



**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF COUNCIL
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2015
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
30 HONOUR HOUSE COURT
7:00 P.M.**

A Committee of the Whole Meeting of Council was held on Monday, February 23, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall, 30 Honour House Court, Riverview, New Brunswick. The following persons were present at the meeting:

Ann Seamans
Lana Hansen
Ian Macdonald
Wayne Bennett
Andrew LeBlanc
Cecile Cassista
Tom Toner
Colin Smith
Robert Higson
Gerry Cole

Michel Ouellet
Tina Smith
Shane Thomson
Chief Denis Pleau
Annette Crummey
Rita Gauvin
Inspector J.A. George

Mayor
Councillor
Councillor
Councillor
Councillor
Councillor
Councillor
CAO
Director of Finance
Director of Parks, Recreation
& Community Relations
Director of Engineering & Works
Director of Human Resources
Director of Economic Development
Riverview Fire & Rescue
Town Clerk
Executive Administrative Assistant
Codiac RCMP

PRESS:

Times & Transcript

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Seamans called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

A **motion** was made by Councillor Cassista and seconded by Councillor Toner that the agenda be adopted.

- **MOTION CARRIED** –

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

NIL

4. CORRESPONDENCE

NIL

5. PETITIONS, PRESENTATIONS & DELEGATIONS

A) Presentation by Nancy Morton Vanderhorst of Ca-r-ma Chapter – Review of Services

Nancy Morton Vanderhorst of the Ca-r-ma Moncton chapter mentioned Ca-r-ma is an all-volunteer registered non-profit charity with 9 chapters in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. She remarked Ca-r-ma's program is to bring community cat populations into balance through trap-neuter-return (TNR) programs, improve the lives of the cats, support long-term cat population solutions in communities and give a voice for the compassionate care of free-roaming cats.

She said the organization's immediate goal is to humanely reduce the number of unwanted cats and kittens dying needless premature deaths and to place non-feral homeless cats and kittens in responsible homes. The long-term goals include supporting education to change attitudes regarding the importance of spay/neutering and working with other animal rescue groups to bring about legislation for the benefit of all animals.

Ms. Morton Vanderhorst confirmed with Councillor Cassista the statistics presented are mainly for the surrounding areas outside of Moncton, since Ca-r-ma does not service communities whereby there is by-law enforcement involved for animal control.

Councillor Bennett brought up a concern in a neighbourhood where feral cats are located that are roaming at night and creating a problem on properties.

Ms. Morton Vanderhorst confirmed with Councillor Bennett the case he referred to has been taken care of through Ca-r-ma's intervention and because the approach was through TNR, the cats were trapped, spayed or neutered and returned. She said the original 10 feral cats have been brought down to 4 cats. She mentioned since the colony has been altered, eventually the colony will no longer reproduce.

Councillor Bennett noted the neighbours would prefer the cats were not there because of the damage they continue to do to the properties.

Mayor Seamans thanked Ms. Morton Vanderhorst for her presentation and the work her organization does to improve the lives of free roaming cats.

B) Introduction by Councillor Toner and presentation by Greg Zwicker of WSP – Update on Feasibility Study

Councillor Toner introduced Greg Zwicker and Christina Townsend from the engineering firm WSP Canada Inc., who presented Council with findings of the Wellness Centre Feasibility Study which was commissioned by the Town of Riverview in 2014 to determine the community needs and the financial feasibility of a proposed multi-purpose wellness centre in Riverview. Ms. Townsend said WSP was tasked with examining the feasibility of a Wellness Centre today, the necessary components, the cost of building and operating it and funding options. She indicated an examination of the current facilities conditions was also part of the work.

Ms. Townsend identified the main needs assessment recommendations as being a third ice pad, a new two-tank pool aquatic facility, a double gymnasium, and an indoor walking / running track. She noted the new facility was determined to have a seven to ten year planning and construction timeframe based on a number of steps to be completed before construction; the need within the community not being immediate; and the financial feasibility of the Town.

