

TOWN OF ANNAPOLIS ROYAL
1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES
February 3, 2010
9:00 am

The regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held on Wednesday, February 3, 2010 in Council Chambers at Town Hall. In attendance were Chair Deputy Mayor Doug Shaffner, Mayor Phil Roberts, Councillors Kathie Fearon, Sherman Hudson, Holger Mueller-Sparenberg and Pat Power, Director of Finance Melony Robinson and Executive Assistant Jackie Longmire as recording secretary. Several members of the public were also in attendance.

Regrets: CAO Amery Boyer

Mayor Phil Roberts opened the meeting by saying that he had another meeting to attend with the Minister of Education regarding the two schools in Town. He will be leaving at 9:30 and rejoining the Committee of the Whole meeting as soon as possible. Deputy Mayor Shaffner will chair the Committee of the Whole meeting.

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

January 6, 2010

Motion # 1

It was moved by Councillor Hudson, seconded by Councillor Power, that the Committee of the Whole minutes dated January 6, 2010 be approved, as presented. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SPECIAL MINUTES

January 28, 2010

Motion #2

It was moved by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor Mueller-Sparenberg, that the Special Committee of the Whole minutes dated January 28, 2010 be approved , as presented.

The minutes were taken during a presentation from Karen Smith of the Annapolis District Health Authority. Mayor Roberts said that it was clear that a change is coming to the Health Centre but there are no additional details available on what the changes may include. Public

meetings are apparently planned for February 11 and 15 to discuss the issues. Mayor Roberts said that it is his understanding that no decision to close the Health Centre has been made but changes to the configuration are very possible.

It was noted in the minutes that potential Council action could be in the form of a letter of support but Mayor Roberts said that Council does not know the position of the Board and it is difficult to support the unknown. It was suggested that a letter of support be drafted for the services that are currently offered at the Health Centre.

John Kinsella said that the community is basically responding to uncertainty, there are a lot of rumours but no firm details on the proposed changes will be. Mr. Kinsella was nominated to the Board of Health Directors in 2009 but is yet to be appointed. He has received word that the appointment may take place in March 2010. Until Mr. Kinsella is appointed, there is no representation from this area on the Board. Mayor Roberts will follow up on the appointment and point out that Annapolis Royal is being denied a voice by not having representation on the Board. Mr. Kinsella also pointed out that there are several other things that will be affected by the possible closure of the emergency department at the Health Centre. The cadets that come to Cornwallis in the summer require access to emergency department facilities and the threat of closure may result in the cadet program being discontinued. Annapolis Royal needs to resolve its tax issues and if the emergency department closes it will be difficult to attract potential new residents. Mr. Kinsella said Annapolis Royal downgraded the hospital to a Health Centre because that is what the community believed it needed to do to keep the services. He said that the community needs to speak on this issue and put forth an effort to keep the Health Centre open with a 24-hour emergency department.

Karen Smith of the Annapolis District Health authority made the same presentation to County Council as well as other interested groups and organizations. Residents of the County of Annapolis are being encouraged to call their Council representative to express concerns over the Health Centre.

The emergency department at the Digby hospital was closed 20 days last month and most of the patients from that area are travelling to Annapolis Royal for health care. If the emergency department in Annapolis Royal closes, the patients from Digby may have to travel as far as Yarmouth to receive medical attention.

A letter-writing campaign will be launched immediately and everyone was encouraged to attend the upcoming public meetings. A phone number was provided (1-800-267-1993) so that messages could be left for the Premier. MLA Steven McNeil will also be contacted about John Kinsella's appointment as well as the Health Centre concerns.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

January 6, 2010

Motion #2

It was moved by Councillor Mueller-Sparenberg, seconded by Councillor Hudson, that the agenda dated January 6, 2010 be approved as amended. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None

PRESENTATIONS -

1. Presentation on treatment for Dutch elm disease – Angelika Waldow has been doing tree care in the Town for the past three years. She said that the Town has a good Dutch elm disease management plan and many elms have been saved but she suggested that that Council consider a vaccination for healthy elms. The vaccination called Dutch Trig has just been recently approved in Canada and the cost per vaccination, per tree is approximately \$100.00 annually. It was suggested that the process be started by identifying the elms that are on Town property and possibly endangered. A number of trees (10-15) could be selected to receive the vaccinations as a pilot project. It may also be possible to receive funding through the Green Streets program or to launch an adopt-a-tree program.

