

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF WEST HANTS
TOWN OF HANTSPORT
TOWN OF WINDSOR
JOINT COUNCIL MEETING - October 29, 2009
7:00 p.m.

In attendance:

West Hants		Windsor	
R. Dauphinee	Warden	B. Beazley	Mayor
G. Cochrane	Deputy Warden	L. Murley	Deputy Mayor
S. Pineo	Councillor	L. Galbraith	Councillor
R. Matheson	Councillor	D. Seeley	Councillor
T. Brown	Councillor	J. Bregante	Councillor
G. Shanks	Councillor	L. Coutinho	Chief Administrative Officer
R. Gaudet	Councillor		
C. Chislett	Chief Administrative Officer		
K. Poziomka	Executive Assistant		

Hantsport		Other	
W. Folker	Mayor	Mike McPhee	Hockeyland
D. Rockwell	Deputy Mayor	David Howell	Hockeyland
P. Murray	Councillor	Mike Lidstone	Hockeyland
S. Cunningham	Councillor	Dr. Teresa Machel	(Indoor Walking Trail)

Regrets

R. Allen	Councillor (West Hants) - illness
P. Ainslie	Councillor (West Hants) - business commitment
F. Hill	Councillor (Hantsport)
H. Bulger	Councillor (Hantsport)
J. Lawrence	Chief Administrative Officer (Hantsport)
R. Zwicker	Councillor (Hantsport)

1. Call to Order

Warden Dauphinee called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Warden Dauphinee inquired if there were any additions to be made to the agenda. Missing on the newest agenda is the Atlantic Mayors Congress Membership, will be added as 4 a. Mayor Folker requested an addition of the Miller's Creek Mine Extension letter of support from the Hants Regional Development Authority, will be added as 5 a. Deputy Warden Cochrane requested the addition of a letter to be sent to the Department of Transportation in regard to an informational update on the roundabout so the public can be kept up-to-date, will be added as 7.

2. Approval of Minutes of September 24, 2009

MOVED by Councillor Bregante and Deputy Mayor Murley that the minutes of September 24, 2009 be approved as circulated, noting any errors or omissions.

MOTION CARRIED.

3. Presentations

a. Hockeyland

On behalf of Joint Council, Warden Dauphinee welcomed Mike McPhee, David Howell and Corporal Mike Lidstone.

M. McPhee began his presentation by providing some background information on Hockeyland, the concept and why the Windsor area would be an optimal place to house the venue. There was discussion on what the facility could encompass, including an ice rink; potential sponsors and what would be required; and the possible funding options for a project of this magnitude. It was also noted that a local group to champion Hockeyland would be the direction the project needs to undertake at this time. Further discussion surrounded the relationship of the national and local group working together.

Discussions occurred surrounding site selection and whether Windsor can accommodate the footprint of Hockeyland. Also discussed - the lack of clarity around the identification of the people involved and the objectives of the project.

A letter of support was requested from the Municipality of West Hants by the presenter. The Town of Windsor has already supplied theirs. There were discussions around the different types of support to be offered.

There were further discussions about the need for a strategy surrounding funding i.e. grants, provincial assistance and local fundraising. Concerns were voiced about how funding could be obtained and what avenues were the best to explore. It was noted again, that at this juncture, a local champion group is required to pursue funding.

Concerns were voiced that the Windsor area needs to move forward on this very soon or it could possibly lose out on the opportunity as the venue will be moving ahead regardless.

Discussions ensued about what could be scaled back and what needs to be included. Discussions also occurred surrounding the benefits it could potentially bring to the area in terms of tourism and employment.

A suggestion was made to have members from the HRDA and the Municipality of West Hants sit on the board of Hockeyland.

It was recommended to go to West Hants Committee of the Whole meeting that a letter of support should be written by Council.

Warden Dauphinee thanked the presenters for taking the time to come in to provide Joint Council with the presentation.

b. Indoor Walking Trail

On behalf of Joint Council, Warden Dauphinee welcomed Dr. Teresa Machel.

Dr. Machel spoke about the need for an indoor walking trail for the community and the benefits of walking for everyone. The greatest need stems from having a safe and somewhat warm route to walk in the winter.

After losing the facility of the Fort Edward Mall for indoor walking, Dr. Machel started to investigate what other potential opportunities there might be. The rink is a venue that holds great potential when not in use; it is a shielded venue and the corridors are good and wide. It could be opened to the public with minimal costs incurred, signage would be required and someone to lock and unlock the doors.

