



Truro Town Council Meeting
Monday, March 6th, 2017 at 1:00 pm
Council Chambers – Town Hall

54

A regular public meeting of Truro Town Council was held on Monday, March 6th, 2017 at 1:00 pm in the Council Chambers of the Truro Town Hall.

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

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 Councillors B. Kinsman and W. Talbot, the agenda was approved as circulated. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Deputy Mayor C. Fritz and Councillor T. Chisholm, the Public Council minutes of February 6th, 2017 were approved as circulated. Motion carried.

MOTIONS AND NOTICES OF MOTIONS

a) Public Hearing Date – 63 Queen Street, Development Agreement Application

The CAO reviewed a letter received from the Town Planning Advisory Committee requesting that Council establish a public hearing date to consider a development agreement application for 63 Queen Street for the purpose of permitting the development of a health care/institutional use consisting of an aesthetic medicine practice and two ancillary dwelling units.

On motion of Councillors T. Chisholm and B. Kinsman, a public hearing date of April 3rd, 2017 at 1:00pm was established for Council to consider entering into a development agreement with Van Aardt Investments Limited to permit the development of a health care/institutional use consisting of an aesthetic medicine practice and two ancillary dwelling units. Motion carried.

PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

a) Presentation – Truro Model Railroaders Association

Terrance Jacques, Andrew Blackburn and Rod Norrie gave a presentation to Council on behalf of the Truro Model Railroaders Association regarding their plans to construct a Railroad Interpretive Centre, but they would need help from the Town.

The Mayor thanked them for their presentation. He stated he understood their frustration in not having a permanent space. He asked for Council agreement to direct staff to review this matter and see what the Town can do to help. Council agreed.

OLD BUSINESS

a) 11 Alice Street – Demolition Extension Request

The CAO advised that the December 2016 Council meeting, a motion was passed for an order that the house on the property at 11 Alice Street, Truro, be demolished by January 31, 2017, failing which the Town may demolish the building with the costs of the demolition to be a lien against the property. The solicitor for the deceased's estate has requested that the Town of Truro hold in abeyance any further action or orders relating to the property, including any demolition, until such time as she has had the opportunity to sell the property forming part of the deceased's estate.

On motion of Councillors C. Hinton and W. Talbot, it was agreed that the demolition order for 11 Alice Street would be extended for a four month period, to May 31st, 2017. If the building on the property is not demolished by that date, the Town will proceed with demolition. Motion carried.

IN-CAMERA SUMMARY REPORT

The CAO advised Council that there was one issue discussed by Council at the last In-Camera meeting and there are two issues to be discussed by Council at the incamera meeting today.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CAO Report

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

On motion of Councillors T. Chisholm and B. Kinsman, it was moved that the CAO Report for the month of February, 2017 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Corporate Services Report

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

On motion of Councillor T. Chisholm and Deputy Mayor C. Fritz, it was moved that the Corporate Services report for the month of February, 2017 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Fire Report

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

On motion of Councillors W. Talbot and C. Hinton, it was moved that the Fire Report for the month of February, 2017 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Planning and Development Report

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

The Mayor asked for an update on the construction of the apartment building on Victoria Street.

The Director of Planning advised that the developer had always intended to shut down construction during the winter months if the building was not closed in. The developer plans on recommencing construction later this month if the weather is good.

Councillor W. Talbot asked if there were any statistics available regarding the use of the Town's online bylaw complaint form.

The Director of Planning advised that he did not have the statistics currently, but could provide them to Council at next month's meeting.

Councillor T. Chisholm asked for an update on the development at the old jail site on Queen Street.

The Director of Planning stated that the agreement with the developer stipulates that site work was to commence in November 2016, which it did with some interior demolition work inside of the old jail building. It also stipulates that actual construction on the site itself must begin in May of this year. He noted that he has a request in to the developer to determine if that will happen or if they require an extension.

On motion of Deputy Mayor C. Fritz and Councillor W. Talbot, it was moved that the Planning and Development report for the month of February, 2017 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Police Report

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

Councillor C. Hinton noted that a resident had called her with concerns over motorists not stopping for the bus lights on Slack Street, which she passed along to the Chief, and she asked for an update. She also advised that she was still receiving calls from residents of Park Street who were complaining of speeding.

The Police Chief advised that Constable Quinn had been in contact with the concerned citizen regarding the failure to stop for the bus, and the situation appears to have been rectified. He stated that the department regularly patrols Park Street for speeders.

Councillor W. Talbot noted that charges were laid on the weekend in the highlands of Cape Breton for driving under the influence of drugs and asked about testing abilities of the Truro police service.

