



Truro Town Council Meeting
Monday, January 12, 2009
Council Chambers – Civic Building

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A regular public meeting of Truro Town Council was held on Monday, January 12th, 2009 at 1:00 pm in the Council Chambers of the Truro Civic Building.

Present: Mayor W. R. (Bill) Mills, Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur, Councillors R. Tynes, C. Cox, D. Bennett-Cook, B. Kinsman and S. Byers

In Attendance: CAO J. Langille, Director of Finance R. Putnam, Director of Planning J. Fox, Director of Public Works A. MacKinnon, Director of Parks and Recreation D. MacKenzie, Police Chief D. MacNeil, Fire Chief T. Bremner, Town Solicitor J. Rafferty

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Councillors S. Byers and C. Cox, the agenda was approved as circulated. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Councillors C. Cox and D. Bennett-Cook, the minutes of the Public Council Meeting held December 1st, 2008 were approved as circulated. Motion carried.

MOTIONS AND NOTICES OF MOTIONS

13 Laurie Street, Development Agreement Application

On motion of Councillor S. Byers and Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur, Council approved the Director of Planning's recommendation as presented and agreed to enter into a Development Agreement for 13 Laurie Street. Motion carried.

180 Upham Drive, Rezoning Application

The CAO advised that a Rezoning Application had been received for 180 Upham Drive. The purpose of the Application is to rezone 180 Upham Drive from an R-5 to an R-1 zone. The CAO read a letter received from Juanita Bigelow, Secretary of the Town Planning Advisory Committee. The Planning Advisory Committee recommended that Council establish a public hearing date to consider entering into a development agreement.

On motion of Councillors D. Bennett-Cook and S. Byers, a public hearing date be set for Monday, February 2nd, 2009. Motion carried.

2nd Reading – No Smoking By-law

The CAO advised that the first reading of this By-law took place at the December Council meeting.

The Town Solicitor reviewed the By-law with Council. The area to be defined as non-smoking is any public area of Inglis Place, including sidewalks, streets and alleys, but does not include a private residence.

The Mayor asked for Council's permission to hear from two speakers. Permission was granted.

Mike DeRosenroll of the Canadian Cancer Society addressed Council. The Canadian Cancer Society supports the By-law and believes it to be a very intelligent and forward-thinking By-law.

Krista McMullin of the Tobacco Reduction Strategy also addressed Council. She pointed out that the By-law could be extended to outdoor recreation sites as well.

Councillor C. Cox stated that he believed it was very important to have this By-law and protect the Town's citizens from second-hand smoke.

On motion of Councillors S. Byers and B. Kinsman, the 2nd Reading of the No Smoking By-law was approved as presented and the By-law was adopted. Motion carried.

PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

Presentation – Chamber of Commerce

Tim Tucker, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce gave a presentation to Council to advise of the latest initiatives and activities of the Chamber.

Presentation – Marigold Centre

Trish Manard, Executive Director of the Marigold Cultural Centre and Dennis James, Vice Chair of the Cobequid Arts Council, gave a presentation to Council. Mr. James provided Council with updates on the past year at the Marigold Centre and handed out programs for the upcoming season.

OLD BUSINESS**Deputy Mayor Appointment**

The Mayor advised that at the December Council meeting, a motion was brought forward to elect the Deputy Mayor during the incamera meeting. Since then, the Town has received notice from the Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations that the policy of electing a Deputy Mayor behind doors is not a common practice.

The Mayor asked for nominations for Deputy Mayor.

On motion of Councillors R. Tynes and S. Byers, Councillor G. MacArthur was nominated for Deputy Mayor for 2009. Motion carried.

The Mayor called for second and then third call for nominations. Being none, Councillor G. MacArthur was acclaimed as Deputy Mayor for 2009.

Town Safety Policy

The CAO advised that the Town has a current Safety Policy, but this one being presented to Council today would replace the existing policy. Council had received a copy of this Policy at the December Council meeting. It is the intent to come before Council on an annual basis with a proposed policy to reaffirm the Town's commitment to safety within the workforce of the Town of Truro.

The Town Solicitor reviewed the highlights of the Policy for Council.

On motion of Councillors S. Byers and D. Bennett-Cook, the new Town Safety Policy was approved as presented. Motion carried.

Purchase Policy Amendments

The CAO advised that the Town has a current Purchasing Policy and that Council had received a copy of this new Policy at the December Council meeting. The amendments are intended to identify in the Policy the right to request proposals.

