



**QUISPAMISIS TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
March 1, 2016, 7:00 pm
Council Chambers
Quispamsis Town Hall**

Members Present: Mayor G. Murray Driscoll
Deputy Mayor Libby O'Hara
Councillor Gary Clark
Councillor Lisa Loughery
Councillor Kirk Miller
Councillor Emil T. Olsen
Councillor Pierre Rioux
Councillor Beth Thompson

Staff Present Brennan, Michael; CAO
Deville, Susan; Director of Human Resources/Assistant CAO
Kennedy, Aaron; Manager of Communications
McGraw, Jo-Anne; Town Treasurer
Purton Dickson, Dana; Director of Community Services
Snow, Catherine; Town Clerk

1. Approval of Agenda

Moved By Councillor Clark

Seconded By Deputy Mayor O'Hara

The agenda be approved as prepared.

Motion Carried

2. Mayor's Comments

Mayor Driscoll extended his congratulations to the Kennebecasis Valley High School Girls Basketball team who captured the New Brunswick AAA Championship last Saturday night at Harbour Station. The Lady Crusaders posted a 72-55 win over Fredericton High to capture the first AAA Girls Basketball Championship in school history. He also acknowledged the play of the KVHS Boys' Basketball team, who lost in the Provincial final to Fredericton, but are also to be congratulated on their great season.

Mayor Driscoll reminded residents that March 8th marks International Women's Day, a time to reflect on progress made to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities. An event to mark the occasion will be held in the Quispamsis Council Chambers March 8 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and will feature independent film-maker, Gretchen Kelbaugh, as guest speaker.

3. Moment of Reflection

The Moment of Reflection was read by Deputy Mayor O'Hara.

4. Disclosures of Interest

No disclosures were declared.

5. Presentations (none)

6. Public Hearings (none)

7. Minutes of Previous Meetings

7.1 February 16, 2016 - Regular Meeting

Moved By Councillor Olsen

Seconded By Councillor Miller

Minutes be approved as prepared.

Motion Carried

8. Unfinished Business (none)

9. Correspondence

9.1 Anne Weaver Downey - Garbage Collection Issues

Ms. Weaver Downey expanded upon her correspondence expressing concerns about the new payment system for the municipal garbage collection. She questioned the fairness of taxing vacant landowners, as well as the agricultural and commercial sectors on their assessment for a service they do not receive. She asked how the added tax increase will impact future development. Ms. Weaver Downey expressed concern about the lack of opportunity for public input

during the adoption process, the removal of the large blue bins with the implementation of curbside recycling, and how the inclusion of garbage collection in the tax rate affects the mobile home parks. She suggested a fairer system would be to charge for garbage with a flat fee, similar to the user fees charged for water and sewage services. She concluded her presentation stating the inclusion of garbage collection in the tax rate is discriminatory to owners of property that is not residential.

9.2 Greater Saint John Home Builders Association – Garbage Collection Issues - Mr. Bob McLaughlin and Brad McLaughlin, 1st Vice Presentation, In Attendance

Mr. Bob McLaughlin and Mr. Brad McLaughlin made presentation to Council, on behalf of the Canadian Home Builders' Association of Greater Saint John on the topic of the 2.15 cent increase in property tax assessments to cover the new residential curbside garbage pickup provided by the Town. Mr. McLaughlin noted they are residents of Quispamsis, business owners, raw property and rental property owners. Their concern lies with the flat rate increase of 2.15 cents per \$100 assessment to incorporate municipal garbage collection for the residents. It creates an issue, he said, for the businesses, owners of raw land, rental property owners and agricultural property owners who are also paying the extra 2.15 cents. An empty lot does not generate garbage, he said, and businesses who pay more taxes than residential owners, must also pay the increase and then hire an independent carrier to collect their garbage. Mr. McLaughlin suggested the Town could instead generate monthly bills to residential owners who receive the service, or ask the Province to add a line item to cover the costs of garbage, compost and recycling collection for all occupied residential properties within the boundaries of Quispamsis.

