

**MINUTES
TOWN COUNCIL
March 12, 2007**

Minutes of a meeting of Town Council for the Town of Bridgewater, held in the Council Chambers of Town Hall, 60 Pleasant Street, Bridgewater, Nova Scotia on Monday, March 12, 2007, commencing at 6:00 p.m. with Chairman Mayor Carroll Publicover presiding. Those in attendance: Deputy Mayor David Walker; Councillors Jim Bell, Kevin Marlin, Bill McInnis, and David Mitchell. Also present were Ken Smith, Town Manager; Harland Wyand, Town Engineer; Gerard Jones, Director of Finance and Administration; Amy Wamboldt, Municipal Intern; Ashley Chase, Project Coordinator, *imagine Bridgewater*, and Sandra Lowe, Executive Secretary. Regrets: Councillor Beverlee Brown.

ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO AGENDA

It was requested that representatives of the Friends of the Library organization be added under **Public Input for the Budget**.

07-066 Moved by Councillor Marlin, seconded by Deputy Mayor Walker that Town Council for the Town of Bridgewater accept the March 12, 2007 Town Council meeting agenda as amended. Motion Carried.

DELEGATION

ROB KEEVIL, CHAIRPERSON, RIVERFRONT ACTION TEAM AND IDA SCOTT, MANAGER, BDA - RIVERFRONT RENAISSANCE

Representatives of the Riverfront Action Team, Rob Keevil and Ida Scott, made a PowerPoint presentation outlining the proposed revitalization of the Greater Bridgewater riverfront. They explained that the Action Team was made up of over 20 members, has conducted 17 planning meetings, and two previous presentations to Bridgewater Town Council. Four sub-committees have been formed: Parking, Marketing, Research, and Concept.

Public meetings have been held since 2005, the results of which can be found on the BDA's website (www.smartbridgewater.ca). In June 2006, the Riverfront Renaissance Action Team held a consensus-building meeting. The overall project goal is the creation of a destination to attract people to downtown Bridgewater by utilizing the natural heritage resource of the LaHave River as the catalyst to stimulate economic, recreational, and community development opportunities.

It was noted that the Town had previously given a commitment to support the Riverfront Development Project in principal, and heretofore a financial request had not been made. Mr. Keevil stated that the Riverfront Renaissance Action Team was now requesting a financial commitment from the Town toward the cost of Phase I of the project in the amount of \$200,000.

The Action Team is looking for volunteers who can prepare a visual concept, and would welcome the input of artists, architects, planners and designers. It was noted that parking is

an issue that is frequently raised by citizens. It was pointed out that, with the likely scenario of the South Parkade being removed, a parking solution would be in place prior to the removal of any existing parking.

The speakers thanked Council for its serious consideration of the request for financing in the amount of \$200,000 so that this project can move forward.

Mayor Publicover thanked the speakers for taking the time to appear before Council to provide an update on this project.

BUDGET: PUBLIC INPUT

Ansonia Gray and Peggy Struve appeared before Council on behalf of the Friends of the Library. Ms. Gray advised Council that the current Bridgewater Library building has approximately 4,000 square feet on two floors and does not meet the provincial standards for accessibility, collection size or space for programming and technology.

The speakers stated that a new library of at least 15,000 square feet is needed; and an additional 5,000 square feet would house Library Headquarters to allow for improved public access to collections and the realization of cost savings through sharing of human and material resources.

The speakers noted that the former Canadian Tire building on Dufferin Street has the interior space and exterior parking space needed for a public library, and has been shown to be suitable according to a recent study by Cameron Consulting Services.

Ms. Struve and Ms. Gray asked that Council seriously consider the cost of the campaign, estimated to be approximately \$4.5 million including a new mobile branch, during its budget deliberations. The speakers noted that the longer the project is delayed, the higher the cost becomes.

CORRESPONDENCE - INFORMATION

INTERNATIONAL WATER ASSOCIATION (IWA) SPECIALIST CONFERENCE: *MOVING FORWARD* *WASTEWATER BIOSOLIDS SUSTAINABILITY*

A letter was received by Council enclosing copies of the International Water Association Specialist Conference 'highlights and registration' brochures.

It was noted that the appropriate staff would be registered in order to attend this event.

