

MARINE DRIVE, VALLEY AND CANAL
COMMUNITY COUNCIL
ANNUAL MEETING
MINUTES
DECEMBER 2, 1998

PRESENT: Councillor David Hendsbee, Chair
Councillor Bill Dooks
Councillor Gordon R. Snow

STAFF: Ms. Julia Horncastle, Assistant Municipal Clerk

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1. INVOCATION

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with an invocation.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED by Councillors Snow and Dooks that the minutes of September 23, 1998 and October 7, 1998 be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

Additions

Councillor Snow requested the following items:

- 12.1 Sidewalk update
- 12.2 Area Rate LWF
- 12.3 Update re: transportation costs

Councillor Dooks requested the following item:

- 12.4 Update on Regional Museum of Cultural History

MOVED by Councillors Dooks and Snow that the Order of Business, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE

5. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION - NONE

6. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION - NONE

7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

9. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

9.1 Correspondence, dated October 5, 1998, from David VanSlyke, Department of Transportation and Public Works

MOVED by Councillors Dooks and Snow that the response be directed to the Ratepayers Association of Musquodoboit Harbour. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10. REPORTS

10.1 Goffs Fire Department

- A report was circulated outlining purpose, station 47 current staffing levels, options considered for resolving staffing concerns and option selected to resolve staffing levels.

Mr. Don Day, Fire Chief, advised the process had started as the result of concerns with the low number of volunteers in the Goffs department. He stated the purpose of this presentation is to review the status of staffing levels at station #47. He advised there are 12 members listed on the books currently with a diverse range in the attendance rate, commitment and training levels. He stated there are currently only three members with Nova Scotia Firefighters School Level I training and one of the safety considerations is to ensure that a person entering a building, in the event of a fire, is trained. He stated having a career staff means there is an obligation to provide a work environment that meets all the provincial regulations.

He stated, from a liability perspective, the minimum training established in the zone is when a line goes into a building, in a fire, the crew must be accompanied by a person who has a Level I certification. He stated that at least one person on a line must have that level of training to ensure the protection of others. When operating with only three members who are all in the same group, it is hard to ensure that you are always going to have one of those people on call. This is a problem that is being faced here, the number of trained people that can enter a burning structure. Training is another concern and resulting consequence of the low numbers of personnel. Where this hall is located a long distance from the next department, being an operational station, the chief is obligated to ensure he has a crew available to respond to calls. If he wants to take advantage of the zone training on Tuesday nights, and only has two or three people, he cannot send them for training; therefore, he is restricted in his ability to provide training. Training has suffered as the chief does not have the ability to send the people to get the required training.

The distance to the next station is also a problem. When you move closer to the core of Zone 4 the stations are not that far apart so when you need mutual aid, you can supplement by an automatic dual response from you neighbour. However, at this location you are looking at 15 to 20 minutes in response time under ideal conditions. The main concern is that there are three people at this station who are carrying the full workload.

He stated options were considered i.e., to close the station; make it a twenty four hours station; supplement the current volunteer membership - this was looked at as a long term objective. He advised the chiefs looked at industries and business who would be willing to free their people up to allow them to respond. He stated they focused on those that could provide trained personnel. He advised they have been working with Pratt Whitney and a verbal agreement has been received from their fire chief for two people in the evening with four or five available during the day, noting this would depend upon operations within the plant. He stated the next step is to expand the search for volunteers for the long term.

He stated declaring the station non-operational was the option chosen which means this station will become a sub station of station #41, Waverley. He stated the response will not change and there will be no change in the structure of how officers work except the chief will now become the deputy chief. He stated there will be no change in response, procedures and protocols, noting the automatic tones will go to both stations. He stated this is expected to be a temporary change.

In response to Councillor Hendsbee, the Community Council was advised there were 132 calls in 1998, with approximately 40% being false alarms at the airport. It was noted that out of the total number of calls, 20-25 are fire related with the remainder being motor vehicle accidents.

Councillor Snow thanked the fire chief for his presentation and stated he would put the presentation out to the residents to inform them of the seriousness and urgency of the situation. He suggested holding a community meeting to further address the issue.

In response to a question regarding the consideration of full volunteer staff, the Community Council was advised that there is the need for career staff during the day because volunteers may not be available during the day.

Ms. Maude Thompson advised that if the nearest fire department is not within five miles of a residence, your homeowners insurance increases.