The Police Chief advised that six agencies across Canada are currently piloting different types of drug detection but that those tests are strictly voluntary right now. He stated that the federal government has to approve some sort of screening device for the Criminal Code, which has not happened yet, and would need to be done before any kind of drug laws are changed. The Chief noted that the department has the ability with our drug recognition expert program and our standard field sobriety testing to still lay a charge for impaired by drug driving.

Deputy Mayor C. Fritz noted that a few weeks ago there was an article in the paper with regards to sexual assault cases in Truro and cases being listed as "unfounded". She asked for clarification from the Chief on what that means exactly.

The Police Chief advised that since that article, the department has completed an internal audit and the results from that were exactly what he suspected. He stated that up until August 2016, with Statistics Canada, the only available options when categorizing occurrences of sexual assault were founded or unfounded, which has since been recognized as problematic and kind of skewing results. The Chief advised that every occurrence was investigated completely and thoroughly; when there was evidence to substantiate a charge, charges were laid. In other cases that were "unfounded, this could mean assistance to another agency was provided, or perhaps assistance with mental health, etc. He noted that himself, the Police Inspector and Councillor W. Talbot, Chair of the Truro Police board, met with the Colchester Sexual Assault Centre and the Central Nova Women's Resource Centre last week to review the internal audit with them and they were quite receptive to that.

On motion of Councillor B. Kinsman and Deputy Mayor C. Fritz, it was moved that the Police Report for the month of February, 2017 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Public Works Report

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

Councillor D. Joseph noted that the Town has a five year capital plan with respect to maintenance of named streets. He stated that the public should also be aware that if a street is in extremely bad condition, it will be fixed before it was noted in plan. He asked if streets get bumped from year to year and go beyond the five year plan.

The Director of Public Works advised that streets do get bumps during budget cuts. When the five year plan was created, it was based on a 20 to 30 year lifecycle of the streets, depending on how busy the street was, where it fit in the street hierarchy. He stated that with the way the capital budget has been reduced over the last five years, that 30 year plan has now turned into a 60 to 100 year plan and the department is not going to get to the streets before they fall apart.

The CAO noted that one of the problems that the public should appreciate is that the Town has a limited amount of money. He stated that engineering assessments are completed annually on the streets. Decisions are made on which streets to repair, and usually higher priority is given to the more heavily traveled roads.

The Director of Public Works noted that the department has done a great job over the last 10-15 years of completing a lot of the arterials and collector streets and the department is at the point where they can concentrate on more of the local and local collector streets.

Councillor C. Hinton asked for an update on the lighting situation on the end of North and Lorne streets.

The Director of Public Works advised that previously there had not been opportunity to put street lights in that area, but with power service now provided to the dog park, there are now a few poles in place that lights can be installed on. He stated that he had plans to order lights this week.

Councillor T. Chisholm stated that a few years ago, an agreement was signed with Nova Scotia Power in which they would replace all of the street lights in Town with LED lights. He noted that it did not seem like a lot of the work had been completed.

The Director of Public Works advised that quite a few lights had been upgraded to LED. He believed that the agreement stipulated that the lights must all be replaced by the end of this calendar year, and he surmised that a lot of work would be done this summer by Nova Scotia Power to meet that deadline.

On motion of Councillors D. Joseph and W. Talbot, it was moved that the Public Works Report for the month of February, 2017 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Parks, Recreation and Culture Report

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

On motion of Councillor C. Hinton and Deputy Mayor C. Fritz, it was moved that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Report for the month of February, 2017 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Councillor C. Hinton asked what the date was for Spring clean up.

The Director of Public Works advised that the Town Spring clean up would take place the week of April 24th to 28th.

Councillor B. Kinsman asked if the traffic lights at the intersection of Willow Street and McClures Mills were on a fixed timer or programmable.

The Director of Public Works advised that those lights are older and therefore are on a fixed time. He stated that his department would be looking at tweaking traffic management throughout Town and that would include trying to update some of the timings of some of the traffic lights.

Councillor B. Kinsman asked what was involved in changing the timers from fixed to programmable.

The Director of Public Works stated that if that a new component to add to the controller would need to be purchased, which could cost anywhere from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

The Mayor advised that himself, the CAO, the Director of Public Works and the Senior Engineer had a meeting last week with the Deputy Minister of Transportation to discuss the roundabout and funding issue, but nothing concrete came out of the meeting.

Councillor W. Talbot advised that himself, the CAO and Councillor T. Chisholm attended an accountability and transparency meeting recently, set up by the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities. He noted that discussions took place on meal allowances and that most municipalities are paying somewhere in between the Provincial and the Federal rates, but that a few municipal units were paying actual expenditures and that did not seem right to him. He asked if this was something that the committee the CAO was a part of would be addressing.