Ms. Waldow was asked to return to the Council meeting on February 15 with additional details and a complete budget.

2. Presentation from Keith Crysler – Historic Gardens – The Historic Gardens had requested an operating grant in 2008-2009 that was equal to the taxes on the property and that the grant be issued for two years in a row. Mr. Crysler said that the funding request remains the same for 2010-2011 but with the 10% reduction that Council had indicated would be applied to all grants. Mr. Crysler said that the financial picture of the Gardens looks good and the financial support of the Town creates a positive reaction within the community. Some changes have been made to the Gardens accounting practices and the changes seem to be beneficial. He talked about renovations at the gardens and the generous input from volunteers. The Gardens is considered a substantial economic generator for the Town and the funding request will be added to budget discussions.

3. Presentation from Debi Karrel – Property Valuation Services – Ms. Karrel explained the assessment process and how a value is placed on a property based on the surrounding properties and other details. She explained the CAP program and how to appeal your assessed value. She said that market value is considered when assessing properties so that the values are uniform and fair to everyone. The total assessments in Annapolis Royal have increased by 3.0 % for 2010-2011. A total of 151 properties in Annapolis Royal have been capped. If a capped property is sold, the cap is removed for one year.

The NSPI assessment appeal issue was raised and Ms. Karrel explained that large, unique properties are difficult to assess and the process could take a considerable amount of time. Mayor Roberts said that it has been over a year since the NSPI appeal process was started and there has been no response to date. Ms. Karrel said that she would try and get some information on the status of the appeal and would relay any updates to Council.

BUSINESS ARISING

Item	Decision / Action	Responsibility	Target Date
1. Budget discussions	<p>The Annapolis Royal Fire Department is purchasing a new truck and the Director of Finance has added \$20,000.00 to the capital budget to reflect the Town's share of the purchase.</p> <p>Departmental budgets are due on February 10 and a full review of the complete budget is scheduled for February 15, 2010. Department heads will present their budget to Council at that time.</p>		
2. Single Tax bill	<p>It had been requested that the Council considering issuing only one tax bill per year and the issue had previously been discussed. It was agreed at that time that the issue should be discussed at an upcoming public meeting. This item was not raised at the last public meeting held by the Town and Council has agreed that it must be discussed before it can be implemented. This item has been deferred until the next public meeting.</p>		
3. Update on signage at 204 St. Anthony Street	<p>The building inspector has visited the property and has suggested that if the Town wants to have the signage on the side of the property removed it must be handled through the unsightly-premises process. The large sign in the window of the property advertising storage space has been removed at the request of the building inspector.</p>		

NEW BUSINESS

Item	Decision / Action	Responsibility	Target Date
1. Water Tests	Water tests have been reviewed and found to be within the required parameters.	CAO Boyer	
2. Street Lighting	<p>There are decorative streetlights on St. George Street that serve no purpose other than decoration; some are hanging directly under the LED streetlights. It was suggested that the lights be removed and possibly used in another location or sold. It was noted that the lanterns were part of a streetscape plan several years ago and are considered by some as an historic detail.</p> <p><i>Motion #4</i> <i>It was moved by Council Power, seconded by Mayor Roberts, to recommend to Council that the decorative lanterns attached to the poles on St. George Street remain attached but the light bulbs removed so that the lanterns are decorative only. Motion carried with one nay vote recorded.</i></p>		
3. 300 th anniversary and Annapolis, Maryland	The Twinning Committee will draft a letter to the Mayor of Annapolis, Maryland to extend an invitation to visit. The visit may include the 300 th anniversary events or a small reception.	Mayor Roberts	
4. Agricultural land consultations	For information only.		
5. Policy on flags at Town Hall	<p>Mayor Roberts suggested that a policy be created for flag raisings to ensure that all members of Council are aware of planned flag-raising events. All requests to fly flags are to be considered by Council.</p> <p><i>Motion #4</i> <i>It was moved by Mayor Roberts, seconded by Councillor Hudson to recommend to Council that a policy be drafted to address requests for flags to be raised on the pole at Town Hall.</i></p>	Executive Assistant	

