



A regular public meeting of Truro Town Council was held on Monday, October 5th, 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, and T. Chisholm

Regrets: Councillor G. MacArthur

In Attendance: Director of Finance A. Currie, Fire Chief B. Currie, Director of Planning J. Fox, Director of Public Works A. MacKinnon, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture D. MacKenzie, Inspector R. Hearn, Town Solicitor J. Rafferty and CAO M. Dolter

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The CAO requested that "Appointment of Returning Officer" be added under New Business.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Councillors B. Kinsman and T. Chisholm, the minutes of the Public Council Meeting held September 14th, 2015 were approved as circulated. Motion carried.

PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

a) Presentation – Krista McMullin, E-Cigarettes: Minimizing the Risk

Krista McMullin, the Tobacco Reduction Strategy Coordinator for the Colchester East Hants Health Authority, made a presentation to Council on e-cigarettes.

The Mayor thanked her for her presentation.

On motion of Deputy Mayor R. Tynes and Councillor B. Kinsman, it was agreed that staff would review the information and provide a proposed motion to amend the Town Bylaws/Policies at the November Council meeting for Council consideration. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

2nd Reading – Repeal of Polling Divisions Bylaw

The CAO advised that at the September Council meeting, Council reviewed and approved the 1st reading of the repeal of the Polling Divisions Bylaw. He noted that the Bylaw is no longer required as the Utility and Review Board and the Town's Returning Officer will set the polling districts/boundaries.

On motion of Councillors T. Chisholm and C. Fritz, the Polling Divisions Bylaw was repealed. Motion carried.

IN-CAMERA SUMMARY REPORT

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CAO Report

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

On motion of Councillors T. Chisholm and D. Joseph, it was moved that the CAO Report for the month of September, 2015 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Finance Report

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

On motion of Councillors T. Chisholm and C. Fritz, it was moved that the Finance report for the month of September, 2015 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Fire Report

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

On motion of Councillors T. Chisholm and C. Fritz, it was moved that the Fire Report for the month of September, 2015 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Planning and Development Report

The Planning and Development report for the month of September 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 September, 2015 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Police Report

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

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

Public Works Report

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

Councillor D. Joseph asked if the recent rainy weather would delay completion of Hampstead Court.

The Director of Public Works that it has not, the curb contractor was able to lay gravel to prepare for concrete pouring before the rain started. The work should be completed by the end of the month.

Councillor T. Chisholm asked if Nova Scotia Power has installed the power meter for the solar panels at the Farmers' Market yet.

The Director of Public Works advised that Nova Scotia Power has contacted the contractor to say the project is approved and now the contractor is waiting for an actual meter install date.

On motion of Councillors T. Chisholm and C. Fritz, it was moved that the Public Works Report for the month of September, 2015 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Parks, Recreation and Culture Report

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

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

Safety Coordinators Report

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

On motion of Councillors T. Chisholm and C. Fritz, it was moved that the Safety Coordinators Report for the month of September 2015 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Councillor T. Chisholm stated that the federal election was coming up this month and he wanted to encourage everyone to get out and vote.

Councillor D. Joseph asked the Business Development Officer for an update on her recent teleconference on immigration that she attended on the Town's behalf.

The Business Development Officer advised that she participated in a teleconference entitled "Support for Refugees" that was hosted by the Nova Scotia Department of Immigration. Discussions involved increasing programs and supports for refugees and making Nova Scotia a more accessible province for immigration type programs. The organizers of the teleconference were encouraging Nova Scotia municipalities to assist the province in lobbying the federal government to be more open and accepting to refugees. There was also discussions on sponsorship programs and how either Nova Scotia municipalities can sponsor refugees or if there's community groups in the area that want to sponsor a refugee, the contacts that they would need to make and the process surrounding that.

Councillor B. Kinsman stated that he had a number of calls from residents on South Young Street, who were concerned about speeders. He requested that the police services' traffic trailer be set up in that area. He also asked for clarification on school zone speed signs, and when the reduced speed could and would be enforced.

Inspector Hearn advised that Young Street is one of the areas regularly patrolled for speeders. He stated that the traffic trailer was booked elsewhere for the next few days, but after that, he would ensure that it was put up on Young Street. As for school zone speed signs, he stated that it applies to anytime children are present, even if there is a school event on Sunday; as long as children are present, you must reduce your speed.

