

MINUTES
TOWN OF ANNAPOLIS ROYAL
REGULAR COUNCIL
June 22, 2009
9:00 a.m.

The regular meeting of the Council was held on Monday, June 22, 2009 in Council Chambers at Town Hall. In attendance were Chair Mayor Phil Roberts, Councillors Kathie Fearon, Doug Shaffner, Sherman Hudson and Pat Power, CAO Amery Boyer, Director of Finance Melony Robinson and Administrative Assistant Jackie Longmire as recording secretary. There were also many members of the public in attendance.

Mayor Roberts called the meeting to order and addressed the resignation of Deputy Mayor DeWolfe before any other business. He read the letter dated 22 June 2009 that was submitted and said that Ms. DeWolfe was a valuable member of Council; she will be missed. Mayor Roberts opened the floor to nominations for the Deputy Mayor position. Councillor Fearon nominated Councillor Shaffner and Councillor Hudson seconded that nomination. There were no other nominations. Councillor Shaffner accepted the position and he will also fill the vacant seat on the Board of Police Commissioners. Councillor Hudson will replace Ms. DeWolfe on the ADEDA Board.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES

May 19, 2009

Motion # 1

It was moved by Councillor Hudson, seconded by Councillor Shaffner, that the regular Council minutes dated May 19, 2009 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

Under Presentations add:

9:15 am - Anne Esslinger - Library

Under Business for the Evening Session of the Meeting add:

3. Special Election Date
4. Pool Insurance

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

June 22, 2009

Motion # 2

***It was moved by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor Fearon, that the agenda dated June 22, 2009 be approved, as amended.
Motion carried.***

PRESENTATIONS

9:00 am - Linda Brown - 300th Celebrations Update - This presentation was postponed but a report on the celebration plans was provided for Council to review.

9:15 am - Anne Esslinger - Library - Ms. Esslinger presented the 2009 Library report. The following items were addressed in the report: new programs, bookmobiles, books by mail, the summer reading club and the Community Access Program. Funding is an issue and an MOU has been drawn up for the Department of Education, under whose jurisdiction the library system falls. A \$2.6 million budget is proposed over three years; the MOU has not yet gone to Cabinet.

9:30 am - Kathy Dudka - Barriers for Opening a Business in Annapolis Royal - Ms. Dudka has purchased a residential property at 210 St. Anthony Street and it was her intention to open a candy store at that location. The current Residential R1 zoning of the property does not permit a retail store and Ms. Dudka asked Council if there was anything it could do to assist her with getting the business open. Ms. Dudka said that she has discussed the issue with the Planning Department and has been advised that the property would have to be rezoned but she said that the rezoning process takes time and money and she has neither. Mayor Roberts asked Ms. Dudka to leave the issue with Council and staff to investigate.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Item	Decision / Action	Responsibility	Target Date
{a} By-Law to Permit the Production and Distribution of Energy from Specific Renewable Green Energy Sources	<p>This by-law was developed in 2008 through a process including two public meetings. The by-law has been reviewed by ADPC and minor changes were suggested as a result of that review. First reading was completed and an ad placed for second and final reading.</p> <p>Carol Littleton addressed Council on this issue and said that the by-law was difficult to understand. She suggested that Council consider issues such as separation distance for wind turbines, negative effects of wind turbines and mitigation before the by-law moves into second reading. She said there is a need for caution and full public disclosure where industrial wind turbines are concerned.</p> <p>Jerri Costa also spoke on the issue and said that there was little communication with the residents regarding this by-law. She said that the document was difficult to understand and that citizens, Council and staff should be fully aware of all the implications before the by-law is finalized. CAO Boyer said that the by-law is an attempt to control the possibility of wind turbine installation within the Town. There is currently no by-law in place that addresses the issue. Mayor Roberts agreed that the by-law was unclear and he suggested that it be tabled until more information is available.</p> <p><i>Motion #3</i> <i>It was moved by Deputy Mayor Shaffner, seconded by Councillor Hudson that the By-Law to Permit the Production and Distribution of Energy from Specific Renewable and Green Energy Sources be tabled until more information is available. Motion carried.</i></p>		
	<p>It was suggested the Environment Committee be revived with a Green Energy Committee as a sub-committee. The committee would be a group of residents and tax-payers with some knowledge of wind energy and the environment. The committee would also have representation from Council. Mayor Roberts said that he will attempt to get the committee up and</p>		

