

MINUTES OF THE VILLAGE OF PORT WILLIAMS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 20, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lewis Benedict, Kim Cogswell, Doug Gates, Ernie Hovell and Scott Leier.

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Philip Porter, Brian Tupper, Laura Wightman and Geneve Newcombe. Stanton Hancock and Janet Newton arrived during correspondence.

The chairman, Lewis Benedict called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the March 16, 2010 meeting be approved as circulated. **MOTION CARRIED.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

I. Municipality of County of Kings:

- a) Building Permit Report for Month: Total building permit activity for Kings County for March 2010 equals 33 permits issued with a value of \$2,768,756 for Port Williams, 1 permit with a value of \$48,000
- b) Notice of Public Participation Meeting-Proposed changes to Hamlet of Wolfville Ridge May 5/10 7pm (input on proposal to expand to allow for residential development on the rear portion of property located on Highland Ave.)(*FOR INFO ONLY*)
- c) Port Williams Secondary Planning Strategy – Notice of Public Meeting- Apr15/10(*FOR INFO ONLY*)
- d) Notice of Public Hearing-Amend Municipal Planning Strategy & Land Use Bylaw to permit non-farm residential dwellings on Agriculture (A1) zoned land May 6/10 7pm(*FOR INFO ONLY*)
- e) Land Use By-law amendments for off-site signage (*No action*)
- f) Port Williams Secondary Planning Strategy – letter re PAC meeting March 9th – certificates of appreciation for SPS committee members will be presented at this meeting April 6th at 6pm. (*FOR INFO ONLY*)
- g) 2010 Assessment Roll for taxes and sewer due June 15th (**ACTION: Office will complete calculations and review roll for submission by due date**)

II. Other Correspondence:

- a) Hiltz and Seamone: Comments on SPS Minority report to PAC (*FOR INFO*)
- b) Valley Communications Inc Report for Port Williams Volunteer Fire Dept
- c) Green Diamond – customer satisfaction form as a result of purchasing the John Deere tractor will be sent to the Village (**ACTION: Stan to complete when received**)
- d) Letter from Jim Morton re 2010 NS Budget (*Village budget will be adjusted for the increase in HST*).

- e) Letter from Katherine MacLeod, Regional Engineer, NS Environment: re water testing frequency for THM's changed from quarterly to annually (**ACTION: Stan will adjust schedule**)
- f) Impact of Infrastructure Stimulus Deadline Questionnaire from Gerard Kennedy MP, Official Opposition Critic. (*No action*)

III. **Email Correspondence:**

- a) UNSM email re workshop on keeping your ICSP off the shelf (*No action*)
- b) UNSM emails re their statement concerning the financial implications of proposed 2% HST increase and the increase to minimum wage (*FOR INFO ONLY*)
- c) Email from Christine Blair re decision on Village of Pugwash (*FOR INFO ONLY*)
- d) Email from Dawn MacNeill Watershed Planner, Water & Wastewater Branch NS Environment re request for information on protecting Village water (Scott Leier discussed with her and a letter was sent from the office).
- e) Dave Smith, Assistant Prov. Director of Planning Municipal Services Division of Service NS & Municipal Relations re residential development versus farming. **ACTION: A copy of the email will be forwarded to Janet Newton**
- f) Green Mobility Capital Grants Program email from UNSM – **ACTION: Letter is to be sent to Kings Transit to obtain the cost to get integrated into the bus system.**

REPORTS:

Janitorial: Brian Tupper reported:

- A list of painting jobs will be made
- A butt receptacle was purchased for the Community Centre.
- Fire extinguishers are placed and all emergency lighting is working.

Fire Department: Chief Philip Porter read his report (copy attached).

- On April 22 the department is hosting the Kings County awards ceremony where approximately 205 firefighters with 15 years of service or more will be awarded the Ann Longley Long Service medal.

Lions Club: Brian Tupper reported:

- 40th Anniversary Banquet was well attended.
- Adopt a highway was held the past weekend but due to rain, only did Dyke.
- Lions will be catering light refreshments for the Firefighter award ceremony.
- Apple Blossom Festival float application was sent in. The theme this year is "Blossoms Here, Enjoyed Everywhere".
- It is being considered ending the parade route at the Community Park for Port Williams Days. A wine and cheese event in the multi-purpose room is also being considered. Sponsorship for the fireworks is being worked on and approval is being sought to contact the Village's contractors as possible sponsors. **AGREED.**

Kings County Councillor: Janet Newton reported:

- Looked into the regulations concerning putting up a digital sign- a business cannot have 2 signs and as there is already a sign out front of the Community Centre a second is not permitted. Cost is also an issue.
- Carty property has missed the time to rebuild and now the lot needs to be cleaned up. It was suggested that perhaps due to the safety concern the property should be reported to Gary Smith at Kings County who is responsible for unsightly premises.
- Ports Landing Street Lights: A draft letter from the County was provided to all Commissioners and changes noted. This letter will be sent to the residents shortly with responses to be returned to the Village by May 19th
- Green Fund Grant to assist in changing over street lights to LED has passed.
- Cemetery grants are available in the amount of \$500 to \$1,000 and each District Councillor has monies to give.
- Kings County's personal tax refund application was provided. Copies are available at the Village office for those eligible to receive the \$140 refund.
- HR Group reviewed the organizational structure of the County and presented a report suggesting a flattened structure. The Council unanimously adopted this report.
- The Village asked that Janet pass on to Dianna Brothers their appreciation for the job she did of chairing the PAC open public meeting held on April 13th concerning the Port Williams SPS Report.

