

Approved – June 14, 2010

Council Advisory Committee

MINUTES

May 10, 2010 – 1:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor David Corkum, Deputy Mayor Bill Boyd, Councilor Tony Bentley, Councilor Bernie Cooper, Councilor Nola Folker-Hill, Councilor Eric Bolland, Councilor Mark Pearl, CAO Keith Robicheau, Town Solicitor Peter Muttart and Recording Secretary Patricia Gourley

Director Debra Crowell, Director Mark Phillips, Director Bev Gentleman and Director Greg Kehoe

Absent - Town Clerk Carol Harmes
(Minutes transcribed by Carol Harmes)

**CALL TO ORDER AND
ROLL CALL**

Mayor David Corkum called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and CAO Robicheau reported that all members of Council were present.

**APPROVAL OF THE
AGENDA**

It was moved by Councilor Mark Pearl and seconded by Councilor Nola Folker-Hill

that the agenda be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

PRESENTATION - AVRSB

Margot Tait, Superintendent of AVRSB, along with her colleague David Jones, the Director of Programs and Services, presented a response to the AIMS report (Atlantic Institute for Market Studies) in which the Northeast Kings Educational Centre was given a very bad review.

Ms. Tait gave an overview of how the AIMS report information is gathered and noted that this independent organization has conducted this study for the last 8 years, for the purpose of rating high schools. As the data and criteria changes from year to year, some school boards find it difficult to respond to the survey. An example of this would be a record of attendance, which could be calculated differently, but different schools. In addition, the ranking system has changed and appears unfair in many circumstances. The principal of NKEC has contacted AIMS

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and asked them to review their data. There appears to be a wide socio-economic range in Kings County and here again, there is some uncertainty as to how that information is used in ranking.

Ms. Tait did add that NKEC had the largest number of scholarships of any high school and over the last 2 years over 75% of its graduates have gone on to secondary educational training. This school has been part of a pilot program for the Accreditation Program and it continues to be involved.

Points from Discussion

- Council has had to address the issue of NKEC's ranking with members of the public, who believe what they read in the paper.
- Concern exists in the Town of Kentville that parents may move to another school catchment area to be in a more favourably ranked school district.
- There have been situations where the collection of the same data has been recorded differently.
- Although some schools did not provide information for this survey, they were ranked nonetheless.
- An online communication system is being set up to link all schools and information will be available to the public through this system.
- The school boards are required to provide information to AIMS through the Freedom of Information legislation.
- Internal reviews take place regularly to assess various aspects of the schools.
- Evaluations and rankings of the schools are healthy but may have more significance if the survey is done internally.
- The Minister's Report Card to parents contains the provincial assessment results.

In closing, Mayor Corkum thanked the school board for offering some explanation on the AIMS report, for supporting the new school here in Kentville and for using the name "Kings County Academy" for the new school.

**APPROVAL OF THE
MINUTES**

(a) April 13, 2010

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Bill Boyd and seconded by Councilor Eric Bolland

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that the Minutes of April 13, 2010 be approved as circulated, with the correction of a spelling error on page 5.

MOTION CARRIED

(b) April 20, 2010

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Bill Boyd and seconded by Councilor Bernie Cooper

that the Minutes of April 20, 2010 be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM
THE MINUTES**

(a) Alarms Bylaw – Police/Fire

Councilor Cooper noted that a discussion took place on this item at a recent Police Board meeting, and it appears that at the next Fire Governance Meeting, a draft bylaw will be presented.

**DEPARTMENTAL
REPORTS**

(a) Finance

(i) Director's Report

Director Crowell reported that the 4th quarter utility bills are due in May, as are the interim tax bills. The budget and year-end audit processes are underway, with a deficit posted for the Operating Fund at \$193,647. She noted, however, that year end results for the utilities indicate surpluses in both funds – Sanitary Sewer Area Service (\$16,653) and Kentville Water Commission at \$47,639.

She further pointed out that there had been a revenue shortfall of \$158,700, as compared to budget, with expenditures over budget by \$34,900. A detailed explanation of the various accounts supported these figures.

With the Perpetual Investment Fund, the total investment at cost is \$12,942,736 and at market is \$12,480,902, with total income (net of fees) being \$516,793 and capital gains at \$145,280. She noted that since its inception in 1999, \$7.54 million has been realized for withdrawal from this fund.

It was moved by Councilor Bernie Cooper and seconded by Councilor Nola Folker-Hill

that the report from the Director of Finance be received.

MOTION CARRIED

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Director Crowell and CAO Robicheau recommended that Council considers the option of transferring funds of \$100,000 from the Town's Operating Reserve Fund, thereby reducing the deficit to \$93,647. This would be a one time drawdown meant to lessen the impact on the tax rate resulting from this deficit. It was noted that these reserves would be rebuilt as soon as possible.