	<p>running before the next meeting of Council.</p> <p><i>Motion #4</i> <i>It was moved by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor Hudson to revive the Environment Committee and establish a Green Energy Committee as a sub-committee. Motion carried.</i></p>		
{b} Council Orientation	All members of Council will visit the Public Works sites on Wednesday, June 24, 2009.		
{c} New Energy Efficient Public Works Building Grant Application	<p>A letter was received from ecoNova Scotia acknowledging receipt of the Town's funding application. Phil suggested that the new building become one of the items for the newly formed Environment Committee to research.</p> <p>Members of the gallery raised several concerns over the expensive new building and asked why it was even being considered with the downturn in funding. It was suggested that the present building be cleaned up and properly maintained.</p> <p>CAO Boyer said that the \$1 million dollar price tag is a ballpark figure used for funding applications only. She said that the property that the current building sits on is contaminated as a result of a bulk Texaco plant that used to be located there. CAO Boyer did agree that if the land was not touched, no environmental clean up would be required. CAO Boyer also said that the Town has since learned that a building could be rebuilt on the land but remedial action would be required.</p>		
{d} Annapolis Royal Lions Club	<p>A response was received from the Lions Club regarding the request from the Town to move the canteen bus to a new location. The Lions Club said that the bus cannot be moved because of power and safety issues. The group did agree to move the propane tanks to the back of the bus.</p> <p>Councillor Fearon suggested the bus maintain its original location and temporary handicapped spots be marked during Natal Day weekend. Mayor Roberts asked business owner Danny McClair for his opinion on the issue. Mr. McClair said that it is not his intention to shut the bus down but he does have concerns over pedestrian safety and the illegal installation of the propane tanks. He also said that he has been in contact with a member of the Lions Club and has offered to help with the expense of moving the</p>		

	<p>power hook-up. It was noted that it may be too late to have the power source moved this year.</p> <p>Mayor Roberts suggested that a letter be sent to the Lions Club suggesting that the bus be moved to a suitable location provided that the power supply can be moved before Natal Day. He also suggested that the Library parking lot and across the street from Fancy Jewellers be listed as alternate locations.</p> <p>It was noted that the Fire Chief is aware of the canteen bus set up and has made no recommendation concerning the propane tanks.</p>		
{e} Lot Grading and Drainage By-Law	The Annapolis District Planning Commission has indicated that a review of existing policies at the Town and Province levels revealed a variety of approaches to ensure proper drainage on approved lots. The Annapolis District Planning Commission indicates that a special purpose by-law is not necessary. The Lot Grading and Drainage By-Law will therefore not continue through the by-law approval process.		
{f} Civic Address By-Law	This by-law has been referred to the Planning and Heritage Advisory Committee for further review.		
{g} Pool Insurance	This item has been tabled until the evening session of Council.		

NEW BUSINESS

Item	Decision / Action	Responsibility	Target Date
{a} Water Tests	Water tests have been reviewed and found to be satisfactory.	CAO	
{b} Accessibility Rebate Policy	<p>The proposed changes from ADPC were highlighted throughout the policy. It was noted that this policy makes it possible for a portion of permit fees to be rebated to the applicant. The policy also addresses accessibility for residences which also require a permit for the construction of things like a wheelchair ramp.</p> <p>Business owner Rob Lawrie said that the possibility of having a portion of</p>		