Councillor B. Kinsman wished to express condolences on behalf of Council to the family of the late Councillor Reid McVicker, who passed away recently. He asked that the Town send a card if it had not been done already.

The Mayor agreed with sending condolences.

Deputy Mayor R. Tynes stated that he had received a few calls with regards to smell/odour and dust, and asked if there were means by which the Town could monitor these concerns and determine if there is a health issue involved. He also asked if there was an update on the industrial waste issues.

The CAO advised that with regards to the industrial waste issues, it is something the Town has been aware of and the Town has been working with Scotsburn and they are addressing the issues. He noted that other industrial residents who may be creating similar situations with their waste have been contacted as well. The CAO stated that with regards to smell/odour, it is not necessarily something that can be regulated but that the Town does have a bylaw with respect to quiet enjoyment of property. He noted that with regards to dust, that would be an air quality issue and the Town has been in contact with the province and federal government in an attempt to have air quality tests conducted.

Deputy Mayor R. Tynes asked if there was any update to a complaint system or process that was discussed a few months ago, that would ensure calls or reports are followed through on.

The CAO advised that technological solutions are being considered, as well as the possibility of having designated staff members who are responsible for taking reports and ensuring they follow appropriate avenues for follow through.

Deputy Mayor R. Tynes asked the Director of Recreation to provide an update at a future meeting about the progress being made on the issue of golf balls from the driving range interfering with the Chuck Maxwell Park.

Councillor D. Joseph stated that he had a few calls from residents requesting that the shoulder area on the east side of south Young Street be widened for more of a sidewalk like area for students to walk on. He also noted that there seems to be an issue with interference with traffic flow due to vehicles parking on the street on Queen Street, just after turning right from Walker Street. He asked if anything could be done.

The Director of Public Works stated that Young Street has been noted as an area of concern and he would look into it further. He also stated that an order has been put out to have some "No Parking" signs installed on the south side of Queen Street.

Councillor C. Fritz advised Council that she had forwarded information to them on the upcoming "Take Back the Night" march on October 14th and she would like for Council to attend. Violence against women is an important issue that does not seem to be going away and this march is to bring awareness to the issue.

The Mayor advised that he recently attended the Treaty Day celebrations in Halifax, as well as the celebration in Windsor for the receiving of the hockey trophy, the Star Shield.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Kindness Meter

The CAO advised that the Town has been approached by the Downtown Truro Partnership and the Bible Hill Kinsmen about installing "Kindness Meters" in the downtown area. The plan is for three meters, placed away from the street in well-lit areas, to be coordinated by the Downtown Truro Partnership and the Kinsmen. Money deposited in the meters would be distributed to appropriate charities. He noted that the meters will be supplied by the Town from old surplus parking meters.

On motion of Deputy Mayor R. Tynes and Councillor D. Joseph, the Town of Truro gives permission to the Downtown Truro Partnership and the Bible Hills Kinsmen to install three kindness meters on sidewalks in the downtown area, at no direct cost to the Town, with monies collected to be distributed to appropriate charities. Motion carried.

b) Recommendation from Branding Task Force

The CAO advised that the Town had a Branding Task Force that was established in November 2014 to help develop a new brand for Truro.

Keltie Jones, Chair of the Branding Task Force and Alison Grant, the Town's Business Development Officer gave a presentation to Council on the recommendation from the Task Force for a new brand message, logo and tagline, as well as the process for implementation.

The CAO advised that the Mayor will appoint a Brand Leadership Committee and that the implementation would be a multi-year process.

On motion of Deputy Mayor R. Tynes and Councillor T. Chisholm, the Town's new brand message, logo and tagline were approved as presented and the Mayor will appoint a Brand Leadership Committee to oversee the implementation of the new brand. Motion carried.

c) Colchester Economic Development Advisory Committee

The CAO advised that in order to coordinate and foster business and economic development in the region as a whole, the three municipal units and Millbrook First Nation have agreed to set up a Joint Economic Development Advisory Committee to steer an all-inclusive development agenda, to ensure that interests of all the partnering municipalities are adequately addressed, and, to project a joint forum to the province and potential businesses with an objective of attracting provincial resources and business interests. The CAO reviewed the proposed Terms of Reference that would outline the structure and the preliminary mandate for the Committee. He stated that Council was being asked to approve the Terms of Reference and formally appoint a Town representative.

