



QUISPAMISIS TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

February 6, 2018, 7:00 pm

Council Chambers

Quispamsis Town Hall

Present:

Mayor Gary Clark
Councillor Lisa Loughery
Councillor Sean Luck
Councillor Kirk Miller
Councillor Emil T. Olsen
Councillor Pierre Rioux
Councillor Beth Thompson
Deville, Susan; CAO
Kennedy, Aaron; Communications Manager
Losier, Gary; Director of Engineering & Works
McGraw, Jo-Anne; Town Treasurer
Snow, Catherine; Town Clerk

Absent: Deputy Mayor O'Hara (vacation)

1. Approval of Agenda

Moved By Councillor Olsen

Seconded By Councillor Loughery

The agenda be approved as prepared.

Motion Carried

2. Mayor's Comments

Maclean Magazine – Crime Severity Index - Mayor Clark acknowledged the recent article in MacLean's magazine which deemed the Kennebecasis Valley as the safest place to live in Canada, ranking it 229th out of 229 communities on the most dangerous list. This, the Mayor commended is a reflection of the tremendous work Police Chief

Wayne Gallant and the members of the Kennebecasis Regional Police Force do in protecting the community.

Fairvale Elementary School Principal, Bonnie Hierlihy Named One of 40 Principals of the Year from Across Canada – Mayor Clark congratulated Ms. Hierlihy on recently being recognized as one of the top 40 principals across Canada by the Learning Partnership. When she became principal, he noted, Ms. Hierlihy wanted to create a more welcoming school culture for the families, develop ways to meet the collective needs of the students socially, emotionally and academically. While Fairvale Elementary School is located in Rothesay, many Quispamsis children attend the school, and she is to be commended for this well-deserved recognition.

3. **Moment of Reflection** – Councillor Thompson read the moment of reflection.

4. **Disclosure of Interest** - None

5. **Presentations**

6. **Public Hearing**

7. **Minutes of Previous Meetings**

7.1 January 16, 2018 - Regular Meeting

Moved By Councillor Thompson

Seconded By Councillor Loughery

Minutes be approved as prepared.

Motion Carried

8. **Unfinished Business**

8.1 (July 2016) Request for Speed Reduction Route 119 at Squire Drive/Alma Lane Intersection

Letter from Minister Bill Fraser, Department of Transportation and Infrastructure – Minister Fraser's letter responded to the Town's follow up letter concerning the Town's request that the speed be reduced in the Route 119 and Squire Drive intersection area. The Minister wrote appropriate speed limits are determined by technical evaluations that examine a number of factors. As a result of this evaluation, there is no plan to reduce the speed limit at this point in time. He pointed out that the Town's letter of July 21, 2016 stated the Town's Consultant had determined the traffic signal warrant was not met. DTI's Traffic Safety

Section never received the consultant's report nor a request for the approval of traffic signals at the Squire Drive/Route 119 intersection.

In response to Council Members' suggestions that DTI may find the Town's previous request for installation of traffic lights more favourable if the Town indicated its willingness to pay 100% of the costs, the Town Treasurer confirmed no funding has been allocated in the 2018 budget for this purpose. The Director of Engineering and Works estimated costs for lights would be in the vicinity of \$160,000. He noted a nearby developer had a consultant conduct a traffic analysis done in the overall area since the opening of the two new elementary schools, and he will forward this information along to DTI.

Moved By Councillor Luck

Seconded By Councillor Loughery

Minister Fraser's letter be referred to the Director of Engineering & Works to draft a response for the Mayor's signature, enclosing a copy of the above referenced traffic analysis; and further, that the letter request the Minister to remain open to the concept of working jointly with the Town to arrive at a solution that will address the safety concerns in the area of the Route 119 and Squire Drive intersection.

