your electricity costs in the winter.

The CAO noted that the Town just completed a solar project on the roof of the canopy for the Farmers' Market and it has been connected to the Nova Scotia Power grid. The Town and the Market are hopeful that this will reduce the amount of the power bills.

On motion of Deputy Mayor R. Tynes and Councillor C. Fritz, it was agreed that this matter would be referred to staff for review and recommendation. Motion carried.

b) Presentation – All Weather Field

Iain Lapointe, Paul Millman and Craig Burgess made a presentation to Council on behalf of the Colchester Society for Sport Excellence regarding the possibility of an all weather field and synthetic track in Truro, which would include relocating the baseball field at the TAAC grounds to the Argus Drive area. They were requesting the Town's support and endorsement to move forward with fundraising campaign and begin applying for grants.

The Mayor thanked them for their presentation.

Councillor D. Joseph asked if the plans for the field included new grandstands.

Mr. Lapointe advised that yes, grandstands were in the plans.

Councillor T. Chisholm agreed that the Town could use new facilities, but that the Town was not in a position to provide anything financially towards the project.

The Mayor asked what the proposed cost of the project would be.

Mr. Lapointe advised that what they have priced so far, including relocating the baseball field, would cost approximately \$3.2-3.5 million.

IN-CAMERA SUMMARY REPORT

The CAO advised Council that there were eight issues discussed by Council at the last In-Camera meeting and there are three issues to be discussed by Council at the incamera meeting today.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CAO Report

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

Councillor G. MacArthur advised that he had read in a newspaper about the Province looking at the commercial tax rate and he would like to the Town to keep an eye on the progress.

On motion of Deputy Mayor R. Tynes and Councillor G. MacArthur, it was moved that the CAO Report for the month of November, 2015 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Corporate Services Report

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

Councillor T. Chisholm noted that the deadline for grant applications was December 31st and if organizations wanted their request to be considered, it must be submitted by that date.

The CAO advised that the Town policy currently lists the deadline as November 30th, but that staff would be recommending a change to the policy to make the date December 31st.

On motion of Councillors T. Chisholm and G. MacArthur, it was moved that the Corporate Services report for the month of November, 2015 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Fire Report

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

On motion of Councillors B. Kinsman and D. Joseph, it was moved that the Fire Report for the month of November, 2015 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Planning and Development Report

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

Councillor G. MacArthur noted that he noticed at recent Town Planning Advisory Committee meetings that residents who are attending may not completely understand how the Committee works, and the process for development agreements. He requested that the Town have a public session to educate residents.

Councillor T. Chisholm also wanted to point out that the residents on the Committee are volunteers and they have been having a rough time at the last few meetings in how they are being treated and he would like to see them be treated with a little more respect.

Councillor C. Fritz agreed with Councillor G. MacArthur in that perhaps residents should take the time to learn about how the municipal government works and how the committees work, so they can be a little more prepared for the meetings.

The CAO noted that staff have been working on preparing official mandates for all of the Town committees that will be posted on the Town website.

Councillor D. Joseph noted that residents have their passions, and Council should not start dictating to people about what they should learn. He agreed that residents attending meetings should endeavour to be as civil as possible to the committee members.

On motion of Councillors G. MacArthur and T. Chisholm, it was moved that the Planning and Development report for the month of November, 2015 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Police Report

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

On motion of Councillors B. Kinsman and T. Chisholm, it was moved that the Police Report for the month of November, 2015 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Public Works Report

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

Councillor C. Fritz asked if there was an update on road repairs to west Prince Street.

The Director of Public Works advised that there are asphalt and puddling issues in that area, as it is a very flat, long, street and it is hard to get a consistent grade. He stated that the department is looking at different solutions and that they were going to try coring holes in the asphalt so the water drains into the gravel bed.

Councillor C. Fritz stated there were a few areas that may need patching before winter comes.

The Director of Public Works advised that he would take a look.

Councillor G. MacArthur noted that Christmas was coming, and that residents whose regular day pickup would occur on Christmas Day would have to put their garbage out the Saturday before.

On motion of Councillor C. Fritz and Deputy Mayor R. Tynes, it was moved that the Public Works Report for the month of November, 2015 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.

On motion of Councillors G. MacArthur and C. Fritz, it was moved that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Report for the month of November, 2015 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Safety Coordinators Report

The CAO advised that from now on, the Safety Coordinators Report would only be presented if there was something that needs to be shared with the public, as most of the report is internal issues that can be shared with Council by email.

QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Councillor D. Joseph wished to pass along a thanks from the Town to Henry Hank Treadwell for saving a local resident from high waters last week during a heavy rain period.

Deputy Mayor R. Tynes suggested that a meeting with the Town, Bible Hill Commission and the County take place to discuss services and business in the area.

Deputy Mayor R. Tynes advised that he had heard from residents over the summer about the long grass on the site of the old hospital and directed those calls to staff.

Deputy Mayor R. Tynes noted that there were a lot of cigarette butts in from the CEC and that perhaps the Town should make contact with the school board to discuss.

Councillor C. Fritz asked if there was an update on the deer management, if staff had met with the Department of Natural Resources yet.

The CAO advised that the deer pamphlets were being sent out in water bills currently, and that the Director of Public Works is working on setting up a meeting with the Department of Natural Resources. Staff will report back to Council with an update at the January meeting.

Councillor G. MacArthur noted that some of the councillors who attended the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities Fall conference had some concern over how the meetings and conferences were being run, and those councillors were wondering if the Town was getting its money worth out of being a member of the UNSM.

Councillor C. Fritz noted that there were concerns regarding the lack of representation on various committee.

Deputy Mayor R. Tynes advised that his concern came out of the UNSM having a theme of diversity and a committee that discussed all of the different cultural groups in Nova Scotia, but that the First Nations people were left out.

The Mayor advised that the Town would write a letter to the UNSM outlining the concerns.

NEW BUSINESS

a) 1st Reading – Amendments to No Smoking Bylaw

The CAO noted that Council had a presentation at a previous meeting regarding having e-cigarettes added to the Town's No Smoking Bylaw. He stated that staff have reviewed the information provided by the presenter and consulted with legal, and were presenting Council with proposed amendments to the Bylaw for first reading at today's meeting.

On motion of Deputy Mayor R. Tynes and Councillor C. Fritz, it was agreed that first reading was approved for amendments to the No Smoking Bylaw regarding e-cigarettes, with second reading to occur at the January Council meeting. Motion carried.

b) RECC GM Emergency Spending Policy

The CAO advised that the RECC Operating Board is requesting the Town approve an Emergency Spending Policy that would allow the General Manager, in the event of an emergency and he is unable to contact the Town or County CAO, to spend up to \$50,000. The CAO noted that in the draft policy, there was a typo, and it should read "sufficient" and not "insufficient". He advised that the County approved the policy at their November meeting.

Councillor T. Chisholm noted that perhaps the policy should actually state that all efforts will be made to reach the CAOs.

The CAO advised that that was the intent of the policy but it could be clarified. He stated that it was understood at the Board level that the General Manager would make every effort to contact the CAOs.

On motion of Councillor G. MacArthur and Deputy Mayor R. Tynes, it was agreed that Town Council will be notified by email as soon as possible regarding issues from the RECC Board that require a joint decision by both councils. Motion carried.

On motion of Councillor G. MacArthur and Deputy Mayor R. Tynes, it was agreed that the RECC GM/designate Emergency Spending Policy was approved as presented. Motion carried.

c) Letter from Grand Slam Curling

The CAO reviewed a letter received from the Grant Slam of Curling 2015 Masters Host Committee, thanking the Town for its contribution to the event and helping make the 2015 Masters a success.

d) Appointments to Town Committees

The CAO advised that the following recommendations for appointments to Committees were being requested:

Parks Recreation & Culture Committee – Councillor C. Fritz to replace Deputy Mayor R. Tynes;
 Tourism Committee – reappoint Mayor Mills for one additional year, and advertise a vacant citizen position;
 Town Planning Advisory Committee – appoint Don Taylor;
 Truro Industrial Development Society – appoint Richard Elliott and Sherri Martell;
 Truro Police Board – Councillor T. Chisholm to replace Councillor B. Kinsman and Donald McMillan appointed.

On motion of Councillors T. Chisholm and C. Fritz, the recommended committee appointments were approved as presented. Motion carried.

e) Land Swap – Kaulback Street lands for lands south of William Barnhill Drive

The CAO advised that the Town was approached by a land owner who owns two large parcels of land in the Truro Business Park expansion area who was proposing a potential land exchange of those lands, for the Town owned lands on Kaulback Street. He noted that appraisals of both properties were completed, and they were determined to be of close/equal value.

