



**Truro Town Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 4:00 pm**  
**Council Chambers – Town Hall**

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A special public meeting of Truro Town Council was held on Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 4:00 pm in the Council Chambers of the Truro Town Hall.

Present: Mayor W.R. (Bill) Mills, Deputy Mayor C. Fritz, Councillors B. Kinsman and R. Tynes

Regrets: Councillors D. Joseph, G. MacArthur and T. Chisholm

In Attendance: Director of Corporate Services A. Currie, Deputy Town Solicitor C. Thompson and CAO M. Dolter

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

**a) Assistance for Fort McMurray**

The CAO advised that across Canada, municipalities were joining together to support the residents of Fort McMurray, to assist with the major issues caused by the forest fire. He stated that a lot of Nova Scotia municipalities have already contributed, including the County of Colchester who just approved a \$5,000 contribution. He was asking that Council consider providing financial assistance as well.

Councillor R. Tynes asked if there was money remaining in the grants budget.

The CAO advised that there is \$3,500 in the grant account that has not been already allocated.

Deputy Mayor C. Fritz asked for the CAO's thoughts on what amount may be appropriate.

The CAO stated that the amount is Council's decision, but he believes the Town should send something. He recommended that it not exceed the amount provided by the County of Colchester; perhaps Council would use the usual scale for joint County and Town ventures of 60/40.

The Mayor stated that if the amount agreed upon was above the \$3,500 remaining in the grants budget, the additional funds could come out of his travel budget.

The CAO noted that in previous years, if Council went over the grants budget amount, staff has found ways to balance it off and would do so in this instance if required.

On motion of Councillor B. Kinsman and Deputy Mayor C. Fritz, it was agreed that the Town would provide \$5,000 in financial assistance to the city of Fort McMurray as they recover from fire. Motion carried.

**b) Request for Presentation**

The CAO stated that he had received a request from Terri Bowie to be added to the public Council agenda for June 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss the deer that are destroying her yard. He noted that the Council Meetings Bylaw states that Council may, by resolution, grant permission to a person to address Council on any of the named subjects, provided the person agrees to 1) restrict the address to the subject matter upon which Council granted permission and 2) to limit such address to no longer than 10 minutes in total, unless Council otherwise agrees to waive such requirement. Such permission by council shall not be unreasonably withheld. The CAO advised that the deer issue is a matter that is under consideration by the Town, but no decision has been reached.

Councillor B. Kinsman stated that he did not have a problem with the presentation, but suggested perhaps a community meeting at some point to address the concerns of many would be a good idea.

On motion of Councillors R. Tynes and B. Kinsman, it was agreed that Terri Bowie would make a presentation to Council at the June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016 public Council meeting regarding the deer that are destroying her yard. Motion carried.

**c) Letter from East Hants re: Bill 177**

The CAO reviewed a letter received from the Municipality of East Hants, sent to all Nova Scotia municipalities, expressing their concerns over a proposed Bill 177, which would make amendments to the Municipal Government Act. The CAO advised that he is on the review committee for amendments to the MGA, and the route for changes was supposed to be working groups develop policy papers that go to the review committee, then through to the steering committee, and then on to Municipal Affairs to become legislation. He noted that the idea was to develop comprehensive tools, to consider all the different possibilities of the amendments to ensure that a change would not disadvantage one community and advantage another.

The Mayor voiced concern that Bill 177 was not subject to open, transparent, stakeholder review and input.

The CAO recommended that the Town send a letter to the Province, copied to the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities and the local MLA, and ask that Bill 177 be tabled until such time as there is proper consultation.

Councillor R. Tynes noted that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities Board was consulted on Bill 177, but the membership was not, and that was concerning to him.

Councillor B. Kinsman stated that should Bill 177 pass, it looks like it could give the Town additional tools to perhaps deal with commercial assessment, or the encouragement of business in the downtown core.

The CAO noted that Bill 177 would allow a municipality to set up a zone or area to adjust the actual assessment rate of a new business and then phase in increases until they reach the normal rate.

On motion of Councillors R. Tynes and B. Kinsman, it was agreed that the Town would send a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, copied to the local MLA and the UNSM, stating the Town’s concerns with the introduction of Bill 177. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting be adjourned at approximately 4:50 p.m. Motion carried.

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W.R. (Bill) Mills  
Mayor

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M.W. Dolter  
CAO