Motion Carried

8.2 (Jan.16/18) Women for 50% Funding Request - Mayor Dawn Arnold and Mayor Grace Losiers' Letter – Clarification from Norma Dube Re Funding Request

Clarification received from Norma Dube informed Council any donations received for the Women for 50% initiative would be applied towards –

- the coordination of Women for 50% activities across the Province;
- the development of tools directed to women and those who support them and the dissemination of these tools;
- the development and execution of public awareness (public education) activities around the need for more women in politics (social marketing strategy);
- the connection of women candidates (or potential candidates) to mentors and other resources;
- the creation of training opportunities;
- the work with political parties to increase the recruitment and support of women candidates;

- identifying and advocating for sustainable policy and program changes to decrease barriers in women's participation in the political sphere (for example: political financing changes);
- nurturing a collaborative work approach with other women's groups.

Moved By Councillor Loughery

Seconded By Councillor Luck

A response be formulated to Mayor Arnold and Mayor Losier and copied to Norma Dube indicating the Town's support, in principle, of the *Women for 50%* initiative, however because the recently approved Town's Donation's Budget is minimum, and it is still very early in the calendar year, the letter advise the Town will not be financially contributing to the program at this time.

Motion Carried

Against (1): Councillor Olsen

8.3 (Jan.16/18) Letter from Minister Serge Roussell, QC Re Amalgamation Issue

Mayor Clark read Minister Roussell's response to the Town's letter opposing amalgamation of the greater Saint John region. The Minister was pleased that Quispamsis financially supports a variety of regional facilities, services and initiatives in the Greater Saint John region. He noted this type of co-operation is critical and strongly encouraged to the continued well-being of communities across the regions and the province. He further advised in regards to the specific question of amalgamation, his government's position is that such restructuring is to be undertaken on a voluntary basis, and through a community led process.

Council Members acknowledged Quispamsis has been contributing to Saint John financially for the past 21 years to the tune of \$8.5m, as per legislation that was enacted as part of the 1998 amalgamation of the outlying communities. Further it was noted that Quispamsis is not abandoning Saint John, and will continue to support the City by frequenting their facilities, restaurants, retail, sporting and entertain events, also recognizing many Town residents own businesses in the City. Council Members expressed their empathy to the City's financial difficulties, however are not prepared to apply Quispamsis residents' property tax dollars towards resolving these issues.

Moved By Councillor Miller

Seconded By Councillor Loughery

Minister Rousselle's letter be received and filed.

9. Correspondence

9.1 COMEX Bus Routes 52 and 53 - Staff Report from CAO Susan Deuille – A Staff Report from CAO Deuille informed Council the Town's Transportation Committee, (Councillor Miller, Councillor Olsen and CAO Deuille), met in January 2018 and have requested from Saint John Transit Commission information regarding options, ridership data, and costing information. Once the Committee receives additional information from Saint John Transit, it will analyze options and present them to Council.

9.1.1 Letters Received from Concerned Quispamsis Residents Requesting Continuation of the COMEX Bus Service

- Letter from Michael Pierce
- Letter from Michael Arsenault
- Letter from Steve Driscoll
- Letter from Lise Driscoll
- Letter from Cathy Barry
- Letter from Kang Li
- Letter from Penny Seelye
- Letter from Kim Doyle
- Letter from Barbara Craft
- Letter from Gail Toner
- Letter from Andrew Nicholson

Mr. Steve Driscoll - Request to Speak – Mr. Driscoll read his letter to Council, which acknowledged he is an avid, long time user of the KV Comex and urged Council to investigate promotion of the service to increase ridership to make the service sustainable. He stated residents need to be made aware of the many benefits of a transit system through a town led campaign, presenting benefits of public transit vs. driving a vehicle – better health, no parking requirements, fuel cost savings, less personal vehicle maintenance, reducing environmental impacts with less GHG emissions, and the safety factor associated with a 25,000 pound vehicle operated by a professional driver.

In addition to recognizing the benefits of a public transit system, Mr. Driscoll offered several Comex promotional ideas for Council's consideration including partnering with various organizations and businesses to promote the bus service, social media and traditional media, free fares, display Comex promotion signs in prominent locations, issue mail outs to residents, and to work with Saint John Transit to promote transfers from Comex to SJT for Comex riders.

Cathy Barry – Ms. Barry stated she too is a daily user of the Comex Bus, and attended Council to show her support of this service continuing.

