

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
November 26, 2019

Present:

Mayor Don Clarke
Deputy Mayor Ty Walsh
Councillor Barry Corbin
Councillor Anna Ashford-Morton
Councillor Rod Reeves
Mike Payne, Chief Administrative Officer
Karen Peckford, Director of Finance
Tim Harding, Public Works
Debbie Elliott, Recreation & Community Development
Laurie Saunders, BDVFD (left after report)
Chantal Pineo-Atwood, Executive Coordinator

Absent with Regrets:

Councillor Jane Bustin
Councillor Mike Trinacty

In Attendance:

Pat Jodrie
George Floris
Jane Perry
Joe and Bobbi McGrath

1. Call to Order

The Committee of the Whole Meeting was called to order at 6:32pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

The Committee approved the Agenda as circulated, with the following additions:

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

The October, 2019 COTW Minutes were approved as circulated with the addition of Karen Peckford, DOF, in attendance list.

4. Dan Stovel, REMO

Mr. Stovel offered a presentation on the draft Kings REMO Winter Storm Preparedness and Response Plan and recommended that Council adopt this plan dated September, 2019 at the December Council Meeting.

5. Departmental Reports

a. RCMP

Sgt. Ryan Kelly's reports were reviewed by the committee. As well, Mr. Payne reviewed the Bylaw Officer report.

b. Berwick & District Volunteer Fire Department

Mr. Saunders reviewed his report and noted this past month has been very busy with alarms. As well, there are 4 new members in the wings completing training, etc. which is great news for the department.

c. Public Works

Mr. Harding's report was reviewed by the committee.
Mr. Harding highlighted the department is steady with preparing for winter and concluding brush and leaf pick up.

d. Community Development and Recreation

Ms. Elliott's report was reviewed by Council and noted that the parade was a large success and Taylor worked very hard with organizing same.
Ms. Elliott noted there will not be a signage report and she could not identify any previous signage information.
Councillor Corbin and Councillor Ashford-Morton noted there has been previous discussions at meetings in the past about signage. Jill Easson, previous Economic Development Officer, had carried out signage work. Council suggested Ms. Elliott contact Jill or Steve Slipp.

e. Finance

Ms. Peckford reviewed her reports and noted that budget planning will kick off in January and will work with Chantal on organizing some dates.
Ms. Peckford will be meeting with department heads to determine some variances in operations/expenditures.

f. CAO:

Mr. Payne's report was reviewed by Council indicating a very busy month. There were no questions of same.

6. Ongoing Business

a. Foster Street/Union Street Crosswalk Concerns

Mr. Payne reviewed the attached report. Council agreed to option 2 – to complete the planned initiatives and monitor the intersection for vehicle volume and speeds. This motion will go to December Council.

b. Appointment of a Traffic Authority for the Town of Berwick

Mr. Payne discussed the report (attached) with the committee. Council recommends Option 3, appointing the CAO as the Traffic Authority. A motion will go to December Council.

c. Committee Structure

Mr. Payne noted to the committee that he and Councillor Trinacty are working on a Terms of Reference for the Recreation and Community Development Committee. This

TOR will be presented at a Committee Structure meeting to be held on **Tuesday, January 7th at 5pm.**

7. Mayors Report:

Mayor Clarke highlighted various events he has attended over the last two weeks.

Future events:

Meeting and Tour of 14 Wing Greenwood – November 29

Valley REN Meeting – November 28

AVCC Valley Leaders Initiative – November 29 at NSCC

Equilibrium Christmas Reception – November 29

AVCC Quarterly Breakfast – December 3

TOB Christmas Reception – December 5

December Council Meeting – December 10

Mayor Clarke also referred to Keith Irving's correspondence (attached) on a collaborative effort for doctor recruitment.

Mayor Clarke confirmed that Mike Larsen has agreed to work one day per week in a role as a staff person to coordinate any funding received for recruitment and coordinate recruitment efforts in consultation with the NS Health Authority's recruiter.

There is also a request for a Council member to sit on this committee. Mayor Clarke will speak to Mr. Irving regarding this.

Council gave direction to pursue this collaborative effort.

8. Council Round Table

Councillor Corbin:

- Update on Valley Waste (attached report) Councillor Corbin also noted that he will stay on the Valley Waste Board for the rest of his term.