	<p>his permit fee rebated does not encourage him to renovate his business to make it more accessible. He said that it would be more helpful to business owners to have information on provincial and federal grants that would provide a larger rebate on such a project.</p> <p>It was suggested that the policy be reconsidered in terms of rebating the entire permit fee. Council was cautioned to think about that decision with permit fees being in the \$1,000.00 range.</p> <p>CAO Boyer said that staff will put together a package of federal and provincial funding initiatives. This item will be brought back to Council when the package is complete.</p>		
{c} Tax Complaints	<p>Councillor Shaffner declared a conflict of interest for the item as he is closely associated to one the properties to be discussed.</p> <p>A request was received from two property owners to have interest written off tax accounts. The complaints indicated that a full 30 days was not provided for payment of the invoices. The Director of Finance agreed that the bills were mailed out late and a full 30 days was not granted. She recommended that the interest be written off as requested.</p> <p><i>Motion #5</i> <i>It was moved by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor Fearon that interest in the amount of \$17.57 be written off from account #00089354 and that interest in the amount of \$20.64 be written off from account number 09562125. Motion carried.</i></p> <p>Councillor Shaffner rejoined the meeting.</p>		
{d} ADEDA 5 Year Investment Strategy	<p>This report was passed by the ADEDA Board at its last meeting. ADEDA is requesting a \$15,000.00 contribution from its municipal partners to complete the study. The Town's share of that request is \$937.50. This item has been referred to budget discussions. CAO Boyer said that she will ask why the contribution requested from Annapolis County is double the amount requested from Digby County.</p> <p>Councillor Hudson has been appointed to this Board as a result of the</p>		

	<p>resignation received from former Deputy Mayor DeWolfe. CAO Boyer said that she will attend the meetings until Councillor Hudson is able to rearrange his work schedule. Councillor Power will also attend in the interim. A comment was made that Annapolis Royal is the only municipal unit not represented by a CAO at the ADEDA meetings. CAO Boyer said that Deputy Mayor DeWolfe had been the Town's representative on the Board and she had made monthly reports to Council.</p>		
{g} Draft 2009 Strategic Plan	<p>CAO Boyer said the plan is updated for 2009 and recommends that the item be tabled until Council has had an opportunity to review the document. She also said that a recommendation has been made by the Management Team to hold a public session in November to review and discuss the Strategic Plan. CAO Boyer said there is a commitment to publicly review the plan every three years; the last public session was held in November 2006.</p> <p>CAO Boyer asked for permission from Council to post the Strategic Plan on the website.</p> <p>This item will be brought back to the July 15 Committee of the Whole meeting.</p>		
{h} Consideration of naming the new trail after Membertou	<p>June 24, 2010 is the 400th anniversary of Membertou's baptism by the Jesuits. It has been suggested that the new trail behind the Firehall be named after Membertou and that the ceremony coincide with a Parks Canada 300th event to commemorate Chief Membertou at Port Royal.</p> <p>Mayor Roberts said that he has received a letter from Bear River First Nation regarding the renaming of their community and he will respond and also request support for the Membertou trail naming. Members of the public made comments of support and indicated that a relationship with Bear River First Nations was important.</p> <p>It was suggested that Council consider honouring the black loyalists when naming trails and such in the future. It was noted that there is a Rose Fortune plaque at Petit Parc.</p> <p>Mayor Roberts also suggested that a medicine trail be part of the new trail, similar to that in Bear River. Mayor Roberts will continue to look into this.</p>		

{i} Annapolis Royal Climate Change Adaptation Workshop	This would be the fourth in a series of sessions led by Clean Nova Scotia. The middle of September was suggested as a date for the workshop. There is no cost to the Town for this workshop.		
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RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS

Item	Decision / Action	Responsibility	Target Date
(a) Recommendations from Committee of the Whole	<p><i>6. It was moved by Councillor Fearon, seconded by Councillor Power that a Business Liaison Committee be established. Motion carried.</i></p> <p>A preliminary meeting was held. Mayor Roberts, Councillor Power, Val Peterson and Paul Stackhouse were in attendance. This item will be further discussed during the evening session.</p> <p><i>7. It was moved by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor Fearon, that the Westside Studio sidewalk lease be renewed for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Motion carried.</i></p> <p><i>8. It was moved by Councillor Hudson, seconded by Councillor Shaffner, that the current Animal Control Services agreement to recommend adoption rather than disposal of animals that are captured through animal control efforts be so amended. Motion carried.</i></p> <p><i>9. It was moved by Councillor Fearon, seconded by Councillor Power, to approve a funding commitment to a maximum of \$400,000.00 to the Waterfront Development Project subject to the balance of the funding being in place for the 2010-2011 budget year. Motion carried with nay votes recorded from Councillor Hudson and Councillor Shaffner.</i></p>		

