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KINGSTON VILLAGE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION MEETING OF OCTOBER 3, 2018

COMMISSION:

Don Holmesdale - Chair
John Pierce - Vice Chair
Paul Parsons
Muriel West
Wayne Fowler

Mike McCleave - Clerk/Treasurer
Janice Hatfield - Absent

GUESTS:

Glyn Bissix, PhD, Professor - Acadia University
Martha Armstrong - Councillor District 4, Municipality of the County of Kings

OPENING

Chair Don Holmesdale called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Chair Holmesdale stated the September minutes were not provided due to temporary office staff shortage so there will be no review or business arising from the September 5th, 2018 Regular Session meeting minutes.

Clerk provided the following updates:

- A partial property tax payment was made for the property off Marshall Road, but this does not alleviate the property possibly going to tax sale.
- Clerk spoke with DJ Lowe, the contractor for the new lift station on Maple Street, and they agreed to cut the overage charges to \$11,700.
- They will let the upper ball field grass sit for re-grassing.
- Clerk contacted John Lopes with CIBC Corporate Real Estate but has not heard back from him regarding the purchase of the CIBC building.
- The streetlight has been ordered for the property on Pine Ridge Ave which should be installed sometime in the next month.
- Clerk confirmed with the County that it is possible to allow group homes to be placed in residential R1 zones.

- Clerk stated the letter to the RCMP regarding bicycle helmet concerns has not yet been completed.

CONSENT TO AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Holmesdale asked for a motion to approve the agenda items as presented.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER FOWLER AND COMMISSIONER PARSONS THAT THE COMMISSION APPROVE THE AGENDA ITEMS AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED.

PRESENTATION – VILLAGE CASE STUDY PROJECT

Professor Bissix introduced himself and two of three grad students from Acadia University that have been tasked with helping build a proposed case study by fourth year students. The graduate student and a person from Acadia's Entrepreneurship Centre writes background information for the case study of a village or community. Then, groups of fourth year students are to compile a strategic plan and in order to do that they need to have a fairly elaborate case study. They will develop a strategic plan for the community focusing on community issues and development. He stated they are approaching the Village of Kingston Commission to see if they are interested in participating in this project.

Clerk already forwarded to the commission a previous case study and the course outline to get a better idea. The case study will be constructed and the commission will have vetting privileges over what is included. The goal is to teach students strategic planning, as well, the students may have good ideas that the village may want to use. The 28 students will spend an entire day in the Village sometime late January or February. The day will consist of a short presentation from the Commission, interviews with various local residents and business people, as well as a narrated tour of the village. The Commission will then be invited to come to Acadia University to view their presentations.

Commissioner West stated the Commission feels very fortunate to have been approached with this opportunity. Commission agreed to participate.

Chair Holmesdale asked if there was anything the Commission could do to prepare for the case study. One grad student stated she would like to come to the office beforehand to view the historical records and the two volume history books 'Echoes across the Valley' that were compiled by the Kingston Historical Society. Professor Bissix also stated he would like to have electronic copies of various maps and any statistics available such as population and the number of dwellings in the Village.

Chair Holmesdale thanked the professor and students for the presentation.

COUNTY OF KINGS UPDATE

Councillor Armstrong stated a group called 'Uncommon Common Art' from Wolfville made a presentation to Kings County Council recently. They have artists who design

and put up works of art in various locations around the County and they have a booklet map showing where the art is located. Councillor Armstrong stated she pointed out to the group that their map ends in Aylesford and does not include any art installations in the Kingston or Greenwood areas. She found out that there is an application process and wondered if the commission knew anyone that might be interested in doing something around this area. She gave an example of an artist who paints barns as one form of art, and basically does it for room and board at the various farms.

Councillor Armstrong attended a Planning Advisory Committee meeting as an alternate and they brought up to the Municipal Planning Strategy that when a developer builds in a subdivision they should have to install some form of active transportation such as a sidewalk or a bicycle lane. She stated there was some backlash from one village that they would not want to have to maintain the sidewalk if it was installed.

