



**QUISPAMIS TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

**December 3, 2019, 7:00 pm
Council Chambers
Quispamsis Town Hall**

Present: Mayor Gary Clark
Deputy Mayor Libby O'Hara
Councillor Sean Luck
Councillor Kirk Miller
Councillor Emil T. Olsen
Councillor Pierre Rioux
Councillor Beth Thompson
Deville, Susan; CAO
Brandon, Krista; Town Treasurer
Kennedy, Aaron; Communications Manager
Losier, Gary; Director of Engineering & Works
Purton Dickson, Dana; Director of Community Services
Snow, Catherine; Town Clerk

Absent: Councillor Lisa Loughery (Work Commitment)

1. Approval of Agenda

Moved By Deputy Mayor O'Hara

Seconded By Councillor Olsen

The Agenda be approved as prepared.

Motion Carried

2. Mayor's Comments (None)

3. Moment of Reflection

Councillor Miller read the Moment of Reflection.

4. Disclosures of Interest

No disclosures were declared.

5. Presentations

5.1 KV Oasis Youth Centre Presentation - Update on 2019 Activities

In Attendance: Caitlin, Grogan, Co-Chair, Youth Advisory Committee, Dr. Wendy Stewart, Chair Clinical & Research Committee & Mallory Curwin, Executive Director

Ms. Caitlin Grogan presented the following highlights of KV Oasis's 2019 year:

- 9207 Visits to the Centre,
- 1209 Participants in the Centre's Programs,
- 525 Youth Attendance from Rothesay,
- 263 Youth Attendance from Quispamsis,
- 113 Youth Attendance from Greater Saint John Area,
- 327 Youth Meals served,
- Fundraisers
 - Power of Determination, (\$60,000)
 - Over the Edge, (\$28,000)

Dr. Wendy Stuart, Pediatrics Neurologist and Chair of the Clinical & Research Committee, expressed the importance of having a place for youth to go to be supported by both their peers and by adults. Young people, especially those who may feel isolated, can come to Oasis, and feel safe and learn about the programs and great resources available for mental health issues, involving useful information and coping skills. She related grants she has received to conduct research using the narrative from youth who are struggling with mental illness at the Centre, acknowledging their incredible resiliency. With one in five people in Canada expected to develop mental health issues at some point in their life, including a high number with anxiety related disorders, it is important, she concluded, to help these young people who are struggling early on before they become diagnosed with more serious mental health illnesses.

KV Oasis representatives confirmed they have also made presentation to the Town of Rothesay, attributing the higher number of Rothesay youth are frequenting the facility as they live closer, within walking distance. Oasis' main financial challenge is covering their operating expenses, with rent being their big ticketed item. Fundraising events are held throughout the year to help offset the operating expenses.

Moved By Deputy Mayor O'Hara
Seconded By Councillor Olsen

Representatives from KV Oasis Youth Centre be thanked for their presentation and update on their 2019 activities, and the great work they have been doing with the young people in the community, acknowledging their previously submitted grant application will be addressed as part of the 2020 budget process.

Motion Carried

6. Public Hearings (none)

7. Minutes of Previous Meetings

7.1 November 19, 2019 - Regular Meeting

Moved By Councillor Rioux

Seconded By Councillor Luck

Minutes be approved as prepared.

Motion Carried

7.2 November 23, 2019 - Special Budget Meeting - Meeting Minutes & Attached Staff Budget Presentations

Moved By Councillor Thompson

Seconded By Deputy Mayor O'Hara

The November 23, 2019 Special Meeting minutes be approved as prepared.

Motion Carried

8. Unfinished Business

8.1 (May 1/18) Smoke Free Spaces By-law - Request for Update from Dr. Kerrie Luck

Correspondence from Dr. Kerrie Luck requested an update on her request for a "Smoke Free Spaces By-law", noting with the recent epidemic of youth vaping in NB, she would like to know how the Town plans to promote a healthy environment and prevent smoking and vaping in the community.

The Director of Community Services expanded upon her Staff Report noting Council had allocated \$15,000 in the 2019 budget for implementation of an enhanced smoke free spaces by-law that would prohibit smoking and vaping on municipal property, including roads and sidewalks. Since that time, an interdepartmental working group has been working on components of the Smoke

Free By-law Implementation Strategy. The Town Solicitor has drafted the By-law and presented it to Council in August. In addition, a Smoke Free Policy will be implemented and will apply to all employees of the Town and will mirror the new Smoke Free Places By-law to ensure consistency. Further, as was approved by Council in September 2019, the effective date for the by-law and policy was moved from January 1, 2020 to April 1, 2020 to allow Staff at the time to focus on the Collective Agreement negotiation process. The By-law and policy, she noted, will be presented to Council at the February and March meetings in preparation of the April 1 launch date.

Councillor Luck noted the health and safety concerns associated with young people vaping, and feels the implementation of the Smoke Free By-law, the first such By-law for a municipality in New Brunswick, is a step in the right direction.

Moved By Councillor Luck

Seconded By Deputy Mayor O'Hara

Staff continue to move forward with the implementation of the Staff Nicotine Replacement Therapy Program in January, and that the Smoke Free Spaces Policy and By-Law be presented to Council for approval in time for the April 1st, 2020 target date.

Motion Carried

8.2 (Nov.19/19) Proposed 2020 Budget - Revised Version Reflecting Council Changes from November 23, 2019 Budget Meeting

A Staff Report from the Town Treasurer summarized the budget changes since the November 23, 2019 Special Meeting, resulting in a tax rate that was initially presented by Administration at 1.3771 for 2020 to a reduced tax rate of 1.2345; which reflects a 2.73 cent increase over 2019; and a total budget of \$25,834,919.