	<p>The above motion generated the following discussion: Some members of the public expressed concerns over the project and said that this was not the time for such an expensive project. CAO Boyer said that the Town would have to borrow funds and the Waterfront Development project was part of the reason why the Town was putting additional funds in reserves. She also said that if this project moved forward then all other capital projects would cease for a three-year period. CAO Boyer said that the Town's infrastructure is in excellent shape and can afford a three year break from projects. It was noted that federal and provincial funding depends on the Town's financial commitment.</p> <p>Some concerns were raised about the maintenance of the facility but it has already been determined that the Wharf Association will be responsible for maintenance. Comments were made that some infrastructure in Town, like the Boardwalk, is not properly maintained or cleared of trash. It was noted that replacement of the 25-year old section of the boardwalk is included in the Waterfront Development Project. Mayor Roberts said that the advantage of a wharf is that it would encourage people to use the Annapolis Basin for recreational purposes. A fair amount of employment could be generated through the project. A feasibility study and business plan have been completed and the project appears to be viable. It was agreed that the Basin represents untapped potential for tourism and businesses.</p> <p>ADEDA and Fundycruise.com are also marketing the project.</p> <p>Councillor Shaffner and Councillor Hudson do not believe that this is the time for such a project and have concerns over the financial commitment that is required from the Town.</p>		
{b} Board of Police Commissioners	<p>Councillor Fearon attended the last Board of Police Commissioners meeting on June 10, 2009. Nathan Hudson is the newest member of the Auxiliary Program. The Department does require more space. True Check has been bought out by Back Check and the Department is no longer completing criminal records checks for the company (which represented a new revenue source for the Town).</p> <p>Some concerns were raised about the proposed purchase of rifles for the</p>	Councillor Fearon	

	<p>Department and the amount of policing that is done outside of the Town limits. It was noted that most investigations that the Department are involved in require work outside of the Town limits. The lock-up is located in Digby and the Department also attends court in Digby. Most of the required facilities are not located with the Town limits so it is necessary for the officers to travel outside of Town. The new rifles to be purchased by the Department are considered an operational safety requirement.</p> <p>Mayor Roberts said that he will bring up all of the issues at the next meeting of the Board.</p>		
{c} Mayor's Report	<p>Mayor Roberts spent one month in England and France and participated in the Royan Twinning ceremonies. Mayor Roberts said that he funded his entire trip and the Town incurred no expense as the result of his travel. Mayor Roberts said that a group are planning to come from France next year and some residents of Granville Ferry have offered to billet some of those visitors. More information on the visitors from France will be made available when it is known.</p>	Mayor Phil Roberts	
{d} ADEDA	<p>The AGM will be held on June 25, 2009 at 5:00 pm. Councillor Power and CAO Boyer plan to attend.</p>	Councillor Hudson	
{e} King's Theatre	<p>Councillor Fearon attended a meeting in late May. The newest Board member is a high school student, Carlea Lewis. She is using Facebook as a way of promoting the Theatre. She is also volunteering at Theatre events. The Theatre is currently looking for someone to write performance reviews. The website has been updated and seems to be working well.</p> <p>Jerri Costa said that a golf tournament and a fashion show are being held in September and October. These two projects should raise about \$13,000.00. It was noted that more volunteers are needed at the Theatre.</p>	Councillor Kathie Fearon	
{f} REMO	<p>Councillor Hudson had nothing new to report at this time.</p>	Councillor Sherman Hudson	

{g} Historic Gardens	Councillor Power attended a meeting on June 9, 2009. A special general meeting will take place on June 23, 2009 at 7:00 pm. An action plan is being drafted for the next twelve months.	Councillor Pat Power	
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CORRESPONDENCE

Item	Decision / Action	Responsibility	Target Date
{a} Letter from Lifeplex Wellness Centre	A thank you letter for the prize donation. For information only.		
{b} Letter from John and Melissa Keddy	The letter suggests that the traffic flow on St. Anthony Street, from St. George Street to Church Street, be made one-way. This would make navigating St. Anthony Street easier for pedestrians. This item will be forwarded to the Traffic Authority for review.		

GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. Tim Horton's - A concern was raised about the possibility of a Tim Horton's moving into Town. CAO Boyer said that the issue of Tim Horton's was a follow-up to a request from a business owner. It was noted that the Town cannot prevent any business from moving into Annapolis Royal and Tim Horton's is no exception. There are no plans, that the Town is aware of, for a Tim Horton's in Annapolis Royal. Council Fearon said that she didn't feel that any potential Tim Horton's owner would consider Annapolis Royal a prime location for such a business. The proposed anti-idling by-law would not permit a drive-thru. The heritage aspect of the Town places restrictions on the exterior look of the buildings.