CAO Brennan, on behalf of Council, responded to the questions raised in both Ms. Weaver Downey's and Bob and Brad McLaughlin's presentations, summarized below:

- With respect to the comment, "fees paid for services rendered", CAO Brennan stated a municipality creates its tax rate through a budget process. This process has become very open and transparent, with Council going through each Department's individual budgets in Open Session, debating the issues and coming to a final budget plan which sets the tax rate. The items are varied and include such things as recreation, snow clearing, town hall expenses, staffing, building inspection, library, fire, policing, etc., with garbage collection being just another one of these items. The concept of fees paid for services rendered does not truly work for a municipality, for instance, all property tax payers are paying for the qplex, etc., even though there are

residents who do not use this facility. He noted, even with the inclusion of garbage collection, Quispamsis' tax rate is one of the lowest in the Province.

- Taxes for farmland and agricultural land is set by the Province at .29 cents/\$100 assessment, and the Town's tax rate has no bearing on this amount.
- The Corporate Research poll released early in 2015 indicated that 68% of those polled were in favour of municipal garbage collection based on a 10 cent increase to the Town's tax rate. Subsequently, following further research, it was discovered the Town could more realistically implement garbage collection for under 6 cents, including curbside recycling, and save residents approximately \$150 - \$200 annually on garbage collection.
- Dissemination of information on the garbage issue was an ongoing occurrence, with Council discussing the garbage issue at many open sessions throughout 2015, including at the Special Budget Meetings, up until the 2016 Budget was approved.
- Mr. Brennan stated the inclusion of garbage collection in the municipal tax rate is based on the same model that is used in other towns and cities throughout the Province and across Canada. The additional tax applied by the Province on commercial properties falls under the Province's jurisdiction, and not the Town's, and issues on this should be pursued through the MLA's.
- The Garbage Collection contract with Fero is for a four year term, effective January 2016, with an annual increase of 2% per year for the second, third and fourth year of the contract, with the option to renew for another four years.
- It was never stated, as referenced in Mr. McLaughlin's letter, that the municipal garbage collection is free, Mr. Brennan commented. The total cost of the residential garbage and compost pickup for 2016 and curbside recycling beginning in May, is \$1,121,000 which includes the one time outlay of \$125,000 for the recycling bins, advertising and promotion of this new service. It also includes the continuation of the bulky item pick up service for the residents. The cost savings, however, for Quispamsis residents, collectively is \$975,000 compared to what they were spending on private garbage collection fees, or an average savings of \$166 annually per household.

- Mr. Brennan suggested the Greater Saint John Canadian Home Builders' Association may have more of an argument with the City of Saint John based on their much higher tax rate and higher density of commercial properties.
- In May of 2014, the Fundy Regional Service Commission needed to address the issue of its deteriorating blue recycling bins, and presented an analysis of its current waste diversion programs, and three potential options. The option that included curbside recycling and composting was found most expensive, but would produce the highest diversion rate, encouraging more people to recycle, thus increasing the life of the landfill. Upon the Town's further research into providing curbside recycling, it was found that curbside recycling could be provided to Quispamsis residents for \$27 per household. The Town has since purchased 15,000 recycling bins that will soon be delivered to households for a May 9, 2016 curbside recycling start up date. The existing large blue bins will be moved in June from the Walter Jewett Field and the Foodland Grocery Store site.
- If businesses find they recycle large amounts of cardboard, they can rent a dumpster from Fero for \$35 per month, similar to what the Town does at the plex.
- The household garbage collection one week and the compost collection the next is the same schedule of garbage collection that has been in place in Quispamsis for the past 15 years. The curbside recycling, come May 9th, will fall on the same dates as compost pickup.
- In response to Mr. McLaughlin's two suggestions, Mr. Brennan stated the town did ask the Province if they could add another line on the property tax bill to cover residential garbage collection, and they responded that they could not. The Town had also looked into costs to administer the garbage collection service and rejected it due to high costs. It is also not considered the same as water and sewer services, he said, as these two services apply to a property, and if bills are not paid, a lien can be placed on the property for the Town to recover its costs. Garbage, however, is a service to the individual, and not a service to the property and would not allow the Town to easily recoup its costs, other than through a collection service.

