

MINUTES OF THE VILLAGE OF PORT WILLIAMS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 19, 2009

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Janet Newton, Brian Tupper, Chief Philip Porter, Geneve Newcombe and Laura Wightman. **REGRETS:** Stanton Hancock. Three members of the public were also present; Steve MacDonald, Jeff Newbury and John Regan.

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 April 21, 2009 meeting be approved as circulated. **MOTION CARRIED.**

REPORTS:

Janitorial: Brian Tupper reported:

- Weekends are now busy in the Community Centre
- Only a couple of locations in the building still have to be waxed
- There are a few plumbing repairs that need to be done. A list will be made and a plumber contacted. **ACTION:** Brian and Geneve
- Suggested the purchase of 1 or 2 new flip charts. Laura has already purchased an additional one.

Fire Department: Chief Philip Porter presented his report as attached.

-Meeting on May 21, 2009 for all Emergency Services (i.e. Fire Chiefs and deputies, EMO, Natural Resources, Dept of Environment) for better cooperation in the event of a major incident such as the forest fire in Halifax Regional Municipality.

-BBQ pit : The donation of cement blocks to make the pit have been received, the location is to be out front of the Fire Station and the need for it to be mobile in case of rain are requirements being looked into. The Department used 2000 gallons of water this past month.

Lions Club: As reported by Brian Tupper:

- Adopt a highway – not sure if it will happen this Spring, otherwise will be in Fall
- Booster club letters were sent and this Thursday canvassing will happen
- Port Williams Days are planned – firework funding is slowly coming in
- Lions are doing the Fire Dept Banquet this weekend
- Keeping busy with weddings and events re bar and banquet services
- Will be using the parking lot for Port Williams Days

Kings County Councillor: Janet Newton reported:

- Street lights at Ports Landing were discussed with Richard Lloyd.
- Carty no answer
- Earl Kidston has purchased the Maple Leaf Foods mill and will be taking it down as soon as he gets some funding from the government. One building will be used for storage; he has no use for the office building. It will be used for a value added product of sliced and diced squash and perhaps a retail outlet store.
- Trails: May 27th re paving shoulders
- April 22 letter from Village re waterfront plan was well received and should get the \$10,000 matching -results by beginning of June
- Building permits are now shown as addresses not people's names
- ICSP draft meeting was poorly attended but the meeting was changed and therefore could be the reason. Education and technology were not included. They are to finalize it and send it in. Janet was disappointed in it and the Vision statement. Every town/village will have to do one. Janet will provide Kim with the draft, as she could not download the document.

Park Planning Committee: Janet Newton reported that the committee had a public meeting on May 13, 2009 which was well attended. Stan (planner), Lia (Chair) and Laura (fundraising) covered all the bases and there were no real problem areas expressed by those present. She pointed out that a corporate sponsorship sign is not allowed by County of Kings, she was not sure about other plaques on the benches or trees. A park plan will be sent to the Municipality for input on other areas that may need to comply with county regulations.

Board of Trustees: Doug Gates reported: A meeting was held on April 28, 2009 to review the By-Laws, Schedules and Facility Agreement. These were all approved as presented and will now be finalized. The lawyer is still looking at the opening and closing wording. Part III of the Facility Agreement concerning capacity of each room and names of bar and catering contact persons will be finalized at the September 17 meeting.

Recreation Committee: Scott Leier reported:

- The Committee met on May 12th
- Ball fields are being used 4 nights per week
- Dancetime had their final Spring Dance on May 9th
- Throw pitch – participating in 2 tournaments May 23rd with 19 teams and one on June 13th – 20 teams from various areas such as Cape Breton and Lunenburg
- Stands installed and port-a-pots placed at fields with the one at the pond
- Rink building needs repairs to siding, looking at putting the fountain in the pond and patching holes in the banks due to muskrats
- Volley ball and tennis nets are up, awaiting soccer nets

Gas Tax Committee: Kim Cogswell reported that there have been no Gas Tax meetings only an ICSP meeting which took place on April 29. Kim was unable to attend. (see Councilor Newton's report)

Secondary Planning Strategy Committee: Scott Leier reported that the last meeting was on May 7th with discussion on the Growth Centre. The next meeting is on August 6th at 7:00pm, when Ben Sivak will present variations on the growth centre option identified by the Committee. There will be more citizen participation at a later date.

Source Water Protection Committee: Lewis Benedict reported that there was a joint meeting with the SPS Committee, the Village Commission and stakeholders on May 6th where Dr. Jamieson gave a presentation that he had given at the NSFA Water Symposium at the Old Orchard Inn on April 22. A meeting will be called shortly.

Water/Sewer/Public Works/Transportation Report: Laura read Stanton Hancock's report, which is attached.

- Cost of traffic lights at the intersection of High St and Main St would be \$175,000 just for the lights.

- Traffic study – have received. Study was done for turn offs, not traffic volume. Stan is finding out about a 4-way stop and rumble strips.

A member of the public asked about crosswalks. He had understood that the crosswalk had to go from curb of sidewalk to curb, but was not sure if actually had to have curb. He was told that if someone is hit in sidewalk which doesn't have a curb there was no course of legal action. It was noted that this would be the Dept of Transport's responsibility to answer his question.