IN CAMERA

It was moved by Councillor Hudson, seconded by Councillor Fearon to move in camera to discuss the potential sale of Town-owned land.

It was moved by Councillor Fearon, seconded by Councillor Hudson to move out of camera.

The meeting recessed until 6:00 pm on June 22, 2009.

The evening session of the regular meeting of Council reconvened at 6:00 pm on Monday, June 22, 2009 in Council Chambers at Town Hall. In attendance were Chair Mayor Phil Roberts, Councillors Kathie Fearon, Doug Shaffner, Sherman Hudson and Pat Power, CAO Amery Boyer, Director of Finance Melony Robinson and Administrative Assistant Jackie Longmire as recording secretary. There were also many members of the public in attendance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion #10

It was moved by Councillor Fearon, seconded by Councillor Hudson, approval of the Agenda dated June 22, 2009 for the evening session of Council. Motion carried.

Mayor Roberts opened the meeting by commenting on how concerned he is over the tone of some e-mails that have been circulating throughout the Town over the past several weeks. He said that the morale of staff and Council is low and that missives of this tone are the last thing that anyone needs at this point. He praised staff and all members of Council for their efforts to date. He said he realizes that there is a perception of overstaffing at Town Hall and that the review of the strategic plan in November will provide the opportunity for staffing and possible cut backs to be discussed in a public forum. He also commented on the resignation of the former Deputy Mayor Dewolfe saying that he hoped that the actions of some over the past few weeks did not contribute to her resignation. She was a valuable part of the workings of Council.

BUSINESS CARRIED FORWARD FROM THE MORNING SESSION

Item	Decision / Action	Responsibility	Target Date
{a} Special Election	<p>As dictated by the MGA, Council has up to four weeks to select a date for the Special Election. The next regular Council meeting is scheduled exactly four weeks from the date of this meeting.</p> <p><i>Motion #11</i> <i>It was moved by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor Fearon to table the setting of the date for the Special Election until the next regular meeting of Council on July 20, 2009. Motion carried.</i></p>	CAO	

	<p>It was noted that Jane DeWolfe indicated in her resignation letter that this was the perfect opportunity for business to be represented on Council. She urged business owners who are residents of Town to consider running for the vacant position.</p>		
{b} Business Liaison Committee	<p>Mayor Roberts and Council Power met with Val Peterson and Paul Stackhouse and the following guidelines were suggested for the Business Liaison committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a member must be a resident or taxpayer of the Town of Annapolis Royal - a representative from the committee will be present at Committee of the Whole meetings - the business committee will get an early heads-up on all issues that may affect business - the Business Liaison Committee will meet sometime between the monthly Committee of the Whole meetings and the regular monthly meetings of Council - if the Business Liaison Committee has suggestions to come before Council those suggestions will be made as recommendations to Council - the Committee will encourage communication between Council and businesses <p>Mayor Roberts said that he will attempt to hold a Mayor's round table before the strategic planning meeting in November. He also said that in an attempt to restore communications the Town's newsletter will be reinstated in hard copy format. Councillor Power will be the Council representative on the Business Liaison Committee and Mayor Roberts will sit in.</p> <p>Mayor Roberts also said that he will be holding Mayor's meetings on the fourth Monday of every month at the Legion beginning at 7:00 pm. He said he will take suggestions and questions from residents and taxpayers during this time. The first meeting will be held on June 29, 2009.</p>		
{c} Pool Insurance	<p>Council has previously discussed the pool insurance issue and the basics are that FAPS wants the Town to cover the pool under its current liability policy.</p>		