Councillor Toner, as Chair of the Wellness Centre Committee, then provided Council with further details and background information with regard to why a Community Wellness Place is needed to continue to offer excellent wellness and recreational opportunities in Riverview.

Gerry Cole confirmed with Councillor Bennett that we do try to provide a secure and separate viewing area at the aquatic pool for parents; however, it is not unlike any other facility in the region. Hopefully with a new aquatic facility in the future, the issue of humidity will be addressed as well as being able to extend more programs to the community.

Councillor Toner confirmed with Councillor Hansen that the feasibility study would be posted to the Town's website for residents to review along with information to encourage Riverview residents to send in their comments and questions on the proposed Wellness Centre. He noted a citizen survey is also being planned through the Economic Development department that will further engage residents to give their feedback on this project.

Councillor Toner confirmed with Councillor LeBlanc that different options were noted in the report with regard to who would manage the facility and the task of the Committee will be to further look at these options to decide which would be best for the Town. Councillor Toner also remarked various facilities in other communities were also visited by the Committee and the information gathered was taken into account for the report.

Councillor Toner confirmed with Councillor Cassista that the Committee is outlining work for the next 3 to 5 years in order to prepare for the future of this facility. As the Town grows, there will be a need for more wellness and fitness and the Committee wants to set an environment and prepare the ground work on when it is possible and feasible for the Town to move forward. Council would ultimately decide if it is justified in putting \$250,000 aside over the next number of years towards the facility. The recommendation would be to have staff look at the feasibility report and determine how it would fit within the 5 and 10 year strategic plan for the Town.

Councillor Toner confirmed with Councillor Hansen that phasing options would be considered for the proposed facility as the task of the Committee is to look at all the options that would be more feasible for the Town moving forward.

Councillor Toner confirmed with Councillor LeBlanc that the next steps the Committee wants to work upon and move forward in the next 3 to 5 years are:

- to target partners in order to put packages and agreements in place
- to examine the best model to operate the Riverview Community Wellness Place
- to engage citizens and develop a conceptual plan and vision, including services and components of a facility, ultimately concluding with architectural drawings and, if necessary, phasing options.

- to look at a viable financial plan and land analysis acquisition
- to look at shifting community resources and re-purposing old facilities

A **motion** was made by Councillor Bennett and seconded by Councillor Toner that the Committee of Whole recommend to Council that the Town of Riverview accept the Wellness Centre Feasibility Study and ask that staff ensure the report is considered in the Town's long range capital and operating budget planning; and that the Council of the Town of Riverview endorse and support the Wellness Committee's proposed action plan over the next few years to continue moving this key community project forward.

On the question, Councillor Cassista requested clarification on the motion with regard to the wording "over the next few years" since the presentation indicated a timeframe of 7 to 10 years.

On the question, Councillor Bennett mentioned the timeframe would be for the next three to five years for the Committee to work to move the project forward based on the action plan in the report.

On the question, Colin Smith noted the intent of the motion is to demonstrate there is still a lot of work that needs to be done and the Committee has a clear action plan of what is required to move forward. The Committee is looking for direction from Council to look at further exploring those actions and it would be brought back to Council to make those progressive decisions as the Committee concludes its work.

On the question, Councillor Cassista requested further clarification on whether any further costs would be required from Council on this project as the Committee continues to do its work.

On the question, Councillor Bennett confirmed with Councillor Cassista that the Committee does not foresee any further projected financial expenditures moving forward other than in the future an assessment of the Byron Dobson Arena with regard to its life expectancy.

On the question, Colin Smith confirmed with Councillor Cassista that if a feasibility study was to be done on the Byron Dobson Arena in the next two to three years, it would be part of budget discussions and process. He noted the reality is a study on the Byron Dobson Arena would need to be done to determine the exact life expectancy of the arena.

On the question, Councillor Macdonald remarked he supported the plan and the necessary steps taken now so that these steps would not have to occur later. But would like clarification from Mr. Higson on how the long-range financial planning of setting aside \$250,000 over the next 10 years would fit into the long-term strategic financial plans.