On motion of Deputy Mayor R. Tynes and Councillor T. Chisholm, it was agreed that staff would be directed to begin negotiations on a potential land exchange between lands south of William Barnhill Drive and the lands on Kaulback Street, in accordance with the market value of the appraisal reports. Motion carried.

f) NS Exhibition Writeoff

Deputy Mayor R. Tynes noted that he was the acting General Manager of the Nova Scotia Exhibition during the time to be discussed and would excuse himself for the discussion.

The CAO advised that an agreement had been made with the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition to provide in kind services from the Town. The knowledge of the agreement had not been communicated through the proper channels and invoices were generated to the Exhibition for these services, in the amount of \$4,447.39. Staff was requesting that with the recent knowledge of the agreement of in kind services, that Council write off the existing invoices.

On motion of Councillors G. MacArthur and T. Chisholm, it was agreed that invoices #1455 and 31585, in the amount of \$4,447.38, for the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition would be written off. Motion carried.

g) Appointment of Assistant Returning Officer

The CAO advised that with the recent appointment of Ken Henderson as the Returning Officer for the Town for the 2016 municipal election, there was a vacancy for the Assistant Returning Officer. Staff was requesting that Patricia MacNaughton be appointed as the Assistant Returning Officer.

On motion of Councillors G. MacArthur and C. Fritz, it was agreed that Patricia MacNaughton would be appointed Assistant Returning Officer for the Town of Truro for the upcoming municipal election. Motion carried.

h) Nova Scotia Music Week

The CAO advised that in 2014, Truro and Colchester hosted Nova Scotia Music week from November 6th-9th. This was the 17th annual Nova Scotia Music Week and was the first time the event was held in Truro. The community's hosting committee, along with Music Nova Scotia, and 135 volunteers were successful in planning and executing the largest edition of the event to date. Overall the 2014 event generated \$1.2 million in spending in the Truro-Colchester region directly related to the event (as estimated by Nova Scotia Department of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism). Given the success of the 2014 event, Music Nova Scotia has approached Truro-Colchester with the opportunity to once again host the event for the 2016 year. The 2016 event will take place from November 3rd-6th. This gives the region the opportunity to build on the event from 2014 and make it bigger and better for 2016.

On motion of Deputy Mayor R. Tynes and Councillor D. Joseph, it was agreed that the Town will co-host Nova Scotia Music Week 2016 from November 3rd-6th, as outlined in the proposal presented, and that this agreement involves financially supporting the event in the amount of \$15,000 in cash and a \$10,000 financial guarantee, contingent on the County of Colchester agreeing to the same. Motion carried.

i) Naming of Alice Street Park

The CAO advised that Council recently discussed the naming of the Alice Street Park, and the name of Mr. Herb Peppard had been brought forward, as the park will be a prominent landmark in the east end of Town once completed Council felt it was important to name the park after a prominent citizen from that area. He noted that Mr. Peppard was a lifelong resident of Alice Street, and was a distinguished war veteran who has received many awards and recognitions from both the Canadian and American governments for his service.

The Mayor advised that he has spoken to Mr. Peppard who is very excited and passed his thanks along to Council for the honour.

On motion of Councillors G. MacArthur and T. Chisholm, it was agreed that the Alice Street Park would be named the "Herb Peppard Park" with the official naming ceremony to take place in the spring of 2016. Motion carried.

j) Election of Deputy Mayor

The CAO advised that appointment of a Deputy Mayor is done annually, and would be done at today's meeting to take effect on January 1st, 2016.

The Mayor called for nominations for Deputy Mayor. Deputy Mayor R. Tynes put forth Councillor C. Fritz; Councillor C. Fritz accepted the nomination. The Mayor called twice more for nominations and no further nominations were put forth.

On motion of Deputy Mayor R. Tynes and Councillor D. Joseph, Councillor C. Fritz was appointed Deputy Mayor for the 2016 year, to take effect on January 1st, 2016. Motion carried.

ACCOUNTS

It was moved by Councillor T. Chisholm and Deputy Mayor R. Tynes that Council approve for payment the accounts as presented be approved for the month of November, 2015. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Deputy Mayor R. Tynes and Councillor T. Chisholm, it was moved that the meeting be adjourned at approximately 4:00 p.m. Motion carried.

W.R. (Bill) Mills
Mayor

M.W. Dolter
CAO