	<p>There would be no increase in insurance costs to the Town and it would save FAPS \$1,500.00 in expenses which would have to be fundraised. Many members of the public present were supportive of the pool being covered under the Town's policy.</p> <p>A committee of the Town would have to be created and it would have to appear as though the Town is overseeing the operations of the pool. FAPS would continue to function as it is.</p> <p>Byron Mersereau pointed out the real issue is to provide an indirect subsidy to FAPS in the amount of \$1,500.00. It was noted that the risk to the Town by covering the pool is difficult to quantify. A major incident at the pool that results in an insurance claim would affect the Town whether or not Council agrees to extend this coverage.</p> <p>When this issue was discussed at a previous meeting, additional information was required before a decision could be made. Not all of the additional information has been received. Mayor Roberts suggested that this item be tabled until the Committee of the Whole meeting on July 15, 2009. The following information is required from FAPS: book value of pool and mechanical building, and clarification of who is responsible for the insurance when the pool is not in operation.</p>		
{d} Recommendation from the Committee of the Whole was brought from the May 19, 2009 meeting.	<p>A motion to set the tax rates as \$1.65 residential and \$3.15 commercial was brought forward from the Committee of the Whole meeting. Council changed that motion and made the following motion:</p> <p><i>Motion #12</i> <i>It was moved by Councillor Fearon, seconded by Councillor Power to set the tax rate for the 2009-2010 residential at \$1.65 residential and \$3.05 commercial. Motion carried.</i></p>		

<p>{e} Budget</p>	<p>Mayor Roberts said that staff started working on the budget in December 2008 and every line has been reviewed several times.</p> <p>Greg Pyle said that during hard times leadership is expected. He said that he has been reviewing the Town website, speaking to residents and business owners and educating people on what is happening within Town Hall. He said that he has invited the President of AIMS to come to a meeting because of the failing grade that Annapolis Royal was given for fiscal responsibility as a result of a recent AIMS study. He said that the Town of Bridgetown has a budget that is 25% lower than Annapolis Royal. The Town of Shelburne has a larger population, a budget of \$3.1 million and the cost of running the Town is approximately \$1,650.00 per resident. He questioned the \$4,740.00 per person that it took to operate the Town of Annapolis Royal. He presented a petition to Mayor Roberts with 59 signatures. The petition called for a freeze on all spending and a review of Town administration. He said that residents are concerned about the way money is being spent.</p> <p>Mayor Roberts said that he will take everything into consideration but at this point in the budget year it is too late to make major changes. He suggested that the time for this complete review would be during the public meeting in November. Mayor Roberts also said that Council doesn't know what is going to happen, the appeal on the NSPI property is still ongoing and a new minister will be appointed. He said that it is a difficult time for everyone. He said the Town can freeze all actions or it can move ahead and continue to develop. He said the Town must continue to move forward at this point.</p> <p>Councillor Power said that AIMS representatives were invited to Town Hall shortly after the results of the study were posted. She pointed out that the study used old data and the results were not accurate. It was agreed by some that the AIMS study is not a reliable tool and provides irrelevant information.</p>		
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Wayne Morgan asked Mayor Roberts to address the figures that were provided by Mr. Pyle regarding budgets in other Towns. Mr. Morgan said that the communication between Council and residents is lacking. He specifically mentioned a proposed green energy by-law and the proposed public works building and said that 90% of Town residents were not aware that these things were happening. He stressed the need for better communication and more direct democracy.

Comments were made about the population of the Town being almost 50% higher in 1995 than it is now and when there was less demand for services. The maintenance on the new water and sewer systems should have declined as the systems were upgraded. Council was encouraged to take a closer look at what projects are being approved. The question was asked if curbs and gutters are really necessary on Ritchie and Grange Street. It was suggested that Council ask the question “do we really need a new wharf?”

Mayor Roberts reminded the group that all Committee of the Whole and Council meetings are open to the public and that is where all of these issues are discussed. Mayor Roberts hopes that the newsletter will provide more information to the public. He also said that Annapolis Royal is one of the best-off municipal units in the province when it comes to water and sewer infrastructure. He agreed that the NSPI money received to date had been spent, it is gone, but it had been spent on underground infrastructure. Mayor Roberts said that the Town has to continue with the appeal process to get answers. He said that the Town is also taking the political route with the appeal, but with a new government and a new minister, the process may take longer than expected.

A list of budget suggestions had been previously provided to Mayor Roberts and he said that all suggestions would be taken into consideration and the public meeting in November would be the opportune time to consider all suggestions. Rion Microys suggested that groups be targeted during the public meeting in November. She recommended considering families, businesses, and seniors separately and then evaluating what all groups are looking for.