Discussion ensued about the path to be used within the rink and hours of operation.

Questions were asked about what other venues may have been approached to be used for indoor walking, i.e. school auditoriums, the Legion. Dr. Machel replied she had not approached other venues.

A suggestion was made to get Recreation Directors involved to do research and lead the way.

Warden Dauphinee thanked Dr. Machel for her presentation.

4. a.) October 15, 2009 - Letter from NS Minister of Health re: Emergency Room Closures at Hants Community Hospital

MOVED by Councillor Matheson and Councillor Bregante that the letter from the NS Minister of Health re: Emergency Room Closures at Hants Community Hospital (October 15, 2009) be received and placed on file.

MOTION CARRIED.

b.) Atlantic Mayors Congress Membership

MOVED by Deputy Warden Cochrane and Councillor Gaudet that the correspondence re: the Atlantic Mayors Congress membership be received and placed on file.

MOTION CARRIED.

Deputy Mayor Murley brought forth from Windsor Council a letter from the Mayor of Summerside, Basil Stewart, and has highlighted the pertinent points:

- They have been meeting since 2003;
- There is strength in numbers;
- Atlantic Canada should be speaking in one voice to our federal and provincial governments;
- Their concerns are often heard and acted upon;
- Supporting the FCM on a number of issues;
- Worked on immigration and continue to work on that; and
- He encourages Windsor and our County to join the Atlantic Mayors Congress to assist in the promotion of Atlantic Canada and our area. The promotion of Atlantic Canada is important. The dues are \$750/year and there are two meetings a year, one in the spring in Halifax and the other elsewhere in Atlantic Canada.

It was noted that in the Terms of Reference that the population of 20,000 has been changed to 10,000. That was a change that occurred this week. What these numbers mean, is that on its own, the Town of Windsor would not meet the criteria; however, joining with the Municipality (and possibly Hantsport if interested) would qualify. It is permitted to join as a group now.

Deputy Mayor Murley listed some of the different areas that are already participating and stated she would like to see us there.

Discussions ensued about the benefits of joining and the cost associated with this, for example travelling. Also discussions took place on who would represent the area.

Concerns were raised about whether a town and a municipality could come together to join. It was mentioned that Fred Whalen was a representative who was already participating and circulating information.

Questions were raised about whether it was just mayors that could participate or whether wardens could too.

It was suggested that Deputy Mayor Murley could do some research on the different scenarios of who can join (i.e. towns and municipalities together) to bring back and address some of the questions that are being discussed. The information could be presented at the next meeting and further decisions can be held at that time.

A brief discussion was held on the terms of reference.

5. Kings Transit

It was noted that Kings Transit holds their meetings on the same night as Joint Council and a question was raised about asking them to change the night of their meetings. Discussions ensued on this topic and the question and suggestions can be broached to them, but most likely the answer will be no as it is challenging to bring their members together.

a.) HRDA re: Miller's Creek Mine Extension Support Letter

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Murley and Mayor Folker that the letter from the HRDA re: Miller's Creek Mine Extension support letter be received and placed on file.

MOTION CARRIED.

Councillor Gaudet read the letter to Joint Council. It was requested that a letter of support be sent from the West Hants Municipality and the importance of the support to the Hantsport area.

Councillor Pineo spoke about her concerns regarding the letter of support. She would like to remind everyone about the promotion going on within Nova Scotia to what we grow locally and support local farmers. Where the proposed expansion is to occur, the area contains some of the finest agricultural land in West Hants. New jobs can be created, new farmland cannot. Councillor Pineo expressed concerns about what will be left after the gypsum has been mined; also voiced was job subsidization and other jobs coming into the area. She said farmland must be protected. She will be voting against any support of the extension. Councillor Matheson agreed with Councillor Pineo and echoed the same concerns regarding the farmland. He said the HRDA represents all economic interests and it has to walk a fine line, but it is a difficult job when there are conflicting agendas. The damage done to the area will be irreparable. The use of the land to future generations will be more beneficial if left as is.

Councillor Murray requested that everyone take a long look at past practices and the history of what Fundy Gypsum has done for the community and the rapport that that has been built. He would like to remind everyone of what the consequences will be if something positive doesn't come out of this. He encourages the Warden and Mayor's sign the letter of support.