The CAO advised that the committee did have a discussion about that issue and that the general agreement was that a per diem would be way to go. He stated that as long as municipalities have processed in place and follow those and all of it is done in a public manner and within policy, then it is currently acceptable within the province. The CAO stated that individual councils would have to expect public scrutiny on whether or not that was acceptable.

Councillor T. Chisholm noted that a lot of people at the meeting were impressed with the Town of Truro's policy and how the Town reports on expenses.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Proclamations

The CAO advised that the Mayor signed three proclamations this week including one for Kidney Awareness Month, one for Public Rail Safety Week and another for the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Vim Ridge, which he read aloud.

On motion of Deputy Mayor C. Fritz and Councillor W. Talbot, the proclamations were approved as presented. Motion carried.

b) Appointment to Library Board

The CAO advised that Councillor Brian Kinsman has been a member of the Library Board for a number of years and his term is complete. It is necessary for Council to appoint a new Council representative to sit on the Library Board. Councillor B. Kinsman has indicated his interest in remaining on the Board.

On motion of Councillors T. Chisholm and W. Talbot, Councillor B. Kinsman was reappointed to the Library Board. Motion carried.

c) Request for Tax Exemption – Third Place Transition House

The CAO advised that as per the general criteria listed in the Town's Tax Exemption for Non-Profit and Charitable Organizations Bylaw, Third Place Transition House is applying for a tax exemption renewal for the property located at 444 Young Street. He noted that a renewal application is required every three years.

On motion of Councillors D. Joseph and T. Chisholm, it was agreed that the Town would renew the tax exemption for the Third Place Transition House for another three year period for their property at 444 Young Street. Motion carried.

d) Private Lanes Maintenance Policy Adoption

The CAO advised that a Private Lanes Policy was being introduced so that the Town has a policy in place to define the level of service to be undertaken by the Town of Truro for private lanes within the Town. Private lanes are lanes owned by individuals other than the Town and are those that receive maintenance activities by the Town to various degrees at the time of the drafting of this Policy. The purpose of this Policy is to ensure that private lanes occupied by multiple property owners receive the same public works levels of service as they currently receive.

On motion of Councillors B. Kinsman and T. Chisholm, the Private Lanes Maintenance Policy was approved as presented. Motion carried.

e) Truro Boys and Girls Club Music Project

The Mayor advised that he recently met with an organization that promotes a music project aimed at Boys and Girls clubs across Canada. The organization was not necessarily looking for a grant, but assistance with some kind of funding formula that will help them get the program into the hands of the Boys and Girls club here in Truro.

The CAO advised that the goal of the program is to find support for an innovative program to begin music IQ club training in classes for 50 students at the Boys and Girls Club in Truro starting in April. He noted that if Council is supportive, the Town can look at discussions with the Club to see affordability from their perspective and potential ways in which the Town may be able to assist in bringing to program in.

Council agreed they were supportive of the program and the CAO stated that he would meet with the Executive Director of Boys and Girls Club.

f) Bill C-323 Tax Credit for Restoration of Heritage Properties

The CAO advised that the Heritage Advisory Committee was requesting that Council forwarded letter in support of Private Member’s Bill C-323 to amend the Income Tax Act to permit a 20 percent tax credit for rehabilitation work done on designated heritage buildings.

On motion of Councillors B. Kinsman and C. Hinton, it was agreed that the Town will send a letter in support of Private Member’s Bill C-323 to amend the Income Tax Act to permit a 20 percent tax credit for rehabilitation work done on designated heritage buildings. Motion carried.

g) FCM International Program – Participation by the Town

The CAO advised that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities is seeking Canadian municipal partners for various local economic development projects as part of its Partnerships for Municipal Innovation: Local Economic Development (PMI-LED) program. The PMI-LED program is a three year project that will partner Canadian municipalities with communities in countries such as Bolivia or Nicaragua. Through these partnerships, Elected Officials, Town staff, and community volunteers will work with an overseas municipality to increase sustainable economic growth at the local level. This program is very similar to the FCM’s Municipal Partners for Economic Development Program (MPED) that the Town was involved in from 2005-2011 which partnered the Town with Cliza, Bolivia. All costs (including travel) are covered by the FCM with the support of Global Affairs Canada. The FCM requires an official resolution of Council in support of the Town’s participation in this three year project.

On motion of Councillors D. Joseph and W. Talbot, Council will support the Town’s participation in the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Partnerships for Municipal Innovation: Local Economic Development Project. Motion carried.

ACCOUNTS

It was moved by Councillor T. Chisholm and Deputy Mayor C. Fritz, that Council approve for payment the accounts as presented be approved for the month of February, 2017. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councillors B. Kinsman and D. Joseph, it was moved that the meeting be adjourned at approximately 2:40 p.m. Motion carried.

W.R. (Bill) Mills
Mayor

M.W. Dolter
CAO