MOVED by Councillors Snow and Dooks that the Fire Chiefs immediately implement non-operational and proceed with the plan and further, provide the district Councillor with a copy of the presentation to be sent to each home and landowner in the community. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.2 Councillor Snow

10.2.1 Train Whistle, Windsor Junction

Councillor Snow advised there has been an ongoing situation with the whistle sounding during both day and night.

MOVED by Councillors Snow and Dooks that a letter be forwarded to CN to enquire if it is necessary, as there are guard rails on the track, to have the whistles sounding during early morning hours. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.2.2 Sewer Study, Fall River/Lake Fletcher

MOVED by Councillors Snow and Dooks that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Engineering and Works requesting a feasibility sewer study for the Fall River/Lake Fletcher/Windsor Junction area. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.2.3 Light Study, Carrolls Corner and Dutch Settlement

MOVED by Councillors Snow and Dooks that a cost analysis for lighting in Carrolls Corner be undertaken and a report come forward to Community Council. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.3 Appointment to the Grants Committee

MOVED by Councillors Dooks and Snow that Councillor Hendsbee be appointed to the Grants Committee. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.4 Appointment to the Membership Selection Committee

MOVED by Councillors Snow and Hendsbee that Councillor Dooks be appointed to the Membership Selection Committee. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

11. MOTIONS - NONE

12. ADDED ITEMS

12.1 Sidewalk Update - Councillor Snow

MOVED by Councillor Snow and Dooks that an update be requested regarding the sidewalk on the Waverley Road from the Cobequid Road in Waverley and the Portobello Road. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.2 Transportation - Road Costs - Councillor Snow

Councillor Snow advised that in district 2 the roads are classified both as suburban and urban, noting the roads in the rural portion are in poor condition. He questioned whether the Municipality pays the Department of Transportation for work and, if so, is the work equal to what is being paid.

MOVED by Councillors Snow and Dooks that the Minister of Transportation and Public works be requested to provide information regarding the maintenance of roads in the rural portion of District 2, answering the question of whether the Municipality pays the Department of Transportation and Public Works for road maintenance and, if so, is the work equal to the monies being paid. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.3 Mr. David Dwyer

Mr. Dwyer, member, Regional Museum of Cultural History Ad Hoc Committee, updated the Community Council on the report going forward to Regional Council requesting the Councillors support for the report and it's recommendations.

12.4 Area Rate - LWF Ratepayers' Association

- Correspondence, dated November 30, 1998, from Paul Pettipas, Chairperson, LWF Ratepayers' Association was submitted for consideration

MOVED by Councillors Snow and Dooks that the Marine Drive, Valley and Canal Community Council recommend approval of an enhanced area rate for recreation to cover the cost of operating the LWF Community Center (\$49,000.00) . MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION - NONE

14. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Herman Pye, Keltic Gardens Subdivision, expressed concern that the newsletter produced by Councillor Hendsbee was not reaching all residents of District 3.

Mr. Pye advised people are coming in off the highway and hunting in the area between the subdivisions of Carter Romans and Keltic Gardens. He stated the children play in this area and expressed concern that some of the hunters are not aware the houses are so close to the area in which they are hunting.

MOVED by Councillor Dooks and Snow that request go forward to the Department of Natural Resources to have this area posted and closed to hunting. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Mr. Pye expressed concern with the time frames involved in receiving responses to questions and requests put forward at the Community Council. He requested if an individual puts a concern forward, he/she be notified if and when a report is received on that specific issue.

Mr. Pye advised HRM staff come to his subdivision to cut the grass on the Municipal Parkland and, after the grass is cut, the truck may park and stay in the neighbourhood for an extended period of time.

Mr. Pye advised there are propane tanks being left on the side of the road on garbage days and because they are not an item that can be collected as part of household refuse, they are left on the side of the road for prolonged periods of time. He expressed concern with the hazard they will pose to snow plows during the winter. In response, Councillor Hendsbee requested Mr. Pye provide the location of these tanks and he would endeavour to have them removed.

Mr. Cyril Dillman, 3726 Guysborough Road, expressed disappointment in the small number of residents who had attended to discuss the fire department issue.

15. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

15.1 Area Rates

16. ELECTION OF CHAIR

MOVED by Councillors Dooks and Snow that Councillor David Hendsbee be appointed as Chair. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

17. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 27, 1998 at 7:00 p.m

18. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillors Snow and Dooks that the meeting be adjourned. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Julia Horncastle
ASSISTANT MUNICIPAL CLERK