Moved By Councillor Miller
Seconded By Councillor Olsen

Others in attendance wishing to speak on the KV Comex Service to be permitted to do so.

Motion Carried

Linda Carlson of Rothesay, indicated she also uses the KV Comex Bus, and feels this service supports all of the outlying communities.

Geoff Martay of Rothesay stated he uses the KV Comex every day, and feels the perception of public transit in this area needs to change. In many other places like Europe, for instance, public transit is well known as the most useful, healthy and environmental way for people to commute.

Bernard Beukeveld suggested Saint John Transit consider reducing the size of its buses. It would be easier to fill, and less expensive to run a 30 foot bus, he stated, compared to the larger articulated buses that currently serve the KV.

Council Members applauded Mr. Driscoll for his engaging and enthusiastic commitment towards growing the ridership, and spoke to Quispamsis' participation over the past 10 years in the KV Comex Public Transit service. It was noted the Transportation Committee has been reviewing options, and two years ago had cut the service back from three routes to two, Route 52, (Rothesay & Quispamsis), and Route 53 (Quispamsis). Since then, unfortunately, ridership has continued to dwindle. The Town currently pays approximately \$163,000 annually for the Comex service, and Council allocated funding in its 2018 budget to continue the service, but, are reviewing options to see how to make it more sustainable.

All in attendance agreed that the ridership numbers need to increase to make the bus service viable. CAO Deville acknowledged the Comex issue is a complicated issue, which is owned by Saint John Transit and is not just tied to Quispamsis, but also Rothesay and Hampton. Hopefully, she noted, with the participation of citizen engagement, similar to the process used with implementing the new Animal Control By-law, the service can be made successful.

Moved By Councillor Rioux
Seconded By Councillor Olsen

A COMEX Ad Hoc Committee be established, consisting of the Town's Transportation Committee and two to three citizen members representing the concerned residents, (those interested to submit their names to CAO Deuville), with the mandate to review all options, and bring back recommendations to Council with the view towards making the COMEX Public Transit service more successful through increased ridership.

Motion Carried

9.2 International Women's Day Event - Invitation from Mary Schryer - March 8, 2018

Correspondence from Mary Schryer invited Council to celebrate International Women's Day 2018 at the Bill Mcguire Centre on March 8 at 11:30 a.m.

Moved By Councillor Thompson
Seconded By Councillor Olsen

Those wishing to attend the International Women's Day Event March 8, 2018 to register with the Town of Rothesay, as indicated, and Mrs. Schryer's letter be received and filed.

Motion Carried

9.3 Michael McKendy Report - "Improving the Regional Service Commissions in New Brunswick" - Invitation to Submit Feedback on Proposed Recommendations by February 12, 2018

The McKendy Report 'Introduction and Background' related the above Report was initiated as a result of the Province feeling it was time to take a closer look at the Regional Service Commission model introduced in 2013, with a view to strengthening the model and helping prepare the RSCs to potentially take on greater responsibilities and services on behalf of their member communities. The Province engaged Mr. Michael McKendy as the Project Consultant to define, organize and lead a consultation process to gather information into the current and potential future state of the RSCs and to produce a report with recommendations for improving the current model. The final report, entitled, "Improving the Regional Service Commissions in New Brunswick", provides 30 recommendations intended to move the bar to the next level for Regional Service Commissions. It indicates the future successes and growth of the 12 NB Regional Service Commissions will depend largely on the combined efforts and commitments of the Province, member communities, (municipalities, rural

communities and local service districts), as well as the RSCs themselves. Topics discussed in the Report's recommendations include the following:

- Land Use Planning
- Water and Wastewater Services
- Environmental Services
- Local Service District Administration
- Climate Change
- Fire and Police Protection Services
- EMO
- Recreation and Sport
- Economic Development

Council Members expressed their disappointment at just receiving the Report in its final form, having had no opportunity to provide input during the consultation process, and having to submit comments by February 12, 2018, as stated in a recent notice issued by the Association of Municipal Administrators of NB, (AMANB). Members noted the significant impacts to current local government structures if the Report's recommendations are implemented, including adding another major level of bureaucracy and duplication to the current local government framework.