6. Cycling Project	<p>The Cities and Environment Unit at Dalhousie University has put together a proposal for a cycling project for Annapolis Royal valued at \$282,730.00. The proposal requires a commitment by the Town of at least 20%, or \$57,200.00. Wages for the Department of Recreation can go towards the Town's share, and this amounts to \$42,400.00. That leaves \$15,000.00 in cash that the Town needs to raise. It is proposed that the CAO and the Recreation Director commit to finding that \$15,000.00 in cash by cobbling together contributions from other agencies.</p> <p>Staff are therefore recommending the following motion to Committee of the Whole:</p> <p>That the Town support the cycling project developed by the Cities and Environment Unit at Dalhousie University valued at \$282,730.00 and that it commit \$57,200.00 to the project which will include Recreation salaries of \$42,400.00 and \$15,000.00 in cash.</p> <p>This item has been deferred to the Environment Committee for further review and comment</p>		
7. Town position on provincial budget	CAO Boyer has drafted a response on the Town's position on the provincial budget. A date has not been scheduled for a meeting in this area. The response will be reviewed when a meeting is scheduled.		
8. Invitation to the Annapolis County February Council Meeting	Deputy Mayor Shaffner will attend the Annapolis County Council meeting at the Inglewood Community Hall.		
9. Letter from Carol Milligan re: condition of the pavement on St. George Street	Ms. Milligan said that there are some areas of St. George Street that have pavement patch work that has created large bumps on the street. The Superintendent of Public Works will be asked to inspect the identified area and confirm whether or not this is a valid point.		

10. Canadian Wildlife Service	An invitation has been received from Environment Canada to comment on the proposed amendment to Schedule 1 of the Species at Risk Act. This information will be forwarded to the local field naturalists.		
11. Traffic Authority	<p>Corporal Will Chase was handling the duties of the Traffic Authority until a new Chief was appointed. Burt McNeil has taken the oath of Chief and will now assume the Traffic Authority duties.</p> <p><i>Motion #6</i> <i>It was moved by Councillor Hudson, seconded by Mayor Roberts, to recommend to Council that Chief Burt McNeil be appointed as the Traffic Authority for the Town of Annapolis Royal. Motion carried.</i></p>		
12. Recommendation from the Police Board	<p>The following recommendation was brought to the Committee of the Whole so that there could be a response for the Police Board meeting on February 10, 2010.</p> <p><i>It was moved by Jim MacIntosh, seconded by Kathie Fearon to recommend to Council that the surveillance cameras at St. Anthony Street, Victoria Street and the Wharf be repaired so that they are functioning and recording properly. Motion carried.</i></p> <p>Patrick Wadden from Maritect has been contacted. A bucket truck is required as the problems appear to be with the actual cameras. An estimate for the price to repair is \$1,500.00 to \$2,000.00 but that may change after the cameras have been looked at by the technician.</p> <p><i>Motion #7</i> <i>It was moved by Mayor Roberts, seconded by Councillor Fearon, to recommend to Council that the surveillance cameras at St. Anthony Street, Victoria Street and the Wharf be repaired so that they are functioning and recording properly. Motion carried.</i></p>		

GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. **Letter from Rear-Admiral Maddison re 100th anniversary of the Navy** – Mayor Roberts will be the contact for this event and will respond with contact information.
2. **NSURB hearing re: Acadian Lines** – A public hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, February 24 at the Old Orchard Inn to discuss the proposed changes to the Acadian bus line services.
3. **Letter from Buckingham Palace** - A response was received from Her Majesty's secretary to Mayor Roberts letter regarding the Town crest.
4. **Memo from the Municipality of the District of Guysborough re: Haiti relief** – For information only.

IN CAMERA

The in-camera session was deferred until the next meeting of Council on Monday, February 15, 2010

NEXT MEETING

March 3, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councillor Power that the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned.

<i>1Action:</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Signature</i>
Reviewed by Mayor Roberts		
Changes made by Administrative Assistant Jackie Longmire		
Approved for website by CAO		
Sent to webmaster		