



Truro Town Council Meeting
Monday, May 1st, 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, May 1st, 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 C. Hinton and B. Kinsman, the agenda was approved as circulated. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Councillor W. Talbot and Deputy Mayor C. Fritz, the Public Hearing minutes and the Public Council minutes of April 3rd, 2017 were approved as circulated. Motion carried.

MOTIONS AND NOTICES OF MOTIONS

a) Water Budget Resolution – 2017/18

The CAO advised that the Water Budget for the 2017/18 fiscal year was being presented for approval today. The water rates remain unchanged year over year as per the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board Schedule of Rates and Regulations. Capital projects include water meter upgrades for both residential and commercial customers for \$500,000. Water main replacement on Robie Street from Ford to Longworth for \$318,565, upgrades to the SCADA system for \$50,000, as well as new equipment in the amount of \$131,550 and a Dam Safety review study for \$55,000.0

On motion of Councillors T. Chisholm and B. Kinsman, the 2017/18 Water Utility Budget was approved as presented. Motion carried.

PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

a) Presentation – Henry Treadwell

The Mayor presented Henry Treadwell with a certificate for his heroic efforts late last year when he saved a fellow resident from a fast moving river.

b) Presentation – Jim McCready

The Mayor introduced Jim McCready, a long term employee of the Town of Truro who recently retired from his position with the Recreation Department.

Mr. McCready thanked the Town and residents for the pleasure of working in Victoria Park over the years and invited Council for a brief walk with him on Friday.

The Mayor thanked Mr. McCready for his presentation.

c) Presentation – Art Acquisition Winners

Deputy Mayor C. Fritz announced that this year, two winners were chosen at the Town's Art Acquisition Show. The two winners, Allison Fielding and Christine Sandeson, presented the Town with their art.

d) Presentation – Canadian Mental Health Association

Susan Henderson, the Executive Director of the Canadian Mental Health Association Colchester East Hants Branch, gave a presentation to Council. She noted that they are moving to 856 Prince Street, along with the Soup Café, and they were looking for donations from the community. Ms. Henderson advised that this week is the Canadian Mental Health Association Annual Mental Health Week. She stated that the official launch of their building campaign would take place on Saturday at their event.

The Mayor thanked Ms. Henderson for her presentation. Councillor W. Talbot invited Ms. Henderson to present to the Police Board as well.

IN-CAMERA SUMMARY REPORT

The CAO advised Council that there were four issues discussed by Council at the last In-Camera meeting and there are no issues to be discussed by Council at the incamera meeting today.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CAO Report

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

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

Corporate Services Report

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

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

Fire Report

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

Councillor C. Hinton asked for clarification regarding the burning of garbage within the Town.

The Fire Chief advised that no one in the province is permitted to burn garbage. As for open fires, information can be found on the Town website under the burning permit section, and they should also read the Outdoor Fires Bylaw. He noted that burning brush or leaves is not permitted within 20 metres of a dwelling.

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

Planning and Development Report

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

Councillor B. Kinsman noted that the Upham Drive Development Agreement renegotiation has been on the report for several months and asked if a recommendation would be coming to Council in the near future.

The Director of Planning advised that it has been on the report for a while and the department's last correspondence with the developer indicated that they wish to keep the file open.

Councillor D. Joseph noted that one of the twin buildings on Glenwood Drive across from the church is in a state of disrepair, especially the front stairs which appear to be detached from the building. He asked if this property had been reported.

The Director of Planning stated that no report had been filed to his knowledge, but he would look into it and let Councillor D. Joseph know.

The Mayor asked if a Councillor can fill out the online bylaw complaint form for a citizen if that person did not want to fill it out.

The Director of Planning advised that a Councillor can, but they should attend the site and actually see the issue before filing the complaint.

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

Police Report

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

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

Public Works Report

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

Councillor C. Hinton advised that she had received a number of calls regarding speeding on Park Street. She asked if the traffic count report for Park Street had been completed.

The Director of Public Works advised that the traffic count report had been finalized, but it does not focus on speed and suggested that the police department's speed trailer should be used.

Councillor C. Hinton noted that there are quite a few children in the MacKay Court area and residents are concerned over the volume and speed of traffic and the children's use of the nearby path to access the soccer field. They are wondering if any sort of signage could be installed.

The Director of Public Works advised that his department could have a look at the area, but “Children Playing” signs are not used anymore, only signage for formal playgrounds that are immediately adjacent to a road where there is a higher probability of a child running across the street coming off the playground. He noted that they could put the camera up to determine the number of pedestrians and children crossing the road and determine if any signage is required.

Councillor T. Chisholm asked the sidewalks on Muir and Faulkner would be receiving any maintenance this year.

The Director of Public Works noted that those sidewalks are not unlike a lot of sidewalks in town that were capped with asphalt. He advised that the department will do an extensive maintenance program on sidewalks this summer.

Councillor W. Talbot advised that he had spoken to the CAO about having a public session for citizens to learn how the town sets priorities for maintenance and capital work.

The Director of Public Works advised that for the next Council meeting, he would prepare a report and outline a public presentation to explain the rationale of the street rating system and also how it has evolved since the inception nine years ago.

Councillor D. Joseph asked for the rationale behind the 70 km/h speed limit on Marshland Drive.

The Director of Public Works stated that it was due to the fact that it was a long stretch of road and was designed so that a motorist can comfortably drive as fast as 80 km/h, and 70 km/h is appropriate in the middle, with 50 km/h at either end.

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

Parks, Recreation and Culture Report

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

Councillor W. Talbot noted that there was some confusion by residents as to whether leaves were picked up during the Spring clean up and asked for clarification.