Treasurer's Report: The Village General Operating and Water Utility financial statements for April were presented. A motion to approve payment of the Village's bills was moved and seconded. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Moved and seconded that the Village use R & B Paving for the Community Centre parking lot instead of LaFarge as previously decided. **MOTION CARRIED.**

A meeting to review the draft 2009 Financial Statements and finalize the 2010 budget will take place on May 25th at 7:30pm. The meeting with the Auditor, Loretta Kalkman will take place on May 28th at 7:30pm.

Cost of Living adjustment was tabled to the next Village Commission meeting. It will be discussed at the May 25th meeting.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

- a) Building Evacuation Plans have been started.
- b) Great Valley Juice: Lewis reported that he had talked with Jay Johnson and it was still in their court. The Village has gone ahead and billed for 2008/09 sewer based on water consumption.

- c) Quotes on water pipes – see Janitorial report
- d) Acoustics in MPR: Brian Tupper reported no information received as yet
- e) Assoc of NS Villages– Scott Leier waiting to hear from Kelly Rice. Laura will follow up with Kelly.
- f) JAM Scholarship has been in the newspaper and the Village has received 1 application. The deadline is May 31, 2009. If more applications are received a committee meeting will be required.
- g) Waterfront development letter was sent to Municipality of Kings
- h) BBQ pit – see Fire Chief’s Report

NEW BUSINESS:

- a) A member of the public voiced a complaint concerning the parking on both sides of Belcher St. on last Thursday re events at Port Williams Elementary school. ACTION: Janet Newton will to look into what can be done. Lewis indicated that if cars get in the way of fire services, they can be removed. It was suggested that the School be notified and also a notice could be put in their newsletter.
- b) Signs: It was agreed to remove the old yellow sign on which used to say No Parking and the sign saying “parking for librarian” at the side of the Community Centre.
- c) It was suggested that once the parking lot was paved, it should be lined for spaces and a handicap space be allocated.
- d) Scott Leier mentioned that the ditching in Ports Landing needs to be done as it has grown in and the drainage is not as good as it should be. There has also been a loss of the shoulder which is causing the paving to break down ACTION: Janet will look into getting this done.

Correspondence:

I. Municipality of County of Kings:

a) **Building Permit Report for Month of April 2009(FOR INFO):**

Total building permit activity for Kings County for April 2009 amounts to 78 permits issued with a value of \$2,274,390. **For Port Williams**, activity consisted of 3 permits, estimated value \$130,900.

II.

a) **Valley Communications Inc Report for Port Williams Volunteer Fire**

Dept(FOR INFO): Report for Month of April 2009: 3 calls – 1 motor vehicle accident and 2 alarms

b) **Apple Blossom Festival:** Invitation to have a Village Representative in the parade reviewing stand. Lewis Benedict will attend.

c) **Federation of Scottish Clans in Nova Scotia:** Requesting support to have the

Federal Government declare April 6th annually as “Tartan Day” and the Maple Leaf Tartan recognized as Canada’s “National Tartan” (also included a copy of letter from Annapolis County showing their support) **It was duly moved and seconded to support this initiative. Motion carried.**

Letter from the Minister of Health Promotion and Protection: (FOR INFO):

- d) a grant in the amount of \$15,000 has been approved to assist with the costs of developing a community park in Port Williams
- e) **Letter from MTDC:** final draft of the revised Sewer By-law for Port Williams. Letter copied and sent to appropriate personnel.
- f) **Letter from Lafarge(FOR INFO):** have been sold to Highland Asphalt Limited, updated addresses
- g) **Letter from Municipal Enterprises Limited (FOR INFO):** letting us know that Highland Asphalt Limited is a 100% wholly owned subsidiary of MEL
- h) **Newsletter from MacDonald Chisholm (FOR INFO):** Insurance in Uncertain Times and an email re Seminar on Contractual Transfer. Copy of email will be forwarded to Scott Leier.
- i) **Newsletter from VANSDA (FOR INFO)**
- j) **Flyer from Port Williams Lion:** -request for assistance for float. **It was duly moved and seconded to donate \$800 to the Port Williams Lions Club. Motion carried.**
- k) **Murdock C. Smith Library Association:** -Bike rack placement and one half of 2010 donation. **Action:** to send a letter to the Association letting them know our date for paving and thanking them for their donation.

III. **Email Correspondence:**

- a) Tanya Oickle, Dept of Engineering from Municipality of Kings re Ports Landing Street lights. (*email forwarded to Stan*)
- b) Peter Muttart re draft of Fire Dept Rules of Governance (*email forwarded to Chief and Commissioners*)
- c) Kraft/TSN great Canadian Communities Contest (*email forwarded to Park Planning Committee*)
- d) Jennie Rand, Asst. Prof, Ivan Curry School of Engineering Acadia U – would like to consider Port Williams as a potential test site research program in nitrate treatment. **Action:** send a reply indicating our willingness to allow Port Williams to be used as a test site.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- a) A question of monies that the Kings County gets from the Province of NS in lieu of taxes on farm land will be obtained by Janet Newton from Mark Parent. If farm land is not being farmed then is it classified as residential (i.e.lawn) and is taxed. Whether Port Williams gets any benefits from this will also be checked into.
- b) A member of the public questioned who owns the mineral rights in Port Williams. It was noted that the Dept of Natural Resources do and they could provide what minerals were in the Port area. They are leased from the land owner.

Upon a motion being made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED.

Lewis Benedict, Chair

Laura Wightman, Clerk/Treasurer