	<p>It was suggested that Council simply reduce to five members rather than holding a special election. An application would have to be made to the Utility Review Board and the process might take longer than the four-week window before a date has to be called for the election. Mayor Roberts said that the stipends for Annapolis Royal Councillors are the lowest in the Province and reducing the number of Councillors would only save the Town approximately \$4,000.00. Wayne Morgan said that there is an attitude on Council that needs to change; spending by the Town needs to change. Mayor Roberts defended Council by saying that no one came on Council to ruin the Town. He said that Council can discuss the possibility of reducing Council but there are time restraints to be considered.</p> <p>Angela Chartier said that business owners and residents are trying to tell Council that they are not happy with the spending but the spending seems to continue. She raised the issue of the proposed Public Works building and Tim Horton's. The Public Works building was discussed during the morning session of Council and CAO Boyer explained the Tim Horton's issue. Ms. Chartier said she was under the impression that the Town had protection against those types of businesses coming to Town. CAO Boyer said there were no restrictions on any business that wanted to open in Town. It was suggested that such a by-law be drafted and there were several offers to help with the drafting. Wayne Morgan suggested that when it comes to something like a Tim Horton's moving into Town, Council can take a firm position against it. Mayor Roberts commented that he personally would not be in favour of this.</p> <p>Wayne Morgan commented on communication between staff, Council, residents and business owners. He suggested that Councillors make home and business visits to discuss issues and concerns.</p> <p>Mayor Roberts said that the tax rate has been set and now it was time to pass the budget. He said that Council has gone through every line and the budget needs to be passed so that Town business can proceed.</p>		
	<p><i>Motion #13</i> <i>It was moved by Councillor Fearon, seconded by Councillor Power to approve the 2009-2010 operating Budget as presented. Motion carried</i></p>		

	<p><i>with one nay vote recorded.</i></p> <p>Councillor Shaffner said that there are a lot of people who are supporters of the pool but there are also many who do not approve of more tax dollars going to the pool. He said that he cast the deciding vote when the original request for support was presented to Council and he cast that vote based on the agreement that the Town would not provide any additional funds to the pool. His nay vote was cast on the budget based on the \$6,000.00 donation to the pool in the 2009-2010 budget.</p> <p>Councillor Hudson said that he had originally voted nay on the budget but with no increase to the tax rates he could support the budget.</p>		
{f} Capital Budget	<p><i>Motion #14</i> <i>It was moved by Councillor Fearon, seconded by Councillor Hudson to approve the 2009-2010 Capital budget. Motion carried with one nay vote recorded.</i></p> <p>Councillor Power said that she could not approve the capital budget because of the \$5,000.00 for the purchase of rifles. Several comments were made about the prospect of rifles in the Police Department. Chief Matthews provided a written response on the rifle issue and it was read by Mayor Roberts. It was noted that the purchase of the rifles had been previously approved by the Board of Police Commissioners as an operational requirement. Council was urged to reconsider this decision and Mayor Roberts agreed to take the issue back to the Board of Police Commissioners.</p>		

OTHER BUSINESS

The discussion continued and several items were brought to Council's attention. Greg Pyle said that the frustration throughout Town is evident and there is an arrogance among Council that needs to be addressed. Shela Breau talked about better communication and the need for Council and staff to address issues as they come up. She also suggested that the newsletter be delivered door to door.

It was suggested that future Council meetings be held in the evening to provide the opportunity for residents and business owners to attend. A show of hands was requested and the majority of those in attendance prefer evening Council meetings. The Committee of the Whole meetings will continue to take place in the morning but Council meetings will now be called to order at 7:00 pm starting with the July 20th meeting.

It was suggested that search buttons be installed on the website to make it easier to find things.

Mike Fearon addressed a letter that recently circulated throughout the Town. He said that a lot of the information in that letter was dangerously misleading or false and Council needs to counteract such things. He said that the letter indicated that the salaries of Town staff had increased by 45% when in fact the salary line in the budget only increased 4% with the police salaries excluded. He said that the letter indicated that the Town budget has doubled since 2002. He agreed that it had doubled but the spending went towards infrastructure.

Mayor Roberts agreed that communications must be improved.

NEXT MEETING July 20, 2009

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councillor Power 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		

Town of Annapolis Royal
Council Meeting
June 22, 2009

Approved for website by Mayor or CAO		
Forwarded to the Website		