In closing, Mr. Brennan stated he hoped that he had addressed the concerns raised by Ms. Weaver Downey and the Greater Saint John Homebuilders' Association. The average cost to the homeowner for garbage, compost and

recyclables, is \$145 per household, which is not free, but is better than the \$335 previously paid by residents for private garbage collection.

Mayor Driscoll thanked Mr. Brennan for his response, and noted again that the garbage issue was discussed frequently and transparently at Council Meetings in 2015, and all motions passed on the garbage issues were done so unanimously.

Moved By Councillor Rioux

Seconded By Councillor Loughery

The letters received from Anne Weaver Downey and the Greater Saint John Home Builders' Association, (Bob McLaughlin and Brad McLaughlin), be received and filed.

Motion Carried Unanimously

10. By-laws: (none)

11. New Business

11.1 Award of Tender - 6 x 4 Truck Cab & Chassis - 68,000 G.V.W.R.

Moved By Councillor Olsen

Seconded By Councillor Clark

Based on the review and information outlined in Mr. Losier's Staff Report, dated February 26, 2016; whereas it has been determined that the two lowest bids do not meet town specifications, Council accept Staff's recommendation to award Tender No. 2016TQ02-1 - New 6x4 Truck Cab and Chassis - 68,000 GVWR to the third lowest bidder, Universal Truck and Trailer for the bid price of \$175,750.00 (exclusive of HST and licensing).

Motion Carried

11.2 Kingsview Subdivision - Phase 18

Moved By Councillor Rioux

Seconded By Deputy Mayor O'Hara

Council grant assent to Phase 18 of Kingsview Subdivision, subject to the following conditions:

1. Execution of a standard Developer's Agreement with the Town;
2. Depositing with the Town the appropriate bonding as determined by the Town;

3. Stormwater management system be constructed in accordance with the engineered design as submitted and approved by the Town;
4. Subdivision filing fees of \$100.00 for a two (2) lot phase;
5. LPP land bank credit to be reduced from 1997 sq. metres to 1747 sq. metres with 250 sq.m being used to satisfy the LPP obligation for this phase;
6. Properly signed plans are submitted to the Town for final approvals; and
7. Building permit issuance will be subject to the provisions of Quispamsis Subdivision By-law No. 35, and Quispamsis Building By-law No. 44.

Motion Carried

12. Reports

- 12.1 International Women's Day Event – March 8, 2016 – Quispamsis Town Hall
 - 12.1.1. NB Women's Day – February, 2016 Newsletter
- 12.2 Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick – Newsletter – February, 2016
- 12.3 YMCA of Greater Saint John – Newsletter – February, 2016
- 12.4 NB Competitive Festival of Music
- 12.5 UNBSJ – Letter of Thanks for the Town's Financial Contribution – It was noted the Town's \$17,500 annual support of Hans W. Klohn Commons on the UNBSJ campus completes the Town's commitment of \$175,000 in support of the Commons. It was also noted many KVHS students over the years have benefited by receiving scholarships to UNBSJ.

Moved By Deputy Mayor O'Hara

Seconded By Councillor Olsen

Reports be received and filed.

Motion Carried

13. Business Arising from Committee of the Whole

- 13.1 Appointment of Assistant Town Treasurer

Moved By Councillor Thompson

Seconded By Councillor Clark

Council appoint Ms. Susan Deuille as the Assistant Town Treasurer, effective May 1, 2016 pursuant to Section 77 (2) of the *Municipalities Act*.

Motion Carried

13.2 Appointment of Assistant Town Clerk

Moved By Councillor Thompson
Seconded By Councillor Clark

Council appoint Ms. Lisa MacInnis as the Assistant Town Clerk, effective May 1, 2016 pursuant to Section 76(2) of the *Municipalities Act*.

Motion Carried

14. **Adjournment**

Moved By Deputy Mayor O'Hara
Seconded By Councillor Olsen

Meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.


G. Murray Driscoll
Mayor
Catherine P. Snow
Clerk