The Mayor advised that a discussion on Council's representative on the Committee would be held at an incamera meeting.

On motion of Councillors D. Joseph and C. Fritz, the Terms of Reference for the Colchester Regional Economic Development Advisory Committee were accepted as presented and a Town representative will be appointed to the Committee. Motion carried.

d) Recommendation from Equity & Diversity Committee

The CAO advised that the Equity & Diversity Committee has undertaken a review of the mission, mandate, terms of reference and membership of the Committee. The Committee is recommending updates, provided to Council, of the mission, mandate, terms of reference and membership, as well as a name change to "Diversity Advisory Committee".

On motion of Councillors T. Chisholm and C. Fritz, the Equity and Diversity Committee's name will be changed to Diversity Advisory Committee, and the updated mission, mandate, terms of reference and membership requirements were approved as presented. Motion carried.

e) Request for Policy re: Sidewalk Construction Management

The CAO advised that with the Town's capital assets becoming more difficult to replace or newly construct in a financially sustainable manner, staff are recommending that Council adopt a policy that ensures sustainability of the sidewalk system. He noted that other municipalities have adopted such policies based on street classification hierarchy's and pedestrian safety, while also addressing issues of homeowner contributions to original sidewalks as well as inspection and maintenance standards of existing sidewalks. The CAO stated that staff are prepared to investigate other municipal sidewalk policies and draft a complete policy for Council's consideration.

On motion of Deputy Mayor R. Tynes and Councillor T. Chisholm, it was agreed that Town staff will draft a Sidewalk Construction Management Policy for Council to consider adopting prior to the 2016/17 budget deliberations. Motion carried.

f) Pre-Approval of Debenture re: Library

The CAO advised that the Pre-Approval Resolution for the capital library project before Council today is a requirement of the Municipal Finance Corporation for municipal borrowing approval. He noted that the pre-approval establishes the parameters that Council is willing to participate in during the debenture process.

Councillor T. Chisholm asked if the library project was still on time and on budget.

The Director of Planning advised that the Library is not ready to complete a move at this point, and they do not anticipate being ready on the original delivery date and have therefore pushed the move in date until early next year. He stated that the contractor has therefore extended their timelines and the project is about one month behind the original schedule.

The CAO advised that project items are currently being waited on to continue, but other projects within the building are still moving forward. He stated that as far as budget goes, there is a well-recognized process of change orders when and if additional money is required and those changes will come before Council for approval.

On motion of Councillors T. Chisholm and B. Kinsman, the Resolution for the Pre-Approval Debenture Issuance for the capital library project was approved as presented. Motion carried.

g) Letter from Buckingham Palace

The Mayor reviewed a letter received from the Queen, thanking the Town for the gathering that occurred on September 9th to celebrate Her Majesty becoming the longest-reigning Monarch of Canada.

h) Letter from Minister of Agriculture

The CAO advised that a letter was received from the Minister of Agriculture asking for support of the Department's application for federal funding for a joint comprehensive flood risk assessment by the Bay of Fundy Agriculture Dikes. He noted that funding is currently available from Public Safety Canada under their National Disaster Mitigation Program. He stated that staff is recommending that the Town send a letter of support to enhance the application.

On motion of Deputy Mayor R. Tynes and Councillor D. Joseph, it was agreed that a letter of support would be sent in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture's application for federal funding to Public Safety Canada as per the Department's request. Motion carried.

i) Appointment of Returning Officer

The CAO advised that the Returning Officer for the past two municipal elections, Jud Pearson, has resigned. It was being recommended by the former Returning Officer and by Town staff that the assistant to the Returning Officer during the last two elections, Ken Henderson, be appointed the new Returning Officer. The CAO noted that Mr. Henderson has agreed to accept the position if Council was interested.

On motion of Deputy Mayor R. Tynes and Councillor T. Chisholm, it was agreed that Ken Henderson be appointed Returning Officer for the Town of Truro for the upcoming municipal election. Motion carried.

ACCOUNTS

It was moved by Councillors T. Chisholm and C. Fritz that Council approve for payment the accounts as presented be approved for the month of September, 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 3:00 p.m. Motion carried.

W.R. (Bill) Mills
Mayor

M.W. Dolter
CAO