

Minutes of a Special Session of Municipal Council held on **October 24, 2016**, at 10:20 a.m. at the Municipal Administration Building, Annapolis Royal, NS

Present: Warden Reg Ritchie, Deputy Warden Timothy Habinski, and Councillors: Brian “Fuzzy” Connell, Wayne Fowler, Paul McDonald, Gregory Heming, Alex Morrison, Martha Roberts, and Diane LeBlanc.

Absent: Councillors Marilyn Wilkins, Frank Chipman, and Horace Hurlburt; Municipal Clerk Carolyn Young.

Staff: CAO John Ferguson, Director of HR and Protective Services Dawn Campbell (Recording Secretary), other staff, and members of the public.

Also

Present: Councillors Elect Wendy Sheridan, Burt McNeil, Michael Gunn, and John McDonald.

Recording Secretary

In the absence of the Municipal Clerk and Senior Administrative Assistant, the Director of Human Resources and Protective Services served as Recording Secretary for the meeting.

Additions/Deletions

By consensus, the recommendations from the Audit Committee were added to the agenda.

Recommendations from the Audit Committee

Deputy Warden Habinski moved, seconded by Councillor Roberts, that Municipal Council approve the Draft Consolidated Financial Statements for the Municipality of the County of Annapolis for the year ended March 31, 2016, as presented by Kent and Duffett. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Habinski, seconded by Councillor Fowler, that Municipal Council approve a transfer of \$190,256 from the Sewer Capital Replacement Reserve to General Operating to cover the 2016-2017 Annapolis County sewer deficit. Motion carried unanimously.

Deputy Warden Habinski moved, seconded by Councillor Roberts, that Municipal Council approve a transfer of \$407,798 from General Operating to the Annapolis County Operating Reserve; this amount represents the 2016-2017 General Operating Surplus. Motion carried unanimously.

Direction was given to the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) for staff to bring forward a “whistle blower policy” (as discussed at the Audit Committee) for considered at future meeting.

Business Arising from the Minutes

Re: Letter to Department of Business Regarding Rural Internet Connectivity (Update) – The CAO and Director of Community Services Albert Dunphy have been working cooperatively with other regional municipalities to organize a corporation to receive proposals and manage a project to enhance rural internet connectivity in our area. Recent information indicates that the Province will be carrying out design and project management for this project. The County will endeavour to stay apprised of project development and opportunities for consultation with the Province as a stakeholder. As such, the previously-discussed letter and the corporation will not move forward at this time.

Re: Rural Broadband Workshop – The workshop is scheduled for November 16th in Caledonia.

New Business

Re: Canada Legacy Society - Update

Despite extensive consultation with federal officials, the application submitted by the Society for the vignette project was rejected. It was moved by Councillor Heming, seconded by Deputy Warden Habinski, to dissolve the Canada Legacy Society. Motion carried unanimously.

Re: Request Letter of Support for Canada 150 Grant (Ian Currie) – A letter was received from Ian Currie requesting Municipal Council’s support for their Canada 150 grant application. Councillor McDonald moved, seconded by Deputy Warden Habinski, that Municipal Council to provide a letter of support for their application. Motion carried unanimously.

In Camera

Upon motion of Councillor Roberts, seconded by Councillor LeBlanc, to move in camera in accordance with Section 22 (2)(f) of the Municipal Government Act (potential litigation) at 10:45 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Special session resumed at 11:07 a.m. with all members present as prior to the in camera.

Additions to the Agenda

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Deputy Warden Habinski to add “Public Participation” as an additional item on the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Deputy Warden Habinski moved, seconded by Councillor LeBlanc to add “Appointment of Building Inspector” as an additional item on the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Re: Public Participation – A paid advertisement entitled “Time for Change” appeared in *The Annapolis Valley Register* on October 12, 2016. The advertisement made several serious allegations against Municipal Council and was signed only as “SLAM” – apparently the initials the individual or group which placed and paid for it.

Councillor Morrison noted that the words in the advertisement speak to the public participation and to matters political in the County. He stated that during his four (4) years on Municipal Council he has met a number of individuals who have disagreed with things he has said, with statements he has made or actions he has taken. In the overwhelming majority of those situations, he has had conversations with the individuals and in the end they have agreed to disagree. In some instances there have been some persons who might not even reside in District 6 but for various reasons have views that are mistaken on business carried out by the Municipal Council, by the Province of Nova Scotia, or by him as an individual councillor. He expects to have people disagree with him. In fact people who really know him, know that there are few things that he likes better than an argument, a debate, a good full and honest discussion. In regard to honesty, Councillor Morrison stated that he has never been backward in coming forward and giving his view and taking his actions and standing up for them. This particular, anonymously-placed paid advertisement used words that, in his view, malign every councillor in Annapolis County. It talked about councillors with their hands “in the pockets of taxpayers” which holds for most people who are aware of what happens in the World serious implications. This anonymously-placed, paid advertisement

also pointed clearly to Councillor Morrison accusing him of squandering tax dollars in the past, which of course is not true. It is not pleasant for individual councillors, or Council as a whole, to read these remarks. They are ugly remarks and entirely without foundation. What is extremely disappointing to him, and he assumes to his council colleagues, is that the person who placed this anonymous advertisement did not have “the guts” or “intestinal fortitude” to stand up and be known. He felt this was very unfortunate as he works hard for District 6 and the County. Fellow councillors work hard for their districts and for the County. He will continue to represent District 6 and its residents, and also those outside of District 6 who might own property in his district or have other interests. It was unfortunate that individuals chose to pay for an anonymous political message disguised as an advertisement about our democratic processes. He regrets that we have those people in our society.

Re: Appointment of Building Inspector – It was moved by Deputy Warden Habinski, seconded by Councillor Fowler, that Danny Wright be appointed as a Building Inspector for the County of Annapolis. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Upon motion of Councillor Connell, seconded by Councillor LeBlanc, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Warden

Recording Secretary in Absence of Municipal Clerk

(Dawn Campbell)