Therefore, it was moved by Deputy Mayor Bill Boyd and seconded by Councilor Bernie Cooper

*Recommendation to
Council*

that a recommendation be made to Council to transfer \$100,000 from the accumulated surplus in the Town of Kentville's Operating Reserve Fund to help mitigate the impact that the deficit will have on the 2010/2011 tax rates.

MOTION CARRIED

(b) Planning and Development

(i) Director's Report

Director Gentleman reported that there were 9 permits issued in April for \$1,267,200. She added that work continues with the Shaffer C & D site application and that a letter expressing the Town's concern and recommendations has been sent to the County. In addition, the Wellhead Protection Zone issue in the Industrial Park has been reviewed as it relates to prohibited uses. A discussion will take place at a future Water Commission meeting to consider allowing maintenance facilities as an accessory use.

Director Gentleman also outlined the number of meetings she attended, of particular interest being a UNSM workshop entitled "*Keeping your ICSP off the Shelf: Moving from Planning to Implementation.*"

Following some questions, it was moved by Councilor Mark Pearl and seconded by Deputy Mayor Bill Boyd

that the report from the Director of Planning and Development be received.

MOTION CARRIED

Points from Discussion

- A full discussion should be undertaken at a Water Commission meeting to review all permitted and prohibited uses in the Wellfield Protection Zone.

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- Reconsideration should also be given to accessory or incidental uses.

(ii) Committee Report

Councilor Mark Pearl had nothing further to report.

(e) Parks and Recreation

(i) Director's Report

A report from Director Phillips pointed out that the Home Show was successful, with 100 booths (75 vendors) and that Facility Manager Kevin Bennett is to be congratulated for his hard work. With the Solar Project at the arena, work has slowed somewhat in both the engineering of the units and the budgetary issues relating to this project. Both the new Zamboni and ceiling/lighting projects make up the 2010 Capital Work and these projects are underway. The final draft of the energy audit is expected soon and will be made available for review. A Press Release will be prepared to promote these positive initiatives to the public

Director Phillips outlined a number of meetings he attended, giving an update on each project. One item that does require some work is the future use of the old KCA and the supporting infrastructure supporting this building. Expressions of Interest could be obtained on potential development projects for this property.

He added that meetings with the soccer community and work to support this program has been undertaken to ensure that the fields are easily accessible and convenient for use over the summer season.

In addition, the Department has undertaken some very successful special events over the last month (Kentville Volunteer Dinner, Princess Tea, with Princess Kara Hill crowned for 2010) and Lindsay Young should be congratulated for her efforts.

Summer employment and programming preparations are well underway; the year round Farmers Market begins May 26th, and the bridge and trail work is expected to be completed at the Ducks Unlimited site within a few weeks.

It was moved by Councilor Nola Folker-Hill and seconded by Councilor Tony Bentley

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that the report from the Director of Parks and Recreation be received.

MOTION CARRIED

(ii) Community Development Issues

Director Phillips related that the Farmers Market will begin soon, a meeting has been held on the Community in Blooms program and ongoing communication continues with the business district in the absence of the Community Development Officer.

(iii) Committee Report

Councilor Nola Folker-Hill reported that the committee has not met.

(f) Police

(i) Chief's Report

CAO Robicheau reported that the Police Chief was not available to attend this meeting, however, reported that there had been a time-consuming fraud investigation, involving a great deal of work in securing a guilty plea. With foot patrol, 73 hours were recorded for the month and after-hour's calls amounted to 1530 for the year-to-date. A number of calls have related to loitering in the downtown area.

It was moved by Councilor Bernie Cooper and seconded by Councilor Eric Bolland

that the report from the Chief of Police be received.

MOTION CARRIED

Points from Discussion

- Hot dog vendors who are commercially sponsored compete with fund-raising groups and should be charged a vendor's fee, as per our bylaw.

(ii) Board Report

Councilor Bernie Cooper reported that the usual seasonal loitering is being addressed by the police.

(g) Transportation Services

(i) Director's Report

Director Greg Kehoe reported that work (paving, patching, cleaning and painting) on the streets has kept the Public Works crews busy and some changes in parking time are

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being considered on a trial basis in the Lawton's/Home Hardware parking lot. Work on the 2010/2011 Operating and Capital Budgets continues.

With the Regional Sewer system, work proceeds with the proposed development in the industrial park and discussions move forward between ACA/Eastern Protein regarding the feasibility of this project. In addition, meetings continue to review the list of priority capital projects for 2010/2011 and more will follow on this issue.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Bill Boyd and seconded by Councilor Eric Bolland

that the report from the Director of Transportation Services be received.