CORRESPONDENCE - ACTION

PARK VIEW EDUCATION CENTRE - SIGN SPONSORSHIP

A letter dated January 17, 2007 was received by Council from Jeff DeWolfe, Principal, Park View Education Centre requesting the Town contribute \$2,500 to become a partner for the proposed new LED sign to be located at the school. Questions were raised at the February 12, 2007 Town Council meeting as to whether or not the sign was compliant with the Town's Land Use By-law. Council requested that staff review this matter, and subsequently were advised by the Development Officer that a sign could be erected without development permit if a sign is *erected by a government body, or under the direction or authority of such a body, including but not limited to: traffic signs, railroad crossing signs, safety signs, signs identifying public schools, signs and banners for special events, which bear an incidental commercial component advertising sponsorship or support, commercial direction signs which form part of a direction sign program for the town, and signs which in addition to bearing commercial advertising, provide a public benefit.*

As a result of the information provided by the Development Officer, Council requested that the original request regarding sponsorship of the proposed sign be added to this Council meeting agenda for consideration.

07-067 Moved by Councillor Marlin, seconded by Councillor Mitchell that Town Council for the Town of Bridgewater deny the request from Park View Education Centre to partner in the cost of a new LED sign for Park View Education Centre.

It was also requested by members of Council that staff reevaluate the sign restrictions for institutional zones, and bring a recommendation to Council.

REPORT OF THE TOWN ENGINEER

TENDER 07-01E - PUBLIC WORKS GARAGE EXPANSION

Town Engineer Harland Wyand advised that five tenders had been received for the expansion of the Public Works Garage. All tenders were very competitive with a fifteen percent difference between the low and high tenders.

Mr. Wyand noted the approved budget for this project was \$844,000 for the addition plus \$120,000 vehicle exhaust system, for a total of \$964,000. He advised that the increase reflected market conditions for materials and labour as well as the complexities of an addition and upgrade to an existing building. Since the tender price exceeds the original estimated cost, the Engineering Department reconsidered the option of the overhead crane in the mechanic's repair bay and did not include it in the recommendation. The base design is considered the minimum required and does not lend itself to cost-effective phasing.

Based on the information provided and careful consideration, the Engineering Department recommended the tender be awarded to the low tenderer, Avondale Construction Limited.

- 07-068** Moved by Councillor Mitchell, seconded by Deputy Mayor Walker that Town Council for the Town of Bridgewater endorse the recommendation of the Engineering Department and award Tender 07-01E - Public Works Garage Expansion to the low tenderer, Avondale Construction Ltd., for the lump sum price of \$1,275,089 plus \$178,512.46 HST. Those in Favour: Mayor Publicover; Deputy Mayor Walker; Councillors Mitchell and Marlin. Against: Councillors McInnis and Bell. Motion Carried.

BUILDING PERMIT REPORT - FEBRUARY 2007

Harland Wyand, Town Engineer, reviewed the Building Permit Report for February 2007, which was provided for Council's information.

TREE PLANTING PROGRAM 2007 - REQUEST FOR CARRY OVER OF EXISTING 2006/2007 BUDGET AMOUNT

A memo dated March 2, 2007 was received by Council from Town Engineer Harland Wyand advising that the Engineering Department was planning to do a tree-planting program in early April of this year as it is the best time of year to order and plant trees. In the past, the planting program had been carried out in July/August because of the budget process and the ordering and delivery process. Planting at that time of year is hard on new trees because of the warmer temperatures and lack of rain, factors which have contributed to the significant failure rate experienced in the past couple of years.

Mr. Wyand advised the Engineering Department was requesting that the requesting that the remaining 2006/2007 budgeted money be carried over and spent this upcoming Spring. It was noted that the program will still require the proposed tree planting budget amount of \$4394 for the 2007/2008 budget in order to complete the same early process in the Spring of 2008.

- 07-069** Moved by Councillor McInnis, seconded by Councillor Marlin that Town Council for the Town of Bridgewater pre-approve \$4,000 from the 2007/2008 budget to be used to complete the 2006/2007 tree-planting program. Motion Carried.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION OF THE TREE COMMITTEE - IN-KIND DONATION

A memo dated February 19, 2007 was received by Council from the Tree Committee, requesting Council's consideration in removing a pine tree, located in front of the Bridgewater Food Bank's building at 150 Churchill Street, as an 'in-kind' donation from the Town.