Commissioner Fowler asked about the status of Kings 2050. Councillor Armstrong stated the Municipal Planning Strategy is before the Planning Advisory Committee now and the timeline is now the summer of 2019. It would also have to go back to public engagement.

Councillor Armstrong stated at the last Committee of the Whole meeting there was a J-Class roads prospectus for all the J-Class roads in Kings County. The province has narrowed it down now that they can only request 10 km/year and there is also no guarantee that they will get it. Some roads on the list are even going to be repaved.

Commissioner Pierce expressed concern over the how the County funds festivals and events and would like this item raised with Council. He stated it is not right that the Steer BBQ event receives \$500 and Berwick Gala Days receives \$12,000 and asked if this has been going on for several years or if it was a one time thing. Councillor Armstrong stated that in their grant program there is a major initiative grant where staff look at attendance per day, etc and the multi day events fall under that criteria.

The Commission also expressed their concerns over grants that 14 Wing Greenwood Recreation receives from the County. Commissioner Fowler stated that Recreation at 14 Wing has their own large internal fund to draw from, Wing Fund. Councillor Armstrong stated there are issues with the grant program and there has to be other criteria to get these grants. Clerk questioned why the County is funding all of these festivals and events such as the Annapolis Valley Exhibition. Councillor Armstrong stated she will bring this up at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – See Full Reports

Clerk stated September and October minutes will be provided at the next meeting.

WASTEWATER – See Full Report

Commissioner Pierce asked about the sewer line issue next to 1720 Old Brook Road. Clerk stated initially it was one large property and then it was subdivided and another house was built on the new lot. The sewer line from the first house cuts diagonally across the neighbour's paved driveway and on to the road to get to the Village's sewer

line. It was poorly built in the first place, with lots of elbows. If the Village were to fix it, staff would have to cut into the neighbour's driveway. Clerk explained that property owner should have had an easement. Where his line meets at the property line, the pipe would be cut there and it would run down the edge of his driveway out to the road. It would connect into the road so that it is not on the other person's property line.

PUBLIC WORKS – See full report

Due to the extremely dry weather this summer the grass did not take in the upper ball field. Clerk stated the cost to till it up and reseed it will be about \$4,000 and there may not be enough time this year. Commission agreed to fix it and in the fall if possible.

Commission commented on the great job by public works staff on the trimming of brush along a section of Pine Ridge Ave including down over the slope. The Commission also commented on the great clearing job by staff in the wooded section of Centennial Park.

The two bins for leaves and brush will be ordered for the third week of October and will remain in place on Elm Street for a month.

RECREATION – See Full Report

Commissioner West stated the Tai Chi class will be starting late this fall due to another commitment by the instructor.

Clerk stated the adult fitness class will be starting late this year due to another commitment by the instructor.

Commissioner Fowler stated the new cooling plant is working great and the ice is ready at the Credit Union Centre.

Clerk stated the seniors were lined up at the office door at 8am for the tickets the County had provided for us to sell for their Halifax dinner theatre trip and they sold out quickly.

Wastewater, Public Works and Recreation reports were received as presented.

POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Cystic Fibrosis Squash Event Funding Request

The Policy and Finance Committee met to discuss the \$1,000.00 funding request for the CF Squash event and recommended the Village provide \$750.00.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER PIERCE AND COMMISSIONER HOLMESDALE THAT THE VILLAGE GIVE \$750.00 TOWARD THE CF SQUASH EVENT TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 3rd. MOTION CARRIED.

MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT – See Full Report

Clerk stated there a few variances for the first 6 months but overall the year-end position is expected to be favourable.

Revenues:

Summer Day Camp Revenues were \$3,700 higher than expected and the expenses were lower than anticipated. Also bank account interest is higher than budgeted.

Expenditures:

Sidewalk maintenance budget is fully expended but Clerk stated he doesn't anticipate any more maintenance costs.

Some NS Power billings are higher than budgeted but may correct by year-end.

Apple Blossom expenditures were lower this year.

