



Truro Town Council Meeting
Monday, January 9th, 2017 at 1:00 pm
Council Chambers – Town Hall

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A regular public meeting of Truro Town Council was held on Monday, January 9th, 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, Police Chief D. MacNeil, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture D. MacKenzie, Town Solicitor J. Rafferty and CAO M. Dolter

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Councillors B. Kinsman and W. Talbot, the Public Council minutes of December 5th, 2016 were approved as circulated. Motion carried.

PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

a) Presentation – Marigold Cultural Centre

Farida Gabbani, Executive Director of the Marigold Cultural Centre, and Vern Hearn, Chair of the Board, gave a presentation to Council thanking the Town for its support and advising of how the funds provided were used. They also gave a preview on the plans for the 2017/18 year.

The Mayor thanked them for their presentation.

b) Presentation – Public Health

Dr. Ryan Sommers, Medical Officer of Healthy for the Northern Region, with Amy MacDonald, Manager of Healthy Communities in Public Health gave a presentation to Council on potential partnerships that the Health Authority was looking to initiate with the Town of Truro.

The Mayor thanked them for their presentation.

IN-CAMERA SUMMARY REPORT

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CAO Report

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

On motion of Deputy Mayor C. Fritz and Councillor T. Chisholm, it was moved that the CAO Report for the month of December, 2016 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Corporate Services Report

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

On motion of Councillors W. Talbot and B. Kinsman, it was moved that the Corporate Services report for the month of December, 2016 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Fire Report

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

On motion of Deputy Mayor C. Fritz and Councillor C. Hinton, it was moved that the Fire Report for the month of December 2016 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Planning and Development Report

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

Councillor C. Hinton advised that if residents are concerned about an unsightly premises, the best course of action is for them to contact the Planning Department directly to file a formal complaint or file out the online complaint form on the Town website.

The Director of Planning stated that it is important to have the complaint filed by the person who has the concern and not by the Councillor for that area, so if the Department requires more information, they have a contact. He noted that if the matter proceeds to court, which is rare, it helps the Town's case if we have a witness to the premises available. The Director stated that if a resident is not comfortable using the online form, they can call the office directly or visit the office and Planning staff happily enter the complaint into the system with their information.

On motion of Councillors C. Hinton and W. Talbot, it was moved that the Planning and Development report for the month of December, 2016 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Police Report

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

On motion of Deputy Mayor C. Fritz and Councillor T. Chisholm, it was moved that the Police Report for the month of December, 2016 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Public Works Report

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

Councillor W. Talbot noted that he had some complaints regarding the Town website not being updated in a timely fashion regarding the recent boil water advisory and perhaps the Town should consider a designated communications officer.

The CAO advised that a designated communications officer has been discussed before, and he is not sure that the Town necessarily needs someone dedicated full time to communications. He stated that there has been some reorganizing of duties amongst staff regarding posts to social media and the website. The CAO advised that the Town will soon be implementing the Everbridge software, which will allow residents to sign up for a variety of communications and staff can send one notice out that the mailing list receives.

Councillor B. Kinsman asked if the Department knew why the water test came back with an issue.

The Director of Public Works stated that he did not know why there was a bad sample. It could be that the aerator on the tap was dirty, or a bad test in the lab, or contamination in the lab or the wrong result written down.

Councillor B. Kinsman noted that there was a portion of William Barnhill Drive is not paved.

The Director of Public Works stated that everything that the Town planned to pave has been paved, but there is an old stretch of William Barnhill Drive in the Business Park that has never been paved. He noted that the Industrial Development Society paved a portion of Industrial Avenue but not William Barnhill as of yet. He stated paving that portion would likely be in the capital budget for this upcoming budget year.

On motion of Deputy Mayor C. Fritz and Councillor T. Chisholm, it was moved that the Public Works Report for the month of December, 2016 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Parks, Recreation and Culture Report

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

On motion of Councillors B. Kinsman and T. Chisholm, it was moved that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Report for the month of December, 2016 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Councillor D. Joseph asked for more details and explanation regarding the decision for the intersection alignment at the top of Young Street where the William Barnhill extension meets Young Street.

The Director of Public Works advised that the curve on Young Street was somewhat dangerous as a blind curve with driveways coming out on the inside of it. Another complication would be the new road coming up on a fairly steep grade and coming to a stop sign would create issues. As well as there is also a fourth street there that is usually forgotten about; if the new road came up on and created a T shape into that blind curve at a right angle, that fourth street would be too complicated and have to tie in too close to a stop sign on the new street. He stated that the new stop sign placement is the safest geometry that those four legs of the intersection could join up and the only small issue is the small amount of traffic proceeding south that has to come to a stop now.

Councillor D. Joseph noted that when Park Street is closed, there is a substantial amount of traffic back up on some Town streets and intersections. He asked that people use their common sense and if they can not make it through an intersection on a light, that they not enter the intersection and therefore end up block traffic.

Councillor D. Joseph asked if a town clean up was being planned with corporate assistance.

The Mayor advised that the Administration and Events Coordinator was planning on registering the Town for the Tim Horton's "Pitch In Week".

Councillor B. Kinsman asked if during times that Park Street was closed and traffic was backing up on Town streets, if the traffic light systems were flexible and could be changed to accommodate the heavy traffic flows.