Board of Trustees: no report

Recreation Committee: Scott reported:

- Dance time is going to practice all summer long on Tuesday nights from 7-9.
- Park Planning Committee: Held a day camp during March Break, will be holding a showcase for kids on April 25th, plant it for the park on May 15th, and on June 27th a garden tour ending with Prescott House. Various grants were received from the Eastern Kings Health Board, Active Kids, NS Dental Association, NS Dept of Seniors (Age Friendly)
- Throwing Field: New netting for around the cage is being purchased, they are hoping to do an event around an Olympian competing at the Nationals the 1st week of August.
- Ballfield: 3 school teams, 2 ladies softball teams and a fire dept league plus possibly youth ball will make the season which starts in May quite busy.
- Soccer: East Kings soccer president has asked to use the paint machine or they will purchase the paint and the Village will line the field. Our staff uses the machine for other fields, lining starts after the long weekend in May. It was **AGREED** that the Village will line the field and invoice for the paint.

ICSP/Gas Tax Committee: With the reorganization of Kings County, this committee may no longer be functioning.

Secondary Planning Strategy Committee: Janet Newton reported that the Municipality held their Public PAC meeting on April 13, 2010. Lewis Benedict, as Chair of the Village Commission presented a statement. This committee is now disbanded.

Source Water Protection Committee: No report.

EMO Committee: No report.

Provincial Volunteer Award Committee: Ernie Hovell reported on the Awards Ceremony that he, Laura Wightman, Laura Churchill-Duke and Lia Hennigar attended in Halifax on April 13, 2010.

Water/Sewer/Public Works/Transportation Report: Stanton Hancock read his report. (Copy attached)

- Water Treatment Building: Drywall, crack filling and the scope by NS Power have done.
- Public Works Building: This building is completed.
- A suggestion was received from Bruce Bezanson, Asst Public Works, that we should have a dog pot by the bridge. Lewis will look into making one.
- GUIDI report was incomplete so Doug Seamone and Bill Shaw are collecting more info to satisfy NS Environment.
- Back water valves notice in the Newsletter was to let residents know that if there is a need to clean the sewer lines without a backwater valve it could cause problems. Newer homes require this valve when building, but most of the older homes do not have these.
- The condition of the bridge was discussed. Stan has asked Alan Slack about this and he indicated that they would start this summer. The expansions need repair and the uprights and railing are rusting out. It was **AGREED** that a letter be sent to the NS Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal .
- A letter will be sent concerning the 2 manholes on Main Street which should be noted in the deficiency report being sent to Chapman Paving. The Village received an invoice from NS Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal indicating that 5 mains were raised, but in fact only 3 were raised and they have been contacted to change this invoice.
- Water problem at Post Office has been solved
- New Crosswalk for Park: A letter was sent by the Clerk to Alan Slack and the go ahead has been received from Fred Whynot; Stan also provided a sketch of location. It was **AGREED** that a letter be sent to the NS Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal asking that the painting of crosswalks be done before freeze up so that they will last until the next summer when they are painted.

Treasurer's Report: Laura Wightman presented the financial statements. A motion to accept the March 2010 Village General Operating and Water Utility Financial Statements as presented was moved and seconded. **MOTION CARRIED.** Water receivables were discussed.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

- a) Ports Landing Street Lights (*test light installed/plebiscite to go out- See Councillor's report*)
- b) Public Works Assistant: It was moved and seconded that Bruce Bezanson be hired on a six month term position as the public works assistant. **MOTION CARRIED.**
- c) Landscape contract for 2010: New assistant will do the landscaping.
- d) Annual Fire Department Banquet: May 15th with the Lions doing the catering.
- e) Meeting of Commission with Insurance Company: To be scheduled.
- f) Letter to Port Williams Baptist Church re lights: A letter was sent.
- g) Widening of sidewalks: It was **AGREED** to dig up and prepare the sidewalks, permits required will be determined and obtained if necessary.
- h) Letter of support for EcoNova Scotia's funding was sent.
- i) Email to Dawn MacNeill Dept of Environment was sent.
- j) Waterfront Development: As the new fiscal year has commenced, the Clerk contacted Jennifer Weisner again to find out the status of our application.
- k) Louis Millett Estate Trust: After reviewing the will, it was determined that the intent was for use by New Minas and therefore this item will be dropped.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. In light of the County's report the question of whether the Village wanted to continue with having a lawyer present was discussed. The Village will continue with having our lawyer present every 2nd month.
2. An email from Paul Guppy concerning the aquifer on his property and the SPS report. A registered letter will be sent to him.
3. A meeting date of Monday, May 10th at 7:00p.m. was set up to discuss the April staff reviews.

Upon a motion being made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED.

Lewis Benedict, Chair

Laura Wightman, Clerk/Treasurer