Councillor Gaudet stated that the RDA supports all people in the Municipality. At all times, you cannot make everyone happy. He does not believe that the RDA jumped the gun; it represents all three councils sitting here tonight. Last year, Joint Council agreed to support this and he feels that they should agree to support it again. Councillor Gaudet supports it as Chair of the RDA and a member of Council.

Mayor Folker stated that all opinions are respected whether they are in favour or against the letter of support. Governments can be influenced to address the concerns that Councillor Pineo has. We can work towards having them restore what they take away. Mayor Folker endorsed eating locally, but the money is needed to buy that food. He added it was important to maintain the jobs and make sure the government does comply with environmental concerns that are out there. Mayor Folker will support this.

Councillor Pineo spoke to the fact that she has been in the area a long time, even before Fundy Gypsum and she challenges anyone to live next door to the mine - then you would know what it is really like. She cannot show proof, but almost all the basements of the houses in the area are cracked. Cisterns no longer hold water, wells had to be drilled. Councillor Pineo described other issues that have happened over the years including previous road closures and potential road closures that would be detrimental for farmers. She also highlighted that there was no way to know what personal tragedies this expansion might bring to some people's lives.

Mayor Beazley echoes Councillor Gaudet comments. The HRDA should be taking a proactive stand on these issues as opposed to waiting for everyone else to weigh in and he encouraged them to do so in the future. He feels that a joint letter should be prepared.

MOVED by Mayor Folker and Mayor Beazley that a letter be written to Nova Scotia Environment and Labour of the CGC Inc. (Fundy Gypsum) Miller's Creek Mine Expansion be recommended to respective Councils of West Hants, Windsor and Hantsport for approval.

Councillor Cunningham abstained from voting because of a conflict.

Councillor Pineo and Councillor Matheson voted nay.

MOTION CARRIED.

There were discussions about the wording of the letter to note that a majority of Joint Council voted to support the letter, but that it was not unanimous.

6. H1N1 Vaccination Schedule

Councillor Gaudet voiced concerns about the timeframe of when vaccinations will be available to this area - November 9th and 16th. It appears that this area has been the last to be scheduled. He realizes that this isn't a Council issue, but we do work with the medical community and that this should be brought forward to Capital District Health Authority that it is unacceptable that our residents are so far behind other areas. Discussions continued about when and where vaccines would be available and some of the issues that residents face by not having doctors or transportation to get to clinics that are not in the area.

There was also discussion about it being a national problem, not just here and that there is a need for a national pandemic plan.

MOVED by Councillor Gaudet and Councillor Matheson to recommend to respective Councils that a letter be written to the Nova Scotia Minister of Health Promotion and Protection stating concern for the delay in scheduling of H1N1 immunization clinics in the Windsor-Hantsport-West Hants area.

MOTION CARRIED.

Discussions happened around the use of the Hants Aquatic Centre regarding H1N1 and it being a pre-screening assessment centre.

7. DOT Roundabout

Deputy Warden Cochrane requested to have a representative of Joint Council contact the Department of Transportation to get a footprint of the roundabout to release to the media to keep residents informed and help alleviate confusion.

CAO Coutinho said he would pursue this.

8. Outstanding Presentations for Future Meetings

- a) Victorian Order of Nurses re: Funding
- b) Dykeland Lodge
- c) Farmer's Market

9. Town of Windsor/Municipality of West Hants (update re: clear bags)

Discussions centred on the Town of Windsor using black garbage bags vs. the Municipality using clear. CAO Coutinho stated he was proud of West Hants efforts and that the Town is making strides to improve and is pleased with the accomplishments thus far. However, the use of clear bags is still voluntary by Town residents.

It was noted that if waste is coming to the West Hants Landfill, it should comply with the rules of the Landfill and the Town of Windsor was urged to recommend using clear bags.

Warden Dauphinee will be attending a meeting in late November about making clear bags a blanket policy throughout the province.

10. Next Meeting Date

The next Joint Council meeting will be held on November 26, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Hantsport (Minas Basin Development Centre).

11. Adjournment

MOVED by Councillor Bregante and Deputy Mayor Murley that the meeting adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

R. Dauphinee, Warden
Municipality of West Hants

P. Beazley, Mayor
Town of Windsor

W. Folker, Mayor
Town of Hantsport