

DRAFT MINUTES
TOWN OF ANNAPOLIS ROYAL
REGULAR COUNCIL
December 15, 2008
9:00 a.m.

The regular meeting of Council was held on Monday, December 15, 2008 in Council Chambers at Town Hall. In attendance were Chair Mayor Phil Roberts, Deputy Mayor Jane DeWolfe, Councillors Doug Shaffner, Pat Power and Kathie Fearon, CAO Amery Boyer, Director of Finance Melony Robinson and Jackie Longmire as recording secretary. The following people were also in attendance for the discussion regarding the NSPI grant in lieu: Grant Slinn, Joan Francuz, Paul Stackhouse, Val Peterson, Peter Davies, Trish Fry, Brian Power-Grimm, David Britton, Ron Boulding, Andrea Boulding and John Kinsella.

Regrets: Councillor Sherman Hudson

APPROVAL OF REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES

November 17, 2008

Motion # 1

It was moved by Councillor Fearon, seconded by Councillor Power, that the regular Council minutes dated November 17, 2008 be approved. Motion carried.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

Under Business Arising add:

- {e} Continuation of Orientation
- {f} Draft Communication Plan – NSPI Property Assessment

Under New Business add:

- {f} Petition - Pesticides

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

December 15, 2008

Motion # 2

It was moved by Councillor Fearon, seconded by Councillor Shaffner, that the agenda dated December 15, 2008 be approved as amended. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Item	Decision / Action	Responsibility	Target Date
{a} PHAC Vacancy – Letter of interest from Grant Slinn	<i>Motion #3</i> <i>It was moved by Deputy Mayor DeWolfe, seconded by Councillor Shaffner, to appoint Grant Slinn as a member of the Planning and Heritage Advisory Committee. Motion carried.</i>		
{b} Tabled motion brought forward from November 17, 2008 Council Meeting Minutes – Marketing and Events Coordinator position	The following motion will be discussed during the in-camera session: <i>It was moved by Councillor Fearon, seconded by Deputy Mayor DeWolfe to make the Marketing and Events Coordinator position a permanent full time position with all benefits included as of November 10, 2008 and with Sally Burnie continuing as the Marketing and Events Coordinator.</i>		
{c} Motion to appoint Danny Wright as Level 3 Building Inspector	<i>It was moved by Deputy Mayor DeWolfe, seconded by Councillor Fearon to appoint Danny Wright as Building Inspector for the Town of Annapolis Royal for all buildings that are outside of the limits of the qualified Level 1 Building Official as outlined in the Nova Scotia Building Code Training and Certification Board. Motion carried.</i>		

{d} Water billing for FAPS	<p>A response was received from the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board regarding seasonal billing for the Annapolis Royal Swimming Pool. The response indicates that seasonal billing requires a formal application through the Board.</p> <p>It was noted that changing the meter size will reduce the quarterly water billing for the pool and the application for seasonal billing will not be submitted to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board.</p>		
{e} Draft Communication Plan	<p>CAO Boyer, with input from Jane Nicholson and Steven Hawboldt, has drafted a communication plan regarding the NSPI grant in lieu announcement. A media blitz is being planned for January 5, 2009 and a list of potential allies is being maintained. Deputy Mayor DeWolfe suggested that if anyone is speaking on behalf of the Town it is the Mayor who should do the speaking.</p>		

NEW BUSINESS

Item	Decision / Action	Responsibility	Target Date
{a} NSPI Grant in Lieu	<p>It is day 6 since the news that the grant in lieu received by the Town will be dramatically cut as a result of revised assessment figures through Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC). Media releases have been circulated and every attempt has been made to gather as much information as possible. A meeting with PVSC will take place later today; PVSC will provide an explanation for the revised assessment.</p> <p>Mayor Roberts said that all of the information has been coming to CAO Boyer via phone calls, there is no written documentation of the communications. He also mentioned the recent change with the assessment figure which was at \$9 million last week but has increased to \$16 million over the past 6 days. He said that the mechanism for an appeal process is not known. At this point there are many unknowns but there is hope that the situation will improve.</p>		