On the question, Robert Higson noted the Town will be formulating a 10 year capital plan in the near future and included in the plan would be a financial analysis of what the impact on the tax rate and debt ratio would be. The challenge will be to determine what to incorporate in addition to larger projects, such as infrastructure improvements and others, that would still result in an acceptable tax rate and debt ratio. Initial possibilities indicates the Town would be able to accomplish certain projects, but the time frames may not be exactly as what has been discussed at this point. Mr. Higson said a more structured plan needs to be prepared and presented to Council to really define what the impact would be on the Town.

- **MOTION CARRIED** -

Mayor Seamans expressed her appreciation to the Committee members and WSP Canada for their input and hard work on this project.

C) Presentation by Marie-Claire Pierce & Alex Grncarovski – representatives of Codiac Transpo – Proposed Re-routing options

Marie-Claire Pierce and Alex Grncarovski representatives from Codiac Transpo presented Council with an overview of the proposed redesigned bus routes for Riverview. Ms. Pierce noted the redesigned routes were prepared in response to Council's request for Codiac Transpo to bring forward new re-routing options following discussions at the Town's budget deliberation sessions in 2014 as well as responses from a Citizens survey done in 2012.

Ms. Pierce remarked as a recap from the service review results of 2012, residents mentioned they would like to have increased frequency, 7 day service, increased evening service, direct east to west services and expanded routes in Riverview. Ms. Pierce said that the 7 day and more evening service requests were implemented following the Codiac Transpo work stoppage in 2012.

Ms. Pierce presented in more detail the suggested redesigned routes for consideration. She indicated the new routes would service more of the Findlay Park area, would increase service on Coverdale Road and would also more easily link east and west Riverview.

Ms. Pierce mentioned the redesign would result in the present two bus routes increasing to five routes resulting in more service for citizens, more frequency on some routes and improved service during peak hours. She said for east Riverview a possible taxi transit shuttle service could be considered for passengers to access the main line heading in and out of Moncton.

Ms. Pierce then outlined the next steps for Council to consider in moving forward with the proposed redesigned routes. She mentioned with regard to the budget component, the increased west end service alone would end up totaling 143 hours a week compared to the present 139, which would result in \$430 more per week. To offer a taxi transit service at \$40.00 in the east end would amount to \$1,600 more per week.

Ms. Pierce confirmed with Councillor Cassista that certain routes had to be streamlined to meet the 30 minute frequency runs. She also confirmed the statistics available on ridership for both the west and east end services were based on numbers from the beginning of 2014.

Ms. Pierce confirmed with Councillor Toner that both the Town and Codiac Transpo could work together to implement some education initiatives in order to inform the public of changes in routes. A new marketing strategy is in the process of being launched by Codiac Transpo and the main focus is on the tri-community and increasing ridership. An education program is also presently being developed for schools and senior citizen homes to inform all on how the system works.

Ms. Pierce confirmed with Councillor Bennett that the furthest distance to get to a stop is 400 meters, which is the standard in the City of Moncton and very close to the standard in the City of Dieppe.

Ms. Pierce confirmed with Councillor Hansen that the taxi shuttle service would run exactly as a transit bus with a timeline to reach check points on time in a certain area in order to make the transfer points.

Ms. Pierce confirmed with Councillor Hansen that the taxi shuttle service van would be limited to the number of people it could accommodate. The Town could consider alternative options towards a larger van or leasing a transit bus for the peak hours in the morning and other options could be considered if the Town felt this system would not work. The system can be looked at again with different scenarios should the Town wish to include more options in the redesign.

Colin Smith mentioned the City of Dieppe is willing to share their experience with the taxi shuttle service. He will take note of the questions raised by Councillor Hansen and will follow up with Dieppe on how their program works. They have indicated this service is working in their community and their approach is as the ridership grows the city would look at going beyond the van service.

6. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

A) Administration Department – Colin Smith, CAO

1) Report for the month of February 2015

Report accepted as presented.

B) Finance Department – Robert Higson, Director

1) Report for the months of January/February 2015

Report accepted as presented.