Councillor Reeves:

- Worked at the Christmas Mommies and Daddies Telethon on November 24

Councillor Ashford-Morton:

- Gala Days is wrapping up and will soon be in a position to disburse funds

Deputy Mayor Walsh:

- Reported on his activities this month and noted that the Berwick Library stats are encouragingly up. Also trying to get a Deputy Mayor's meeting group organized.

Ms. McGrath asked that the proposed amendments to the 3 way intersection at Union and Foster Streets be monitored closely and if problems still arise, that a 3 way stop be considered. Staff agreed.

9. In Camera (Property and Personnel)

The Regular Council entered into an In Camera Session at 8:31pm and re-entered into Regular Council at 9:16pm.

Council recommends that the By-law Officer 6 month term position be extended an additional 6 months.

10. Adjournment

The Council Meeting adjourned at 9:20pm.

Issue Report to Committee of the Whole

Michael Payne, Chief Administrative Officer

2019 Nov 26

Issue

A request to make the Foster and Union Streets intersection a three way stop.

Discussion

During the November 12, 2019 meeting of Council a resident made a presentation and presented a petition signed by seventy residents requesting a three way stop be implemented at the intersection. The concern is that the Xwalk on Foster Street was not safe for pedestrians because of the speed of vehicles and poor sightlines on Foster Street approaching from the south.

Typically, three way stop signs are not recommended unless there are exigent circumstances that would warrant doing so. The Director of Public Works (PW) and the CAO visited the site, took photographs and made several observations and determinations to mitigate the safety concern.

Xwalk safety is an important concern across the province. Given what's at stake, it is important to note that primarily, it is the pedestrian's responsibility to ensure that they are seen by motorists and that it is safe to cross the street.

Proposal

The following actions have been completed by PW:

- The 'School zone' has been moved south on Foster Street to include the approach to this Xwalk
- An electronic speed radar sign has been located in this area to record speeds and traffic volume for northbound traffic on Foster Street.
- PW has spoken with management of Liberty Lodge on the south/east corner of the intersection and asked that they not park as close to the corner and pull their vehicles a little further east.

The following actions will be implemented as soon as practicable/possible:

- PW have ordered florescent green 'Xwalk' signs that can be used only in school zones
- PW will relocate the Xwalk sign at the south/east corner of the intersection by moving it closer to Foster Street, increasing its visibility approaching from the south
- In the Spring when PW do annual street line painting they will paint large X's on the street approaching this Xwalk

Impacts

Collectively, these efforts should slow down motorists and improve visibility of the Xwalk, particularly approaching from Foster Street south. The electronic speed radar will provide data on vehicle speeds approaching from the south as well as data on the volume of traffic traversing this area. No negative impacts of the proposal are foreseen.

Options

1. Install a three way stop at the intersection of Foster and Union Streets
2. Complete the planned initiatives and monitor the intersection for vehicle volume and speeds

Recommendation

Staff recommends Option 2



Foster Street at Union intersection, south view

Issue Report to Committee of the Whole

Michael Payne, Chief Administrative Officer

2019 Nov 26

Issue

Appointment of a new Traffic Authority for the Town of Berwick.

Discussion

Section 86 (6) of the Motor Vehicle Act (MVA) of Nova Scotia authorizes Council to appoint an official of the Town to be the Traffic Authority for the Town of Berwick.

The role of the Traffic Authority includes but is not limited to:

- erecting signs, markings and traffic control signals to direct and regulate traffic
- establishing crosswalks, fire lanes and no parking zones
- issuing parade permits and fixing maximum rates of speed
- designating school zone areas
- making and enforcing temporary regulations to cover emergencies or special conditions such as winter parking bans

Enquiries with the Department confirmed that the current Traffic Authority for the Town is Sgt. Jamie Greene of the RCMP. Sgt. Greene is the former commander of Kingston RCMP but was transferred summer 2018. The Department further advised that several municipalities across the province with RCMP police service have appointed a town official as their Traffic Authority because of the turnover among RCMP personell. During the past several years the Director of Public Works has provided solid advice on traffic authority related matters.

Section 86 (7) of the MVA requires the Clerk of a Town to provide the Provincial Traffic Authority with a copy of any resolution appointing a Traffic Authority for the Town.