MOTION CARRIED

Points from Discussion

- The evaluation of the 2-hour parking in the lot between Lawton's and Rockwell's is an excellent idea, as a shortened time allowance in this area, might prevent workers in the downtown core from parking there, and moving their vehicles prior to the time running out.
- The Public Works crews should be commended for their outstanding efforts this time of year, especially as they pertain to preparations for the Apple Blossom Festival.
- A paving tender has been called and is being advertised more widely, with the approval process being anticipated in June.
- Repairs to potholes and patching come under a separate project, other than the capital work done on the streets.

(ii) Committee Report

Deputy Mayor Bill Boyd had nothing further to report.

(h) Water Commission

(i) Directors Report

Director Greg Kehoe reported that the new rates have been in effect since April 1st. He also noted that maintenance on the kitchen meter at the Valley Regional Hospital has resulted in a more accurate and increased billing from what

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had been previously recorded. Also the pump at Mitchell Avenue has been replaced as has the one at the Prospect Avenue treatment site. Other pumps are being checked and replaced if needed, and the system has been checked for leaks. Fire hydrants have been flushed and work continues with the Planning Department on well field protection and the proposed C & D site near McGee Lake.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Bill Boyd and seconded by Councilor Nola Folker-Hill

that the report from the Water Commission, be received.

MOTION CARRIED

(ii) Commission Report

Mayor David Corkum noted that there is a meeting scheduled for June 8th.

(g) (i) Chief Administrative Officer's Report

CAO Robicheau made reference to the attached report and noted that with the Kentville Future Site, good interest continues in the available lots. A report is expected soon from Dr. Vigerstad regarding the site condition of the Machine Shop property, which will supplement the other report recently made available. With the Valley Community Fibre Network, the CAO is still waiting for information regarding the buy-in costs for this project. Therefore, the capital contribution is currently still unknown.

He added that some meetings (with our local MLA, the Minister and senior staff of the Department of Education) regarding the new School will be discussed In Camera later. Further, it appears that the County will be unable to proceed with the Kings Partnership Steering Committee meetings until the fall, however, work continues on the VWRM Working Group regarding the development of Reserve Fund policies and strategies. The CAO also attended meetings regarding the new Fire Chief, for Kings Transit Authority, and PANS Joint Bargaining Strategy Sessions, and added that another Labour-Management meeting for CUPE will be required soon.

It was moved by Councilor Bernie Cooper and seconded by Councilor Eric Bolland

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that the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.

MOTION CARRIED

Points from Discussion

- Information is currently being sought (site conditions of property, alignments of property, dedication of roadways and environmental plans, etc.) and therefore, the progress in moving forward with a sale of properties of the Kentville Futures Site has been somewhat delayed.

(ii) Town Clerk's Report

No report was available

NEW BUSINESS

(a) Bishop's Cellar

CAO Robicheau noted that a request for a letter of support had been received from the Kings Regional Development Agency for a new Bishop's Landing Wine and Specialty Store proposed to be located in Wolfville. A draft letter was presented, addressed to the Hon. Graham Steele, Minister of Finance and Minister Responsible for the *Liquor Control Act* and the Nova Scotia Liquor Corporation.

Councillor Pearl reported that the proponent of the new location in Wolfville made a presentation at a recent Kings RDA Board meeting, highlighting the importance of this proposed outlet in support of the local wine industry, which is not well-represented in NSLC stores. He advised that the Kings RDA Board hoped that the County of Kings and the Towns of Berwick, Kentville and Wolfville will all provide letters of support and submit them as soon as possible with copies to local MLA's.

Therefore, it was moved by Councilor Mark Pearl and seconded by Councilor Eric Bolland

Recommendation to Council

that Council ratifies the submission of a letter of support to the Hon. Graham Steele for the proposed Wolfville location of Bishop's Landing Wine and Specialty Store.

MOTION CARRIED

(b) Budget Meeting – Date

CAO Robicheau pointed out that there is a need to review the Capital Budget and the next version of the Town's

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Operating Budget, and suggested that a meeting date be established for this. Following co-ordination of various Council schedules, it was decided that May 17th at 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. would be scheduled for this Budget Meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

none

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilor Tony Bentley and seconded by Councilor Bernie Cooper

that the meeting adjourn at 4:10 p.m. to go In Camera to discuss Land Acquisition.

MOTION CARRIED

IN CAMERA

(a) Land Acquisition

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Bill Boyd and seconded by Councilor Bernie Cooper

that the In Camera Meeting adjourn at 4:50 p.m., following which the Council Advisory Committee Meeting would resume

MOTION CARRIED

CAC RESUMES

(a) Expropriation of Shell Property

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Bill Boyd and seconded by Councilor Bernie Cooper

Recommendation to Council

that a recommendation be made to Council that the Town of Kentville expropriates the Shell Property on River Street and that it adopts the Resolution regarding the expropriation, as prepared by the Town's Solicitor.

MOTION CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded

that the regular meeting of Council Advisory Committee adjourns at 4:55 p.m., following which a Special Meeting of Council be held.

MOTION CARRIED