- 07-070** Moved by Deputy Mayor Walker, seconded by Councillor McInnis that Town Council for the Town of Bridgewater refer the request from the Bridgewater Food Bank to have the large pine tree, located in front of the building at 150 Churchill

Street, removed by the Town as an 'in-kind' donation to the 2007/2008 budget deliberations. Those in Favour: Mayor Publicover; Deputy Mayor Walker; Councillors McInnis and Mitchell. Against: Councillors Bell and Marlin. Motion Carried.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE DIRECTOR OF PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE DIRECTOR - SLUICeway REPLACEMENT

A memo dated February 26, 2007 was received by Council from Carol Pickings-Anthony, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture, advising that the sluiceway replacement for the Bridgewater Woodland Gardens, which was targeted to be completed in the 2006/2007 budget year, had not been completed due to having to meet permit requirements.

The Director request Council's consideration in transferring the money originally allocated for the sluiceway project, in the amount of \$18,000, to a capital reserve for completion in the 2007/2008 budget year.

07-071 Moved by Councillor Mitchell, seconded by Deputy Mayor Walker that Town Council for the Town of Bridgewater pre-approve \$18,000 from the 2007/2008 budget to be used to complete the Woodland Gardens sluiceway replacement project. Those in Favour: Mayor Publicover; Deputy Mayor Walker; Councillors McInnis and Mitchell. Against: Councillors Bell and Marlin. Motion Carried.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO REGULATIONS FOR THE ADMISSION AND DISPOSAL OF WASTE AT WHYNOTT'S SETTLEMENT WASTE DISPOSAL SITE

A letter dated February 22, 2007 was received by Council from the Waste Management Committee recommending the addition of a clause after subsection 7(e) for clarification purposes. The recommended addition would ensure that the waste that was received at no charge was waste generated from the fire department's property.

07-072 Moved by Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor McInnis that Town Council for the Town of Bridgewater endorse the recommendation of the Waste Management Committee to amend Section 7 - USER PAY CHARGES of the Regulations for the Admission and Disposal of Waste at Whynotts Settlement Waste Disposal Site as follows:

- Amend Section 7(e) by adding the following words in italics:

Loads of any acceptable waste, as defined in Section 4 of these Regulations, received from Owner operations or facilities are received at no charge. Where the Owner operation or facility is a fire department, the loads received at no charge must be generated exclusively from a fire department's property.

- Add new Subsection 7(f) after 7(e) as follows:

Loads of any acceptable waste, as defined in Section 4 of these Regulations, received from fire departments located within the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg, are received at no charge, subject to these loads being generated exclusively from a fire department's property.

Motion Carried.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE DIRECTOR - TRANSFER OF MONIES FOR PURCHASE OF RECREATION SOFTWARE TO NEXT FISCAL YEAR

A memo dated March 2, 2007 was received by Council from the Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture requesting the transfer of monies allocated for the purchase of Recreation Software to the capital reserve for use in the next fiscal year.

Council members suggested that this matter should be considered as part of the regular budget deliberations, noting that it may be worthwhile to wait until the new IT Manager has had opportunity to determine the needs of the organization.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE - PRE-APPROVAL OF CAPITAL FUNDS

A memo dated March 2, 2007 was received by Council from Police Chief Brent Crowhurst recommending the pre-approval of capital funds totalling \$19,000. The request included funding for a new telephone system, police radio systems, a new computer server and a new computer work station.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Walker, seconded by Councillor Marlin that Town Council for the Town of Bridgewater pre-approve \$12,000 from the 2007/2008 budget for the purchase of a new telephone system and new computer server related to the move into the new police facility. (no vote)

07-073 Moved by Councillor Marlin, seconded by Councillor McInnis to defer decision regarding pre-approval of capital funds of \$12,000 as outlined in Motion 07-073 to the next Council meeting. Motion Carried.

07-074 Moved by Deputy Mayor Walker, seconded by Councillor McInnis that Town Council for the Town of Bridgewater pre-approve \$5,000 from the 2007/2008 budget for the purchase of police radio systems and \$2,000 for a new computer workstation related to the Street Crime Unit. Those in Favour: Deputy Mayor Walker; Councillors McInnis, Bell, and Marlin. Against: Mayor Publicover and Councillor Mitchell. Motion Carried.

IMAGINE BRIDGEWATER - BUDGET

Ashley Chase, Project Coordinator, *imagine Bridgewater*, outlined the *imagine Bridgewater* project's budget. She noted that, as of March 31, the *imagine Bridgewater* project will have

used approximately \$22,000 of the \$40,000 allocated for the project. Ms. Chase then outlined the projected expenses from April 1 to mid-August, 2007, and requested Council's consideration in pre-approving \$38,500 from the 2007/2008 budget to cover expenses of salaries, marketing/advertising, and other expenses related to *imagine Bridgewater*.