The Concerts in the Park were over budget by \$500.

SEWER OPERATIONS

Sludge Removal has a small unfavourable variance.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

After a discussion Commission asked staff to see if The Green Elephant restaurant could accommodate on either December 6th or the 13th.

SANTA COMES TO KINGSTON – DECEMBER 7TH

Commissioner Fowler asked what the commitment was for commissioners at the Santa Comes to Kingston event. Clerk stated all commissioners are encouraged to attend and take on a role or responsibility.

REMEMBER ME WALK – BARB'S BENCH

Clerk stated he has ordered the purple bench to be installed at Stronach Park. There will be a short walk and dedication of the purple bench on Sunday, October 28th from 1pm – 3pm at Stronach Park for those women who have been murdered as a result of domestic violence. Clerk will provide more information as he receives more detail.

MUNICIPAL/VILLAGE MEETING – OCTOBER 2018

Clerk asked the commission which topics they would like to forward to the meeting on Wednesday, October 17th. Commission agreed on the following items:

- County's Festival Grants Policy
- Municipal Modernization

- 14 Wing Recreational Grant from County

Chair Holmesdale commented that the Villages were not invited to a Chamber of Commerce dinner even though the towns were invited.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Clerk provided the following update:

Sewer Treatment Plant Clarifier Refurbishment - \$75,000 (100% Gas Tax) - Nothing done with clarifier yet.

RCMP Lift Station - \$150,000 (100% Gas Tax) – Negotiated to 50% cost of overages (\$11,700) Project is done.

Public Wi-Fi/Camera Expansion - \$19,000 - purchasing 2 each within the next 30 days.

Lights to LED Conversion in Village Owned Buildings - \$15,000 – Only received 2 quotes from the several companies that were approached. Before rebates (up to 60%), the cost is around \$12,000.

Community Needs Assessment – \$50,000 (Recent Acadia University presentation will be a starting point)

Ravenwood Lower Field Re-dressing - \$12,000

Stronach Park Fitness Trail Equipment - \$7,000 - Looking at purchasing something this winter to install in the spring such as equipment made from a more natural substance.

Ravenwood Fencing - \$10,000

CORRESPONDENCE:

CHRISTMAS MOMMIES AND DADDIES REQUEST

Commission agreed to provide a couple of Kingston shirts for their telethon/auction.

Commissioner West suggested carrying Kingston Village pens to have on hand and other items that may have a lasting impression.

ROWAN'S ROOM

A correspondence was received looking for support. Commission declined stating they already support the autism centre in Kingston.

POWER SKATING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Commissioner Fowler stated he received a letter from John Verran asking if the Village would consider helping this program continue by providing some funding.

MENTORING PLUS ORIENTATION SESSIONS INVITATION

The Commissioners are invited to the session in Kentville on Friday, October 12th from 9am – 3pm. These sessions are meant to draw the skills and knowledge of retirees to help support young adults with their career paths.

DISCUSSIONS:

DOCTOR SHORTAGE

Commissioner West asked, with the impending retirement of the last long time family doctor in Kingston, if the Commission should be writing to the Minister of Health regarding the thousands of local residents who are, and will be, without a doctor. Commissioner Pierce suggested copying the letter to our MLA as well as to the Premier of NS.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER PIERCE AND COMMISSIONER FOWLER THAT THE VILLAGE COMMISSION SEND A LETTER TO THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND LOCAL MLA EXPRESSING CONCERNS THAT THE VILLAGE IS IN DIRE STRAIGHTS WITH THE DOCTOR SHORTAGE. MOTION CARRIED.

VILLAGE SIGN ON HIGHWAY 101

Commissioner West stated she would also like to see a tourism sign for the Village of Kingston on Highway 101. The Village could also approach the Village of Greenwood to see if they would like to partner with us. Commission agreed and asked staff to find out the cost of the Town of Kentville's sign. Clerk stated he will check with the Department of Transportation on cost and criteria.

ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER PIERCE THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 9:55PM. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON

CLERK/TREASURER