Proposal

The CAO should be appointed as the Traffic Authority for the Town. He has a wealth of policing and traffic related experience and was in fact the Traffic Authority for the Town from 1999 – 2002. The CAO and the Director of Public Works would continue to collaborate on all Traffic Authority matters to ensure the best decisions are made for the safety of residents and traffic flow.

Impacts

A formal Traffic Authority appointment is required to effectively address potential liabilities for the Town concerning the safety of residents and the effective flow of traffic.

Options

1. Appoint a member of the RCMP as the Traffic Authority
2. Appoint the Director of Public Works as the Traffic Authority
3. Appoint the CAO as the Traffic Authority

Recommendation

Option 3 is recommended



November 25, 2019

RE: Doctor Recruitment

Dear Mayor Clark:

As I mentioned in our recent phone conversation, over the past few months a collaborative effort has been undertaken in Kings County to recruit and **retain more doctors**. A committee comprising Wolfville Deputy Mayor, Jodi MacKay; Kings County Deputy Mayor, Emily Lutz; Kentville Councillor, Cate Savage along with Mark Vardy, Board member from the Annapolis Valley Chamber of Commerce, and myself, have been meeting to advance ideas and coordinate actions on doctor recruitment. It is clear, even at this early phase, that hands-on, proactive initiatives organized by local community representatives, is an effective tool in recruitment.

Also emerging from our work, is the idea of a **Residency Retention Program** targeted at the 10 physician residents that complete their 2-year residency in the Valley. A coordinated effort to connect and integrate these professionals into our communities can only strengthen the opportunity for retention.

I am writing therefore to ask if the Town of Berwick would be interested in joining this initiative and could appoint a member of your Council to join our committee.

There is a possibility of provincial support for this work. We are developing a proposal to the *Culture Innovation Fund: Healthy Communities Stream*. However, this program does not fund staff time, and this has emerged as a much-needed gap in our plans as an inter-agency committee. Though we are confident much of the work can be done by volunteers, a part-time staff person is needed to advance work between committee meetings. The role of the staff person would be to coordinate any funding received for recruitment, coordinate recruitment efforts in consultation with the NS Health Authority's recruiter for our region and support the ongoing work of our committee.

As this is a collaborative effort, we are confident that there are solutions, such as one municipality contributing a staff person for 1 day of week, cost-shared by other municipalities. We are asking if one of the participating municipalities would consider taking the lead on identifying a staff person to support the committee's work 1 day/week, to be cost-shared by the other municipalities.

Update – Regular Monthly Meeting Valley Waste Resource Management,
November 20,2019

1. Proposed changes to VWRM Bylaw (last approved in 2012) – A. Garrett, G. Proszynska reviewed changes; amended draft bylaw to go to parties for initial reaction/feedback; revised bylaw to parties in December after recommendation by Authority Board for legal review and additional feedback if required; finalized bylaw to Municipal Councils by February 2020 for Public readings and Councils' approvals; register the amended bylaw with NS Dept. of Municipal Affairs when all Councils have approved.
2. Provision of Cost and Management Services for VWRM awarded to Keir Corp, total cost \$ 38,534. Fully funded under Municipal Modernization funding currently held by M of County of Kings.
3. Provision of Staffing Review awarded to Gerald Walsh and Associates, total cost \$24,250. Fully funded under Municipal Modernization funding currently held by M of County of Kings.
4. Contract for Provision of Transportation of Source-separated Solid Waste for a 5-year period of April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2025 awarded to EFR Disposal Limited.
5. General Mgr. Andrew Wort and Financial Manager G. McCain completed an analysis of the impact/cost implications of closing or maintaining Western Management Centre. The General Manager emphasized that volumes are critical in solid waste business. No decision at this time – Kings to review the analysis.
6. New schedule for waste collection provided. Transition from 30 collection areas to 8 larger areas (map provided) to improve efficiencies and allow for site closures on all holidays. New collection schedule will begin the week of March 31, 2020. Pick-up will begin at 7:00 am with set-out after 9:00 pm the night before.
7. More items added to Electronics Products Recycling Program. New program (UOMA) for collection and recycling of oil, glycol, oil filters to begin on January 1, 2020.
8. Official notice that RCMP Investigation into action of former acting GM Cathie Osborne has been closed.