The Director of Public Works stated that the controllers run on a fixed timer currently, and to reprogram each controller would require hiring a consultant out of Halifax. He advised that in his budget requests for the upcoming year, he would be asking for fully actuated lights with loop detection for some of the downtown streets. The Director stated that this would not completely solve the traffic issues, but it should help a bit.

Councillor T. Chisholm asked if a public meeting regarding the deer issue had been organized yet.

The CAO advised that the Town would be sitting down this month with the Department of Natural Resources to put together a layout for how a public meeting would be structured, and the public meeting would likely occur in February or March.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Request from Heritage Advisory Committee re: Robie Street Cemetery

The CAO advised that at a recent meeting of the Heritage Advisory Committee, a discussion was held on the Robie Street Cemetery and a map depicting a segregated area for African Nova Scotian burials. The discussion was a result of an issue raised by Raymond Tynes during the Provincial designation of the planter's plots portion of the cemetery in 2010. Ken Henderson presented samples of commemorative plaques and stones that could be used to recognize the area of the cemetery. The Committee would like the approval of Council to move forward with researching the history of the area and if it is still in use.

On motion of Councillors W. Talbot and C. Hinton, it was agreed that the Heritage Advisory Committee can move forward with researching the history of the segregated area for African Nova Scotian burials within the Robie Street Cemetery and approval for staff to meet with the cemetery corporation to move forward with a commemorative plaque for the site. Motion carried.

b) Letter from Heritage Advisory Committee re: Civic Square

The CAO reviewed a letter received from the Heritage Advisory Committee, requesting that Council consult the Committee on future changes to design elements within the new Civic Square.

The Mayor advised that some decisions were made regarding the Civic Square that were necessary to move the project forward and those were of an operational manner.

The CAO stated that he agreed to some extent with the intent of the Committee as far as structural design goes, but agreed with the Mayor that some modifications may be required from an operational perspective which will not have a tremendous impact on the heritage look of the Square. He noted that given that the Square itself is not a designated heritage area, nor is the Farmers' Market, he did not necessarily see a requirement in all cases to consult with the Committee, but will on some issues.

Councillor B. Kinsman advised that he is a member of the Heritage Advisory Committee and was present at that meeting, and he was not sure that the information presented today captured the essence of the discussion. In general, the Committee was very appreciative of Council's efforts to preserve the history of the Square as it is a historic part of Truro. He stated that he thinks there was some concern about some of the design elements in the Square and that the Committee was just politely expressing an opinion that the Town perhaps might have done a better job if the Committee had been consulted.

c) Amendments to Purchasing Policy

The CAO advised that Council has been provided with proposed minor changes to the Purchasing Policy and should consider this their 7 days' notice, for approval at the February Council meeting.

d) Committee Appointments

The CAO advised that there were a few vacancies on Town committees for citizen appointments, and the following appointments were being recommending for approval:

Rath Eastlink Community Centre Operating Board – Ellen Marshall
 Diversity Advisory Committee – Destiny Merriam and Chigozie Okolie
 Police Board – David Watters
 Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee – Paul Millman

On motion of Councillor B. Kinsman and Deputy Mayor C. Fritz, the citizen committee appointments were approved as presented. Motion carried.

e) Dehumidification - RECC

The CAO advised that for some time now, the RECC has been experiencing excessive moisture in the ice arena during days of higher temperature/humidity which has resulted in some high profile events being cancelled (last year’s Moosehead’s Hockey Game), for on the ice, heavy moisture of the glass obscuring vision and most troubling, evidence of premature deterioration of systems and structure. While this problem was initially seen as one that simply restricted the types of events, it is now evident without a change to the current systems, other plant and equipment will be at risk of premature failure. He stated that based on the review of the current system by MCW Maricor, the current system it is capable of removing approximately 80lbs/hour of moisture from the arena. This is in contrast with the 1,000-1,500 spectators under “summer conditions” (April to November), the system should be capable of removing between 600-800 lbs/hour of moisture. Based on this evaluation, the current system is ten times under capacity of what is required for the size and utilization of the facility. The CAO advised that MCW has outlined a solution that they are recommending to remedy the situation. The proposed system will remove at capacity 805 lbs/hour of moisture from the area. The estimated cost of this upgrade is \$532,000 which includes additional ductwork and piping. Under the terms of the agreement between the Town and County, all capital work on the facility is split on a 40/60 basis; therefore, the Town would be responsible for \$213,000 of the estimated cost.

On motion of Councillors W. Talbot and D. Joseph, it was agreed that the Town will cost share the upgrading of the RECC dehumidification system on a 40/60 basis (Town/County) up to an amount not to exceed \$213,000 (excluding HST), contingent on the Municipality of the County of Colchester agreeing to fund its proportionate share. Motion carried.

ACCOUNTS

It was moved by Councillors C. Hinton and W. Talbot, that Council approve for payment the accounts as presented be approved for the month of December, 2016. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councillors C. Hinton and T. Chisholm, it was moved that the meeting be adjourned at approximately 2:55 p.m. Motion carried.

W.R. (Bill) Mills
Mayor

M.W. Dolter
CAO