The Town Solicitor reviewed the highlights of the Policy for Council.

On motion of Councillor C. Cox and Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur, the new Purchasing Policy was approved as presented. Motion carried.

IN-CAMERA SUMMARY REPORT

The CAO advised Council that there were two personnel issues and four legal issues discussed by Council at the last In-Camera meeting. An in-Camera meeting will be held following this Public Council Meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS**Finance Report**

The Finance for the month of December was presented to Council.

Councillor S. Byers asked how capital expenditures from revenue totaled 116% of the budget. The Director of Finance advised that the expenditures are recorded against the expenditure amounts that are budgeted. He advised that what still has to be recorded is to offset the capital expenditures as recorded.

Councillor S. Byers asked if the amount of taxes outstanding is an issue, or if it will be reduced at the beginning of the 2009 budget year. The Director of Finance stated that the amount outstanding is expected to be reduced to close to the starting balance of the 2008 year when the 2009 year starts. There will be considerable tax collection in the next few months.

On motion of Councillors S. Byers and D. Bennett-Cook, it was moved that the Finance report for the month of December, 2008 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Fire Report

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

On motion of Councillors S. Byers and C. Cox, it was moved that the Fire Report for the month of December, 2008 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Planning and Development Report

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

The Mayor encouraged residents to fill out the "Have Your Say" questionnaire being mailed out to them and also available on the Town's website.

On motion of Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur and Councillor D. Bennett-Cook, it was moved that the Planning and Development report for the month of December, 2008 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Police Report

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

On motion of Councillors S. Byers and B. Kinsman, it was moved that the Police Report for the month of December, 2008 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Public Works Report

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

Councillor S. Byers asked what the status is on pothole repairs throughout the Town and the sidewalks. The Director of Public Works advised that there is no hot asphalt available during January, which leaves cold mix. Councillor S. Byers advised that a local resident had tripped on a sidewalk on Wood Street, and caused severe damage to her face. She asked that Council keep sidewalk repairs in mind when doing this year's budget.

Councillor D. Bennett-Cook asked the Director of Public Works where residents could drop off their Christmas trees. The Director of Public Works advised that residents can take their trees to Verboom Grinders on Willow Lane for free.

Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur advised that there are still streetlights out in Truro. He advised that residents can call Nova Scotia Power Corporation and report the outages, but thought that if the Town was calling them as well, that would help to get them repaired.

Councillor R. Tynes suggested that the Town look into a plan for picking up Christmas trees. The Mayor advised that if the Town was to implement Christmas tree pickup, it could cost approximately \$10,000. The Mayor also noted that about half of that cost would be fuel for the trucks used for the pickup and that would not necessarily be environmentally friendly.

Councillor R. Tynes also commented on the condition of the sidewalks, and noted that it seem like a lot of sand or salt was being used and perhaps more in the future could be used.

On motion of Councillors B. Kinsman and S. Byers, it was moved that the Public Works Report for the month of December, 2008 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Parks and Recreation Report

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

Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur noted that the community seems to be enjoying the cross-country skiing trails. Councillor C. Cox also noted that people are commented that the trails are well-groomed.

On motion of Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur and Councillor R. Tynes, it was moved that the Parks and Recreation Report for the month of December, 2008 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Safety Coordinators Report

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

On motion of Councillor S. Byers and Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur, it was moved that the Safety Coordinators Report for the month of December, 2008 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Councillor R. Tynes noted that at the November Council meeting, a discussion was held on having members of Council participate in cross-cultural sensitivity training and asked for an update on this. The CAO advised that meetings have been held with representatives from the Human Rights Commission and the earliest they can be available for this training session is March.

Councillor S. Byers stated that both she and Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur had mentioned before about the citizen's enhancement committee on the east end being formed and at the present time, Mr. Danny Joseph is working towards organizing that committee. She wanted to let the residents know that it was being organized.

Councillor S. Byers noted that as the recent new Chair of the John Ross & Sons Committee, she would be reporting to Council on the activities of that Committee. She has heard back from Mr. Ross that he would like to meet, and hopefully a meeting date will be set soon.

Councillor S. Byers encouraged residents to take part in the "Truro Have Your Say" meetings, and other meetings to help guide Council in making the right decisions for the Town to help attract more business to the Town.

