

REGULAR MEETING, TOWN COUNCIL, TOWN HALL
Monday, January 16, 2017

A regular meeting of Oxford Town Council was held on the above date at 6:00 pm. Mayor Stewart presided with Councilors Colborne, Wood, Thompson, Kay, Draper, and Adshade in attendance.

Town Council Meeting – Called to order by Mayor Stewart – 6:00 pm

Presentations

Barry Patriquin – CANSA – Cumberland African Nova Scotian Association – they have twelve staff members employed at CANSA. CANSA offers a flat service, as in they work with anybody, not just African Nova Scotians. There is no cost to the service they provide. Their website www.cansa.ca explains their various services and also the criteria needed to apply for funding programs. Not only do they assist people looking for employment, but they also offer services to small employers that need guidance. Mr. Patriquin also discussed that there are five Syrian refugees employed at Oxford Frozen Foods as of now. Mr. Patriquin's ask from council is if someone is looking for employment send them to CANSA for help. CANSA had 3000 people come through their door last year.

Mr. Roy Gillies – Oxford Subdivision for Senior Residences – assisting the presentation with Mr. Gillies was his grandson Thomas. Mr. Gillies runs a family run business to “Deliver to our customers, homes of distinction with long term enduring value.” His company works along with Gold Key Homes. Reviewing the market demand there is a need for senior residences. Mr. Gillies foresees if they were able to build fifteen senior homes that would collect approximately \$6,000.00 more in tax revenue. Mr. Gillies explained that seniors want to own their own homes. The priorities are: cost, living space, no steps, storage space and garage. Mr. Gillies asked council to reconsider the land adjacent to the Nazarene Church property for commercial use like a coffee house or a fitness facility. His homes would be a combination of rentals and sales. He explained that there are many economic benefits for more senior residences. Councilor Draper commented that \$1,000.00 may be too high per month for our seniors. Councilor Adshade suggested that Mr. Gillies to propose a different plan and to reconfigure his drawing to fit us better. It is expected for the Town of Oxford to put in the street if they decide to go forward with this plan. **Action for Council:** leave this with council to discuss and they will advise Darrell White which direction they would like to go. Mr. White will relate this back to Mr. Gillies.

Approval of the agenda – It was moved by Councilor Adshade, seconded by Councilor Draper that the agenda be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Approval of the Minutes – It was moved by Councilor Kay, seconded by Councilor Thompson that the minutes from the meeting held on December 12, 2016 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Reports

All Director Reports and Councilor Reports were distributed and/or discussed.

Public Works – Wes was present. General Discussion on Public Works Report that was submitted. There was discussion regarding the ice buildup in front of the Habitat Homes on the sidewalk. Wes discussed this issue with the builders at the Habitat Homes and they need to add more fill to that property. Wes will continue to put more salt and sand and do what they can to help that issue. There was discussion of a safety issue across from the Irving the wooden posts. It was asked of Wes to price the cost to put up guardrails there in its place. Discussion regarding the banks along Little River, Wes advised that for now the only thing we can do at this moment is the jersey barriers. It was commented if Wes could inventory all the sidewalks that are low and collecting water so they could be replaced in the summer. There was discussion to set up barricades and “sidewalk closed” signs to keep people off the narrow sidewalk across from the walking bridge. Compliments was given to Wes for the great work on the snow removal from Councilor Draper.

Arena – Hard Copy Report Circulated.

Recreation – General Discussion on the Recreation Report that was submitted. It was commented that public skating is more popular now. Last Sunday was the busiest it has been for a long time. Volunteer Awards are coming up and they are currently working on submissions for those various awards. There was discussion that the Town of Oxford Website needs to be more user friendly. Darrell and Corey has been trying to fix the calendar on the site. Darrell will get in touch with the guy from Halifax that can help them to fix it.

Fire – General Discussion on the Fire Report that was submitted. It was commented that the fire department was very busy in December and that everything seems to be going well there.