Utility Rates - The sewer rate proposed is up \$40 from \$448 in 2019 to \$488 in 2020. The fixed water rate is up \$20 from the 2019 annum rate of \$216 to \$236; with consumption fees of \$0.9614 low rate, (\$0.874 - 2019), and \$1.5224 high rate (\$1.384-2019).

A lengthy discussion ensued on the following items proposed in the 2020 Budget, with decisions/consensuses of Council, as noted:

- Meenan's Cove Beach House Upgrade (\$1.883m) - Consensus of Council to leave the \$1.883m in the 2020 budget, recognizing that this is *not* an approval of the preliminary designs previously presented to Council in Committee, and in the interim, CAO Deville will research if a Design Build concept, as suggested by Councillor Luck, would be a viable option for the proposed

expansion to the Beach House, with further discussion and decision of Council on the building design to take place at a later date.

- QMA Parking Lot Resurfacing (Ph. 2 & 3) - (\$95,000) – Further to additional discussion on this item, while a motion of approval was passed on this item at the November 23, 2019 Special Meeting; fundamentally, it was noted, these motions are to provide direction to the Town Treasurer to prepare the Proposed 2020 Budget, and are still up for discussion and change until the final budget is approved.

Moved By Councillor Miller

Seconded By Councillor Luck

The \$95,000 expenditure previously allocated to complete the resurfacing of the QMA parking lot, (Phases 2 & 3), remain in the 2020 Budget, however, these funds be reallocated to the 2020 Street Capital Program rather than completing the QMA Parking Lot resurfacing.

Against: (1): Councillor Thompson

Motion Carried

- Staffing – Three (3) Positions – (Total Cost Originally based on 10 Month Hire, Estimated at \$183,000; Reduced to Estimated cost of \$133,000 by Phasing In Positions)
 - Planning,
 - qplex Assistant Operations Supervisor,
 - Parks & Facilities Contracts Supervisor

Moved By Councillor Olsen

Seconded By Councillor Thompson

Council authorize leaving the three (3) new employees in the Proposed 2020 Budget based on a phased in approach as recommended by CAO Deville – 10 months, 8 months, and 4 months resulting in estimated savings over the initially presented numbers for the 2020 year of \$50,000.

Against (2): Councillor Luck, and Councillor Miller

Motion Carried

- Sustaining Saint John - New Regional Greater Saint John Facilities' Cost-Sharing Model

Moved By Councillor Miller

Seconded By Councillor Luck

The Town of Quispamsis' potential savings of \$95,000 in the 2020 Budget year, as a result of the Town of Hampton, the Village of St. Martins and the 10 Local Service Districts (LSDs), being required , effective January 1, 2020 to financially contribute to the Greater Saint John Regional Facilities' Operating Budgets, be allocated to the Town's 2020 Street Capital Program, contingent upon the Provincial Legislation re the Regional Facilities Cost-Sharing Model being passed.

Motion Carried

➤ Summary of Budget Changes

Moved By Councillor Thompson

Seconded By Councillor Olsen

The Town Treasurer proceed with finalizing the 2020 budget as revised for final resolution at the December 17th meeting, at a tax rate of 1.3428.

Against (2): Councillor Luck, and Councillor Miller

Motion Carried

Other

Garbage & Recycling Curbside Pick Up – Councillor Rioux asked Staff to prepare as one of the points on the 2020 Budget Highlights, a breakdown showing cost savings to residents since the Town has incorporated garbage and curbside recycling into the municipal tax rate vs. when residents hired their own private collectors.

9. Correspondence (none)

10. By-laws (none)

11. New Business

11.1 Meenan's Cove Naturalized Flood Mitigation Berm

A Staff Report from the Town Treasurer acknowledged when the Civic Centre/Fire Station 2/Meenan's Cove Park Renovation Proposal originated, the naturalized berm at Meenan's Cove was not part of the project. At that time, (Dec.2017), the 2018 and 2019 spring freshet flood events had not yet occurred. Given the extensive renovations being proposed, she noted it is critical to have the berm constructed before winter. The funds allocated in the 2019 Capital Budget for Meenan's Cove Upgrades was originally going to be used for this purpose, however, she feels this should be considered a separate project. The Town is currently in discussions with the Province to secure Disaster Recovery funds for this project as it was only because of the due diligence of the Parks & Facilities Staff that there was no flood damage to the Beach House the past two years. Ms.

Brandon requested an additional expense in 2019 of \$200,000 be approved by Council with funding to come from any Disaster Recovery Funds received, and the remaining funds to come from the Town's General Capital Reserve.

The Community Services Director confirmed construction of the berm has already started to be ready for the spring freshet 2020, and costs have increased from \$150,000 to \$200,000 due to change orders in the amount of \$26,000. These change orders included, while the earth was dug out, the parking lot storm water system that was running through the catch basin between the berm and the Beach House is being redirected outside the berm to prevent future flooding, and further, the building foundation that drained into a drywell at the back of the Beach House is now being extended to beyond the berm with a back flow prevention device.

Moved By Councillor Rioux

Seconded By Councillor Olsen

An expense of \$200,000 be approved for the construction of a naturalized flood mitigation berm, with funding to come from Disaster Recovery funds and the General Capital Reserve for the remaining balance up to \$200,000.

Motion Carried

12. Reports

12.1 Kennebecasis Public Library September 18, 2019 Meeting Minutes, Financials & Associated Documents

12.2 2020 Council & Planning Advisory Committee Calendar

Moved By Councillor Luck

Seconded By Councillor Olsen

Reports be received and filed.

Motion Carried

13. Business Arising from Committee of the Whole (none)

14. Adjournment

Moved By Deputy Mayor O'Hara

Seconded By Councillor Olsen

Meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm

X

Gary Clark
Mayor



X

Catherine P. Snow
Clerk