Councillor R. Tynes wanted to let residents know that the Town entered into partnership with other communities in Canada called “Communities against Racism and Discrimination”. He asked where the Town stands in regards to the first year in reaching some goals and targets. The CAO advised that the Town is one of twelve municipalities in Canada that belong to this group. This group is going to be presenting its first annual report at the FCM conference in June. He advised that locally, the Town is filing reports annually as required with the Human Rights Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

Recommendations from Downtown Revitalization Committee re: Highway Signs and Downtown Signage

The CAO reviewed a report prepared by the Director of Planning for Council.

The Downtown Revitalization Committee has reviewed submissions from four different signage manufacturing companies in relation to the downtown signage. The Committee has recommended that Council award the work to New Century Signs of Halifax.

On motion of Councillors S. Byers and D. Bennett-Cook, it was moved that the work for the downtown signage be awarded to New Century Signs for \$118,553.95. Motion carried.

Recommendation from the Public Works Building Construction Committee for extras related to Public Works Building

The CAO reviewed a report prepared by the Director of Public Works for Council.

The Public Works Building Construction Committee is recommending that Council agree to alter the original contract to allow for an increase of \$15,835 for extras that have been identified as being necessary for the work.

The Mayor noted that not the entire building would be heated with waste oil, but a small section. He noted that as long as the system is properly maintained there is no environmental effect in using waste oil.

On motion of Councillors R. Tynes and S. Byers, it was moved that an extra \$15,835 be added to the contract for the new Public Works Building. Motion carried.

Civic Centre Project – Interim Budget

The CAO advised that the project is proceeding on schedule. The Steering Committee has developed a tentative interim budget that will hopefully cover expenses to March 31st, 2009. He asked that Council approve the interim budget in an amount not to exceed \$60,400. That is considered to be the Town’s share of the total \$151,200 that is expected to be incurred between now and March 31st, 2009.

Councillor R. Tynes asked if at the end of this fiscal year if Council would be receiving a report or breakdown of the monies that will be spend on the Civic Centre project. The CAO advised that the expense to March 31st, 2009 will be presented to Council in their budget review. Council will also be asked at that time to consider a commitment for the coming year.

On motion of Councillors R. Tynes and D. Bennett-Cook, it was moved that the interim budget be approved and \$60,400 be withdrawn from operating reserve. Motion carried.

Petition for Curbs and Gutters, Fundy Drive

The CAO advised that a petition was sent to the Director of Public Works requesting that the curbs and paving be replaced on Fundy Drive.

It was agreed that the issue of the replacement of curbs and paving on Fundy Drive will be dealt with during the budget process.

Letter – Minister of Transportation

The CAO reviewed a letter to the Mayor from Murray Scott, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal. The letter advised that the Department was taking steps to inform Nova Scotians about winter road safety and maintenance. This letter was just for Council’s information.

Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur noted that the Cobequid Pass had been shut down several times so far this winter. He wondered if anyone had contacted the Town during these shut downs, and if anyone informed people that there were services available for them in Truro. He suggested a letter be sent to the Minister saying that the Town is here for these types of emergencies.

The Mayor advised that he would send a letter to Bruce Langille who is in charge of that project and offer Truro’s assistance for future shut downs.

Letter - VON

The CAO reviewed a letter from VON Colchester East Hants. The VON was requesting an increase in funding for their Foot Care and SMART Programs be considered during the budget process for the new fiscal year.

It was agreed that this matter would be considered during the budget process.

Letter – Willow Street Elementary and Douglas Street Elementary Schools

The CAO reviewed a letter from the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board. The letter informed the Town that the School Board is returning Willow and Douglas Street Elementary Schools to the Town. This letter was for Council’s information.

Farm Equipment Museum Fund-Raising Campaign

The CAO reviewed a letter received from Donald Cox, Chairman of the Museum Fund-Raising Committee. The Committee is looking to build a new building to house the current exhibits, as the current facility is quite old. The Committee had an open request to Council for funding for the new building.

The Mayor advised that in the coming weeks, budget decisions for the upcoming year would be happening and this request would be forwarded on to the budget process for decision.

ACCOUNTS

It was moved by Councillor S. Byers and Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur that Council pay the accounts as approved for the month of December, 2008. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councillor R. Tynes and Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur, it was moved that the meeting be adjourned at approximately 3:20 pm. Motion carried.

W. R. (Bill) Mills
Mayor

J.K. Langille
CAO