The Director of Public Works advised that residents can take leaves to the old landfill on Young Street and empty out their bags or containers. He stated that the Town usually only picks up leaves in the Fall, as Spring is busy with pothole patching. The Director noted that this year, his department did tell residents who called that if they provided their address, crews would come by and pick them up.

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

QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Councillor B. Kinsman asked if the short connector street between Kaulback and Willow streets is a public street.

The Director of Public Works stated that it is not a public street. He stated that it was a piece of that that was given to the Town by the old Dominion Atlantic Railways, and the Town dumped some asphalt there 20 years ago and it has become used as a road. The Director noted that the Town has never formally adopted it as a street, it does not have a name, and his preference would be that the Town investigate to see if any of the adjacent land owners would be interested in purchasing sections.

Councillor B. Kinsman stated that if the Public Works department was not interested in it as a roadway, then perhaps the Parks and Recreation department should take over the maintenance as it does connect the trail system.

The Director of Public Works agreed, and stated that the northern portion could be retained for Parks and Recreation use as a trail, and the other sections could be sold to the adjacent land owners.

Councillor C. Hinton noted that local resident Herb Peppard is turning 97 years old in July and in speaking with his children, she was wondering if the Town could have a “Herb Peppard Day” that month, held at the Herb Peppard Park. Council agreed.

Councillor W. Talbot advised that when he was running for Council, he made a commitment to increase public engagement. He stated that he was planning a Ward 1 meeting sometime in May and once a date was picked, he would let everyone know.

Councillor T. Chisholm noted that garbage issues with small apartment buildings is a real problem and he would like the Town to look at some kind of bylaw that would strengthen the Town's ability to deal with problem. He stated that he attend a waste management meeting last week and spoke with some other municipalities and they suggested a few ways to deal with the issue. Councillor T. Chisholm stated that some municipalities created a policy that requires apartments to be registered, and included in that, landlords would be required to list a licensed garbage hauler. He also suggested raising the number of units required for landlord arranged garbage pick up, so that the Town could pick up garbage from buildings with a smaller number of units and raise the taxes on those buildings.

The CAO advised that he and the Director of Planning have been discussing the garbage issue. He stated that the registering of units is something to be investigated. The CAO noted that other municipalities have established a certain standard for the look and conditions of the apartment buildings, including to the extent of uploading photographs of the buildings in bad condition on their municipal website. He stated there are advantages and disadvantages to posting pictures. He advised that staff would look into a variety of options.

Councillor D. Joseph expressed concern with any sort of "shaming" and did not want to encourage that direction.

Councillor C. Hinton advised that under the Residential Tenancies Act, if a person is a landlord and do not live in Town, you are required to have a representative in the Town to look after the unit. She noted that in her experience at the Tenancy Board, greed takes over and some landlords are only interested in the rental money and not maintaining their properties.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Adoption of Water Leak Adjustment Policy

The CAO advised that staff is recommending that Council approve a new Water Leak Adjustment Policy. The policy will ensure that there is a system in place to deal with requests for adjustments to water bills due to water leaks. For a customer to be eligible to apply for the adjustment, there are two requirements: the billing period that they are claiming for is at least twice the average volume used during the same billing periods for the previous two years and secondly, that the increased billing has to be caused by a water leak on the customer's side of the water meter for the property.

On motion of Councillor B. Kinsman and Deputy Mayor C. Fritz, the Water Leak Adjustment Policy was approved as presented.

b) Water Utility Account Write Offs

The CAO advised that after review by staff and after discussion with our external collections agency, it is the recommendation of staff that the balance of the water utility accounts presented to Council today be written off.

On motion of Councillors W. Talbot and T. Chisholm, Council approves the write off of the following water utility account balances: 040066.00, 042706.00, 025259.00, 224758.00, 056510.00, 157406.00, 066480.00, 017574.00, 157295.00, 060065.00, 070026.00, 205352.00, 204196.00, 040010.00, 041386.01, 172235.00, 032344.00, 186848.00, 046825.00, 060018.00, 056995.00, 047872.00, 047295.00, 069701.00 and 017205.00. Motion carried.

c) Resignations from Town Planning Advisory Committee and Heritage Advisory Committee

The CAO advised that Barbara Reynolds has resigned from the Heritage Advisory Committee and Debbie Elliot has resigned from the Town Planning Advisory Committee. He noted that the Town would send both members a thank you letter.

d) Public Works Operations and Maintenance Performance Standards

The CAO advised that the Director of Public Works has created an Operations and Maintenance Performance Standards document for Council approval. The document establishes a set of standards by which all Public Works infrastructure is inspected and maintained and includes a set of response times for public inquiries and for the maintenance of any infrastructure defects. These Standards establish the parameters and time lines for the repair of deficiencies based on level of hazard and level of street hierarchy classification for each infrastructure defect. These Standards give Public Works staff, Town Council and the public a greater sense of the prioritization and timeliness of the performance of such repairs.

On motion of Councillors T. Chisholm and W. Talbot, the Public Works Operations and Maintenance Performance Standards were approved as presented to Council at the Committee of the Whole meeting on March 30th, 2017, with the amendment of Customer Service Requests response time be amended from "within 3 days of receiving the request" to "within 1 day to a maximum of 3 days of receiving the request". Motion carried.

e) George Rockwell Memorial Plaque

The CAO advised that the family of George Rockwell is requesting that Council approve the design of a new plaque to commemorate the rod iron work of Mr. Rockwell. There is no cost to the Town for the plaque.

On motion of Deputy Mayor C. Fritz and Councillor B. Kinsman, the George Rockwell Memorial Plaque was approved as presented. 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 April, 2017. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councillors W. Talbot and T. Chisholm, it was moved that the meeting be adjourned at approximately 2:50 p.m. Motion carried.

W.R. (Bill) Mills
Mayor

M.W. Dolter
CAO