<p>{a} NSPI Grant in Lieu - continued</p>	<p>Mayor Roberts will meet with the Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations in early January and a meeting with the UNSM, Trenton and the Municipality of the County of Queens will be rescheduled after being cancelled on December 5, 2008 because of the weather.</p> <p>Former Mayor John Kinsella explained how the process began in 2002 when the Town was receiving limited funds from the NSPI tidal power plant. He said it was a phased-in process and the Town was dealt with fairly based on a provincial government assessment of \$41.5 million. The funding was divided between eleven host municipalities and included HST offset and equalization. Mr. Kinsella encouraged discussions with ministers and neighbours.</p> <p>Trish Fry offered her assistance to the Town during the process and asked about the rationale for the assessment. It was explained that the property has apparently been assessed incorrectly over the past several years.</p> <p>The assessment is now being based on the book value of the property with no value being placed on equipment and machinery. It was noted that the previous value placed on the property of \$41 million had not been depreciated properly.</p> <p>Val Peterson asked about the Town status for Annapolis Royal. Mayor Roberts said that there was no direct effect on the Town's status. He did state that it was difficult to have the status delisted but it is expensive to operate as a Town. He said that the present situation is not sustainable. There may be the option of annexing Lequille and Granville Ferry but all residents would have to fully support such a move.</p>	<p>CAO Boyer</p>	
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<p>{a} NSPI Grant in Lieu - continued</p>	<p>Adrian Nette asked how the Town could operate without this funding in the year 2000. He said that the Town had a 2.5 officer Police Department and all the same expenses that it does now. He said the Town is now receiving double the funding that it did in 2000. He said that the Town needs to seriously look at the amount of money that is being spent and he believes that the Town is sustainable without the large influx of funds from NSPI. Former Mayor John Kinsella said that the Town is in a much better financial position than it was eight years ago with less debt and better infrastructure.</p> <p>Mayor Roberts said that the Town does not know the final result at this point and in the interim a freeze has been placed on all discretionary spending. Staff are on a three-month notice and job losses may be imminent</p> <p>There was a discussion over a conflict of interest matter that should be addressed through the process. Board members of the UNSM are also members of Council from municipal units that may benefit from the redistribution of the NSPI funds. The question was asked about the UNSM requesting this assessment and it was noted that this is not in their mandate.</p> <p>A letter-writing campaign was planned and CAO Boyer will circulate contact information for the appropriate ministers. Public demonstrations and meetings will also be scheduled. Mayor Roberts said that the Town intends to get all the information it can before making plans for the future.</p>		
<p>{b} Business Occupancy Tax write off</p>	<p>This bill is for a business that is now closed.</p> <p><i>Motion #4</i> <i>It was moved by Deputy Mayor DeWolfe, seconded by Councillor Shaffner to write off the business occupancy tax account #07096755 in the amount of \$421.11. Motion carried.</i></p>	<p>Director of Finance</p>	

{c} Property Valuation Services Corporation	The Town has received the mandatory quarterly billing from PVSC. CAO Boyer said that in light of the issue with the NSPI assessment changes she would like to refuse payment. Council suggested that staff review the issue.	CAO Boyer	
{d} Project Status Report received from the Annapolis District Planning Commission	For information only.	No action required.	
{e} Annapolis Royal 300 th Anniversary Plans	Ryan Scranton, Theresa Bunbury and Trish Fry have indicated their willingness to work on a committee to deal with the anniversary plans. CAO Boyer said that there is some work that needs to be organized and completed now and a lead has to be appointed. Deputy Mayor DeWolfe said that the Town should be involved and the Marketing and Events Coordinator should be appointed as the lead. It was agreed that Sally Burnie would be asked to call a meeting to organize the committee and start the planning process for the events in 2010.	Marketing and Events Coordinator	