CAO Deuille informed Council she had participated in one regional workshop in 2016 with Provincial, Regional and Local Officials and had not heard anything further on the Report since that time. She noted the final report has come to municipalities' attention by way of AMANB, who were asked to submit input on the Report's recommendations by February 12, 2018. Ms. Deuille confirmed she is working on a response from the Town, which clearly states *one size fits all* does not apply to the 12 New Brunswick RSCs. The medium to large sized municipalities will not realize the same successes as smaller municipalities and local service districts, she noted, as the larger Towns and Cities already have many of the resources in place that are now being proposed by the RSCs.

Mayor Clark advised Council the RSC's were invited to two meetings previously to provide input during the preparation stage of the Report. He suggested any concerns could also be directed to the Fundy Regional Service Commission.

Moved By Councillor Miller

Seconded By Councillor Luck

Any comments and/or concerns re the draft recommendations contained in the McKendy Report on Improvements to the Regional Service Commissions be directed to CAO Deuille for inclusion in a written submission from the Town to the Province by the February 12, 2018 deadline.

Motion Carried

Moved By Councillor Olsen
Seconded By Councillor Miller

Correspondence be issued to the Province requesting clarification on the process used for distribution and request for feedback of the McKendy Report.

Motion Carried

10. By-laws (none)

11. New Business

11.1 Council Resolution FCM Asset Management Grant Application

A Staff Report from the Director of Engineering and Works informed Council as part of implementing a comprehensive Asset Management Plan, the Town intends to apply to FCM for available grant funding specifically directed to municipalities looking to develop their Asset Management capacity. The grant application identifies certain conditions that will have to be met in order to secure funding, including projected timelines and a formal resolution of Council authorizing the application to FCM.

Moved By Councillor Thompson
Seconded By Councillor Olsen

BE IT RESOLVED that Mayor and Council of the town of Quispamsis directs staff to apply for a grant opportunity from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Municipal Asset Management Program for "Development of a Comprehensive Asset Management Plan for Quispamsis."

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the town of Quispamsis commits to conducting the following activities in its proposed project submitted to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Municipal Asset Management Program to advance our asset management program:

- 1) Data collection on existing assets which will identify type of asset, location, costs to operate and maintain, as well as future costs to replace.
- 2) Development of asset risk management plans.
- 3) Development of Long term financial modeling to support asset management decisions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the town of Quispamsis commits \$50,000 from its budget toward the costs of this initiative.

Motion Carried

- 11.2 Nominating Committee's Recommendations to Appoint Representatives on PAC and the Acadian Games 2020 Hosting Committee

Moved By Councillor Rioux
Seconded By Councillor Miller

Council accept the Nominating Committee's recommendations to appoint Mr. Michael Wowchuck to PAC, replacing Jean Place, for the remainder of her term, effective immediately and expiring January 31, 2019; and further appoint Ms. Joanie McGraw as the Town's representative on the Acadian Games 2020 Organizing Committee.

Motion Carried

12. Reports

- 12.1 Animal Control – Monthly Report As At December 31, 2017
- 12.2 UMNB Update Re Proposed Climate Change Act – And Impact on GTF
- 12.3 Recycle NB PPP Workbook
- 12.4 UMNB Cannabis Update
- 12.5 City of Saint John Update Re 2020 Acadian Games
- 12.6 2017 Riverboat Classic Basketball Tournament – Thank You

Moved By Councillor Miller
Seconded By Councillor Loughery

Reports be received and filed.

Motion Carried

13. Business Arising from Committee of the Whole

- 13.1 Renewal of Legal Retainer Contract – Richard McPhee

Moved By Councillor Olsen
Seconded By Councillor Rioux

Council renew the legal contract with Richard McPhee of Shannon McPhee Law Firm for a further three year contract, effective August 1, 2018 to July 31, 2021 based on the proposed terms and conditions outlined in Mr. McPhee's letter of January 29, 2018.

Motion Carried

14. Adjournment

Moved By Councillor Olsen
Seconded By Councillor Miller

Meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.



X

Gary Clark
Mayor

X

Catherine P. Snow
Clerk