C) Engineering & Works – Michel Ouellet, Director

1) Report for the month of February 2015

Councillor Bennett wanted to thank the Public Works department for their hard work with regard to the snow clearing operations in Town.

Mr. Ouellet confirmed with Councillor Hansen he was not aware of any snow clearing incident which occurred in the McAllister area and would ask that the resident contact the department so it can be looked after.

Report accepted as presented.

D) Fire Department – Chief Denis Pleau

1) Report for the month of January 2015

Chief Pleau confirmed with Councillor Cassista that Public Works normally clears fire hydrants, but due to the amount of snow received recently, a plan was put in place to contact Public Works when an incident occurred so that equipment would be sent to the scene to clear the fire hydrant. Chief Pleau noted that during a storm, the fire crew was increased to 5 in order that one firefighter would dig out the fire hydrant while the fire operations started.

Report accepted as presented.

E) Parks, Recreation and Community Relations – Gerry Cole, Director

1) Report for the month of February 2015

Gerry Cole mentioned the process of gathering information for the summer brochure is underway. He noted any community group or organization wishing to be included in the brochure should contact the Parks & Recreation department to provide the information.

Mayor Seamans wanted to congratulate the staff at the Parks & Recreation department for the great work done at the Winter Carnival, which was well received by all who attended.

Report accepted as presented.

F) Business/Economic Development – Shane Thomson, Director

1) Report for month of February 2015

Shane Thomson mentioned the first of the quarterly business forums was held at Town Hall on February 9 and those in attendance provided some valuable feedback and dialogue.

Report accepted as presented.

G) Human Resources – Tina Smith, Director

1) Report for the month of February 2105

Ms. Smith confirmed with Councillor Cassista the student interview process had started with the more senior student positions. She wanted to remind Council that one of the protected grounds under human rights for New Brunswick would be place of origin and therefore the Town cannot limit or create boundaries within the Town for student employment. However, the Town does its best to ensure the advertisements are focused in and around the greater Riverview area.

Report accepted as presented.

7. EXTERNAL REPORTS

A) Building Permit Reports for month of January 2015

Taken as information.

B) Animal Control Reports for month of January 2015

Taken as information

8. OTHER BUSINESS

A) Grant Report – February 2015

Sarah Tingley - Participating in Volunteer Eco Students Abroad Program in Fiji - May, 2015 Awarded \$100

For Council's consideration - falls outside grant criteria:

- **NB Girl Guides - Requesting financial support for Provincial Event - Camp Fun for Brownies - March 21st at the Coverdale Centre - Recommendation - 40% rental rates subsidy as in previous years**

A **motion** was made by Councillor Cassista and seconded by Councillor Toner that the Committee of the Whole recommend to Council that the Town of Riverview approve a 40% rental rate subsidy as in previous years at the Coverdale Centre for the NB Girl Guides Camp Fun for Brownies event on March 21, 2015.

- **MOTION CARRIED –**

- **Forest Dale Home Foundation - Requesting financial donation for the fees associated with cable TV for the residents of the Home**
NOTE: \$200 contribution was made in 2014 only

A **motion** was made by Councillor Cassista and seconded by Councillor Toner that the Committee of the Whole recommend to Council that the Town of Riverview approve a \$200.00 financial donation to the Forest Dale Home Foundation for the fees associated with the cable TV for the residents of the Home.

NAY VOTE: COUNCILLOR MACDONALD

- **MOTION CARRIED -**

- **Bullying Canada Inc. - Request for financial support - NOTE: previously request considered in 2012 and was denied**

A **motion** was made by Councillor Cassista and seconded by Councillor Toner that the Committee of the Whole recommend to Council that the Town of Riverview deny the request for financial support to Bullying Canada Inc.

- **MOTION CARRIED -**

- **West End Food Bank - Request sponsorship of Canconstruction event being held March 20-21st - Request financial sponsorship between \$500 - \$750**

A **motion** was made by Councillor Toner and seconded by Councillor Cassista that the Committee of the Whole recommend to Council that the Town of Riverview deny the request for sponsorship for the Canconstruction event being held March 20-21, 2015.