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS

Item	Decision / Action	Responsibility	Target Date
{a} Recommendations from Committee of the Whole	<p>5. It was moved by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor Fearon, to write off the utility bill for account number FRIE.001 in the amount of \$564.56 plus accumulated interest. Motion carried.</p> <p>Nay votes were recorded from Councillor Shaffner and Deputy Mayor DeWolfe on the above motion.</p> <p>The following motion was moved to the in-camera discussion:</p> <p>6. I move approval of the recommendation to Council to appoint Constable Keith McCuaig as Acting Chief of the Annapolis Royal Police</p>		

	<i>Department, effective December 5, 2008, if he is willing to accept the position.</i>		
{b} Board of Police Commissioners	Councillor Fearon said that an update was provided from the Acting Chief of Police at the meeting on December 10, 2008. She said that he has a lot of plans for the Department and everything seems to be going smoothly. The board was impressed with his re-organization and creative ideas.	Deputy Mayor Jane DeWolfe	
{c} Mayor's Report	Mayor Roberts attended a meeting in Halifax to discuss the NSPI assessment issues on December 5, 2008. He also attended Christmas Daddies in Digby, and the open house of Jeff Langstaff and Kamile Karcher. Mayor Roberts hosted a Teddy Bear Tea at Town Hall on December 6 with 20 town children in attendance.	Mayor Phil Roberts	
{d} ADEDA	CAO Boyer attended a strategic planning session that she found very informative.	Deputy Mayor Jane DeWolfe	
{d} King's Theatre	Councillor Shaffner indicated that Heidi Schumacher is interested in sitting on the Board as the town representative. She will be advised to attend the next meeting and confirm her interest after the meeting.	Councillor Doug Shaffner	
{e} REMO	A conference call was scheduled for December 4, 2008. It is not known if Councillor Hudson participated.	Councillor Sherman Hudson	
{g} Historic Gardens	Councillor Power had nothing significant to report but she did say that there was a discussion at the last meeting about an issue that is currently before Council. Council has not made a final decision on the particular issue and Councillor Power thought it was inappropriate for the issue to be discussed in this forum. Mayor Roberts reminded Councillors of the importance of maintaining confidentiality in such matters.	Councillor Pat Power	
{h} Hanse Society	Former Councillor Ron Boulding will continue on this Board and will report to Council only when necessary.		

CORRESPONDENCE

Item	Decision / Action	Responsibility	Target Date
{a} None			

GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. Orientation – The next meeting for orientation is scheduled for Wednesday, December 17 at 9:30 am. Roles and responsibilities will be the topic for discussion.

IN CAMERA

It was moved by Deputy Mayor DeWolfe, seconded by Councillor Fearon to move in-camera to discuss negotiations and personnel issues.

It was moved by Councillor Hudson, seconded by Deputy Mayor DeWolfe to move out of camera.

The following motions are a result of the in-camera session:

It was moved by Deputy Mayor DeWolfe, seconded by Councillor Power to rescind the following motion: “.... To make the Marketing and Events Coordinator position a permanent full-time position with benefits included as of November 10, 2008 and with Sally Burnie continuing Marketing and Events Coordinator.” Motion carried.

Deputy DeWolfe said that it is with extreme regret that the motion is rescinded.

It was moved by Councillor Fearon, seconded by Deputy Mayor DeWolfe to appoint Constable Keith McCuaig as Acting Chief of the Annapolis Royal Police Department, effective December 5, 2008, if he is willing to accept the position. Motion carried

It was moved by Councillor Fearon, seconded by Deputy Mayor DeWolfe, to approve a salary increase of 10% for Constable Keith McCuaig as compensation for the increased responsibilities as the Acting Chief of Police. Motion carried.

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NEXT MEETING January 19, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Deputy Mayor DeWolfe to adjourn the meeting.

<i>Action:</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Signature</i>
Reviewed by Mayor Phil Roberts		
Changes made by Administrative Assistant, Jackie Longmire		
Approved for website by Mayor or CAO		
Forwarded to the Website		

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