



**Special Council Meeting - Minutes of the Meeting**

**April 8, 2020 6:30pm**

**(Via Videoconference Webex Meetings)**

**Attendance**

In attendance

Don Clarke, Mayor

Chair

Deputy Mayor Ty Walsh

Jane Bustin

Anna Ashford-Morton

Councillors

Mike Trinacty

Rod Reeves

Barry Corbin

Mike Payne, CAO

Karen Peckford, Finance Director

Chantal Pineo, Executive Coordinator

**1. Call to Order**

The Council Meeting was called to order at 6:42 pm.

**2. Approval of Previous Minutes**

The previous Council Minutes were approved by motion of Council.

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

The Agenda was approved as circulated with the following additions:

*Berwick Sports Hall of Fame update*

#### **4. New Business**

*(a) Kings Transit 2020-21 Budget Approval*

- Buses are off the road, still running in Digby
- Lay-off notices are being issued to employees, health benefits will continue
- Kings Transit will build a supplementary budget after the Covid 19 crisis
- Kings County did pass the current budget

**IT WAS MOVED** and seconded

**THAT**

Council approve the presented 2020-21 Kings Transit Budget.

#### **MOTION WITHDRAWN**

Council has deferred the motion until April 21 Council Meeting.

*(b) 2020 Property Tax Interest Charges and Due Date Determinations*

Karen explained various options that have been discussed on a Provincial level. Continue to work on various proposals regarding property taxes. There will be no “free” money from Province.

Council discussed the option of the Province paying deferred taxes with interest over two years. Mike Payne will discuss this with Mike Dulter. The Province and NSFM are meeting during the Easter Long Weekend to try to figure options out.

Council discussed the Town’s position on property tax bills and agreed that staff should proceed with billing as normal. The bills will be due on usual date.

Council suggested that a note be added to the bottom of the bills indicating that if the resident has concerns or inquiries they may contact the Finance Department.

*(c) Offer to Purchase Property (Solar Garden)*

In December 2019, TOB posted an Expression of Interest where citizens and businesses could respond with proposals for TOB to use a parcel of parcels of land for a solar garden. Five individual submissions from landowners were received in response to the EOI with a total of 12 PIDS for evaluation.

After careful review PID 55145304 has the most highly desirable features.

**IT WAS MOVED** and seconded

**THAT**

Staff set aside funds to purchase property for a Solar Garden.

#### **MOTION CARRIED**

*(d) Interim Street Maintenance Approvals 2020-21*

Mr. Harding has requested early approval to fox the Town's street/sidewalk pot holes and to repair sewer cuts as well as other small repairs as needed. Mr. Harding would like to get the tenders out as soon as possible.

**IT WAS MOVED** and seconded

**THAT**

Council approve interim maintenance/paving funds up to \$75,000.

**MOTION CARRIED**

*(e) Sports Hall of Fame Update*

Councillor Trinacty noted that the Sports Hall of Fame Banquet has been rescheduled to September 26 at the Berwick Lions Hall. The committee will retain all sponsors but this year's payment will be optional.

The committee may have to cut the current budget or hold a fundraiser.

Councillor Corbin highlighted that April is Volunteer Month and asked that the Community Development department recognize the volunteers in some capacity and note we will hold an event later on in the year.

**5.In Camera Session (Contractual)**

The regular Council meeting entered into an In Camera Session at 8:05pm and returned to regular Council at 8:25pm with the following motion:

**IT WAS MOVED** and seconded

**THAT**

Council agrees to authorize, and support, \$39,459 (plus HST) for engineering services.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**6.Adjournment**

The Council Meeting adjourned at 8:33pm. The next Council Meeting will be April 21<sup>st</sup> at 6pm.