- **MOTION CARRIED -**

- **Habitat for Humanity – Requesting refund of application for services fee in the amount of \$9,570 for property located at 46-48 Point Park Drive (formerly known as Codiak Stub Street)**

NOTE: In December 2014 Council reimbursed the sum of \$800 which included \$300 for the subdivision application fee; \$200 for the lot fee and \$300 for the variance fee) for the Codiak Stub Street lot which is now known as 46-48 Point Park Drive

Council has reimbursed Habitat for other lots including \$1,330.58 in relation to survey fee associated with the Wentworth lot; and in 2004 Council did reimburse \$2,799.48 for the application for services fee in relation to 5 Woodside Drive.

A **motion** was made by Councillor Cassista and seconded by Councillor Toner that the Committee of the Whole recommend to Council that the Town of Riverview support the refund of application for services fee in the amount of \$9,570 to Habitat for Humanity for the property located at 46-48 Point Park Drive (formerly known as Codiak Stub Street).

On the question, Councillor Toner requested further clarification on why the service fee amount was so high.

On the question, Michel Ouellet confirmed with Councillor Toner that a recommendation was brought forward last year to increase the cost of services and the new rates better reflect the true costs of the Town in doing this work.

On the question, Councillor LeBlanc indicated as noted in a previous Council meeting, he suggested that some grant requests may have to be denied due to the lack of funds in the grant budget. He recognizes Habitat for Humanity as a very worthy cause but he does not feel Council is in a position at this point to approve this request, therefore he cannot support this motion.

On the question, Councillor Cassista remarked that in past years reimbursement has been granted to Habitat for Humanity for these services.

On the question, Michel Ouellet confirmed with Councillor Cassista the rates were increased to reflect the actual costs of the duplex unit, which is double the cost of a normal household service and all of the work done is reflected in the true cost of cutting the asphalt and installing that service.

On the question, Colin Smith mentioned the Town also charges other home developments and the Town will be receiving back the actual costs versus undercharging for services the Town is providing when new homes are connected to services.

On the question, Councillor Hansen suggested where a precedent has occurred in the past of reimbursing Habitat for Humanity, there might be an expectation that the Town would reimburse Habitat for Humanity for this service.

On the question, Michel Ouellet confirmed with Councillor Hansen he had been asked to ascertain all the costs associated with a particular donation of the land and the cost of servicing the property was identified and had to be borne by Habitat for Humanity at the time.

On the question, Councillor LeBlanc reiterated that he supports Habitat for Humanity as does the Town in multiple different ways, but suggests that this particular request be denied and to be realistic with regard to the grant budget numbers moving forward this year if such a large sum of money is granted at this point.

On the question Councillor Toner asked that this request be deferred to the next Council meeting for further information and clarification.

A **motion** was made by Councillor Toner and seconded by Councillor Bennett that the Committee of the Whole recommend to Council to defer this item for more information on what the City of Moncton and Dieppe do with regard to these costs as well and to bring back the information at the next Council meeting.

NAY VOTE: COUNCILLOR MACDONALD

- MOTION CARRIED -

9. COUNCIL STATEMENTS/INQUIRIES

Councillor LeBlanc mentioned the annual Pink Shirt Day community rally will be held on Wednesday, February 25, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at the Riverview High School. Councillor LeBlanc encouraged everyone to support this cause by signing the pink shirt pledge sheet and by wearing pink on February 25.

Shane Thomson confirmed with Councillor Bennett the Economic Development department does not receive advance notice of new businesses opening up in Riverview since the Town does not require a permit for new businesses. He noted in some cases if he is aware of a business owner or developer opening a new business in Riverview, there would be then an opportunity to inform Council, but the department does not normally receive prior notification.

10. ADJOURNMENT

A **motion** was made by Councillor Hansen and seconded by Councillor Cassista that the meeting be adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

- MOTION CARRIED –