Finance – Darrell was present. General Discussion on the Finance Report that was presented. It was discussed and decided that Council will meet January 24 at six pm to talk about budget matters for this coming year and the operating statement.

Councilors’ verbal reports that were presented:

Councilor Colborne – nothing to report

Councilor Wood – nothing to report

Councilor Thompson – Met with personnel committee. Attended three meetings with the re-settlement committee. We have a family coming soon also we have the advocate family now with us. Communities in Bloom baskets are now ordered with Phillip Stewart. There is no teen room for now have loaned out their equipment to the Nazarene teen room.

Mayor Stewart – visited the new Syrian family. BVOR financial funding - \$7,100.00. Received a request from the Historical Society to host a Garden Tea Party on July 1st to help celebrate the 150 birthday. Received a request from our local area girl guides for one hour of free ice time during valentines. Habitat for Humanity will be giving us the names of the next two home owners in the near future. Mayor Stewart, Deputy Mayor Kay met with the Mayor of Amherst, the Warden and the CAO’s for an informal get together. The purpose is to come up with common strategy. For an example is there an opportunity to bring all of us together. Mayor Stewart let council know that Charles Thompson had suffered a stroke and that he is now in rehab. The Town of Oxford had sent him a bouquet of flowers to wish him a speedy recovery.

Councilor Kay – attended the personnel meeting, the arena committee, and also the Northern Region Meeting.

Councilor Draper – Chaired the Personnel Meeting they had discussion as to what their role was. They will keep the CAO informed. Performance will be reviewed. They will meet on a monthly basis. Also they discussed policy and procedure items. Councilor Draper also chaired the CED meeting. There was discussion as to what CED means to Oxford. Promote immigration, youth retention, and oversight to the CBC (Community Business Connector) group, set attainable goals for the next 12 months. Next meeting will be February 7/17 – first Tuesday of each month. Councilor Draper met with the YMCA. He commented that the YMCA will be approaching Council in the near future for funding for a 3 – 5 year period. Council Draper met with staff Linda Cloney to discuss the Oxford Wellness Committee. This committee is formed for the staff and council health awareness and promotion. Also there will be a budget request from this committee. Councilor Draper added that he would like to see an action list attached to the agenda for the Council. All council agreed with his request.

Councilor Adshade – attended the OATA meeting – there was discussion of funding, different options for the bridge, the drone, could be potential video for promotion. Councilor Adshade also attended the CED meeting.

6.1 – Arena Committee Report – Deputy Mayor Kay presented that the committee has met two time now. There had been discussion of a hunting and fishing show, broomball, Kraftville, cutting arena costs. He would like to do a presentation to the County Office alongside Mayor Stewart and Jordan Burkhardt. Deputy Mayor Kay will be gathering pictures of the arena and material and Jordan Burkhardt will put together a PowerPoint. Deputy Mayor Kay asked for this motion below:

It was moved Councilor Adshade, seconded Councilor Wood that for a date yet to be determined in February 2017 to make a presentation to County Council highlighting our arena and asking for \$25,000.00 for five years to be applied to our 2017/2018 operating budget.

Motion Carried

It was moved Councilor Adshade, seconded Councilor Wood that all reports be accepted as presented.

Motion Carried

Correspondence

VON – they have asked for someone from Oxford to sit on their board. It was asked if any council members would like to sit on the board, and if no one is interested she will reach out to the community.

New Business

8.1 – Report and recommendation on generator tender – there was a tender called out on the generator. We received five bids. Wajax submitted the lowest Tender and met all specs.

It was moved Deputy Mayor Kay, seconded Councilor Adshade to award Wajax with the 150 KW generator at a price of \$47,320.00 plus HST.

Motion Carried

Adjournment

Next Council meeting will be Tuesday, February 21, 2017.
There being no further business, Councilor Kay moved Adjournment

Motion Carried

**Trish Stewart
Mayor**

**Darrell White
CAO**