07-075 Moved by Councillor Marlin, seconded by Councillor McInnis that Town Council for the Town of Bridgewater pre-approve \$38,500 from the 2007/2008 budget for the projected expenses for the imagine Bridgewater project. Motion Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

DRAFT GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS POLICY

The matter of a new Grants and Contributions Policy has been discussed several times over the past year. At Council's request, the Town Manager provided a sampling of grant requests which could be reviewed in relation to the proposed draft policy to determine Council's interest in implementing such a policy.

07-076 Moved by Deputy Mayor Walker, seconded by Councillor Bell that Town Council for the Town of Bridgewater maintain the existing Policy 6 (Grants to Organizations).

07-077 Moved by Councillor Marlin, seconded by Deputy Mayor Walker that Town Council for the Town of Bridgewater amend Motion 07-076 to add the following:

'and follow the intent of Policy 6, utilizing the same practices as in past years.'

Motion to amend Carried.

07-076a Moved by Deputy Mayor Walker, seconded by Councillor Bell that Town Council for the Town of Bridgewater maintain the existing Policy 6 (Grants to Organizations), and follow the intent of Policy 6, utilizing the same practices as in past years. Motion Carried.

MEETING OF MAYORS AND WARDENS - ASSESSMENT CAPPING

Mayor Publicover noted that he had recently attended a provincial meeting of Mayors and Wardens regarding assessment capping. The Mayor advised that the outcome of this meeting was a resolve to urge the province to reconsider the capping process. Three main points came from the meeting: that there be a means (income) test; that the cap be set 10 per cent until 2010; and that it apply to a principal residence only.

DRAFT POLICY 33 - TAX COLLECTION

A draft Tax Collection Policy was circulated for Council's consideration. Staff advised that the amended policy aligns the Town's policy with the Municipal Government Act. Currently, the Town's Policy forces staff to begin a tax sale after two years. The policy has been amended to change this time period from two years to three years.

07-078 Moved by Councillor Marlin, seconded by Councillor Mitchell that Town Council for the Town of Bridgewater repeal the Town's current Policy 33 - Tax Collection and approve the draft Tax Collection Policy as presented in Document 07-077. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

FIVE YEAR CAPITAL BUDGET LIST

A memo dated March 2, 2007 was received by Council from Town Manager Ken Smith, and included a draft copy of the 2006-2011 proposed Capital Projects list. This list was provided for Council's information, and Mr. Smith encouraged Council to contact the appropriate department head if further information was required.

SOUTH SHORE REGIONAL LIBRARY - 2007/2008 BUDGET REQUEST

A letter dated February 21, 2007 was received by Council from the South Shore Regional Library requesting Council's consideration to purchase some items of furniture and equipment, estimated to cost approximately \$8,800.

07-079 Moved by Councillor Mitchell, seconded by Deputy Mayor Walker that Town Council for the Town of Bridgewater refer the budget requests outlined in the South Shore Regional Library's letter dated February 21, 2007 (Document 07-065) to the 2007/2008 budget deliberations. Motion Carried.

REGION 6 SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT - "HOSTING" OF REGION 6 FINANCES

A letter dated February 26, 2007 was received by Council from Valda Walsh, Regional Coordinator for Region 6 Solid Waste Management, advising of the resignation of Mr. Ron Mullins, and requesting Council's consideration in hosting the finance duties for Region 6.

It was noted that the other municipal units within Region 6 would also be approached regarding this matter.

SUNDRY

ACCOUNTS - MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2007 - \$1,054,588.09

A list of accounts for the month of February 2007 was provided to Council for information purposes. Staff noted any questions could be directed to the Director of Finance and Administration.

PARKING METERS IN HOSPITAL AREA

Mayor Publicover expressed concern regarding the current parking situation along Glen Allan Drive and surrounding streets. He noted that people are choosing to park along streets surrounding South Shore Regional Hospital to avoid paying the parking charge, and wondered if it would be prudent to place parking meters on streets in the area of the hospital.

Council took no action regarding meters on streets in the hospital area.

ADJOURNMENT

07-080 Moved by Deputy Mayor Walker, seconded by Councillor McInnis that the March 12, 2007 Town Council meeting hereby be adjourned (8:45 p.m.). Motion Carried.

Sandra J. Lowe, Executive Secretary

Carroll W. Publicover, Mayor