

A regular monthly meeting of Middleton Town Council was held at the Town Hall on Monday, December 3, 2012, starting at 7 p.m.

PRESENT

Chairing the meeting, Mayor Calvin Eddy; Deputy Mayor Dan Smith; Councillors Darren Boates, John Himmelman, Marc Britney, Melinda den Haan, and Gail Smith; Chief Administrative Officer, Clayton MacMurtry; Director of Finance, Marianne Daine; and Recording Secretary, Sharon McAuley.

Also in attendance were Annapolis Valley Health Board Members and staff: Betty Mattson (Chair), Jim Mosher (Vice-Chair), Janet Knox (President & CEO), Dr. Lynne Harrigan (Vice-President, Medicine) and Jeanne Saulnier (Site Manager, Soldiers' Memorial Hospital).

12.12.01 PRESENTATIONS

.01 Annapolis Valley Health Board

B. Mattson thanked Council for inviting them to discuss Soldiers' Memorial Hospital (SMH) and will talk about where they are right now, what they are doing about it, how the Town can help them and how they can help the Town. From May 2011 to December 2011, there were eleven (11) closures. January 2012 to May 2012, there were seven (7) closures and from June 2012 on, they have had forty-one (41) closures. Seventeen (17) of the forty-one (41) closures were in the summer when doctors took vacations.

President and CEO, J. Knox, reiterated to Council their commitment to SMH and that in the spring of 2012 they thought they had the solutions to the staffing problems with the residency program, focus on Emergency Health Services (EHS), and increasing the awareness of 811 and 911 services. A couple of physicians decided to leave and they once again had staffing problems.

Dr. Harrigan advised Council that:

- Up to about ten years ago, there were no closures at SMH, with physicians taking care of their patients and covering the Emergency Department (ED).
- Doctors graduating today want to be in regional centres.
- Under the Provincial Plan, the regional hospitals have been stabilized and the community centres are being set up which takes a lot of time. In the meantime, the community hospitals have been left behind; they are now a priority with the Province.
- The new provincial emergency department coverage program has worked and they have received coverage for twenty-two (22) shifts.
- The province is reviewing the fee structure, as every hospital has a different rate.
- They have received money for the planning of a turnkey place for eight (8) to twelve (12) doctors located at SMH. The challenge will be finding the money to do the renovations.

On questions from Mayor Eddy, Dr. Harrigan advised that:

- special deals for physicians do not work in the long term and that the solution needs to be a provincial solution;
- municipalities in the past have been involved financially in recruitment;
- the experience is that if doctors come just for the money, they normally do not stay;

- they do have access to debt reduction programs which they try and use in the areas of most need;
- there are enough physicians to service Nova Scotia; the problem is that they do not want to work in rural areas.

B. Mattson advised Council that:

- The key is to make Middleton an attractive place to live and to partner potential physicians with community people who will introduce them to the community, realtors, schools, etc. Dr. Harrigan will work with the Hospital Committee to set this up for Middleton.
- They would welcome help in the planning for the primary care unit, helping them to create a place for the doctors to come to and maybe helping with the renovation.

B. Mattson talked about the next steps including:

- connecting with Councillor Britney and the Hospital Committee when they have potential physicians visiting;
- working together to plan the primary care unit for SMH;
- continuing to give as much notice as possible on the closures;
- continuing to promote 911 and 811 services.

Betty Mattson, Jim Mosher, Janet Knox, Dr. Lynne Harrigan and Jeanne Saulnier left the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

.02 Service Recognition Awards

Mayor Eddy presented a plaque and gift to Clayton MacMurtry, Chief Administrative Officer, in recognition of his thirty years of service with the Town.

Mayor Eddy presented a plaque and watch to Marianne Daine, Director of Finance, in recognition of her twenty-five years of service with the Town.

Mayor Eddy presented a plaque to Sharon McAuley, Executive Assistant and Planning Services Coordinator, in recognition of her five years of service to the Town.

The plaque for Hank Sawchuk, Director of Public Works and Building/Fire Inspector, will be sent to him, as he has retired and is enjoying his retirement in Florida.

12.12.02 CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

CAO MacMurtry advised Council of the following changes to the agenda:

- Add item 12.12.07.07: ADEDA.

12.12.03 SOLICITOR

The Solicitor was not present for this meeting.

12.12.04 MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor Britney, seconded by Councillor den Haan, that the minutes of the regular Council meeting of October 5, 2012, be approved as circulated. Motion carried.

12.12.05 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The Business Arising Report has been circulated to all members of Council.

On question from Deputy Mayor Smith, Finance Manager Daine advised that the survey being done by the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities on the remuneration to Councils is ongoing, and she will contact them to inquire on the date it will be released.

Mayor Eddy requested the addition of lights in Centennial Park (similar to the ones on Commercial Street) be reviewed during budget discussions.

12.12.06 NEW BUSINESS**Action Items****.01 Town Hall Closure – December 24**

It was moved by Councillor Britney, seconded by Councillor Boates, that Council approve the closure of the Town Hall on December 24, 2012, with staff using a half day of vacation. Motion carried.

Notices will be posted at the Town Hall, on the Town website and in the local paper.

.02 Committee of the Whole Recommendations**a. Water Meter Write-offs**

It was moved by Councillor den Haan, seconded by Councillor Britney, on recommendation of Committee of the Whole, that Council approve the write-off of the attached list of old water meters and that they be disposed of for the best possible revenue return. Motion carried.

b. School Street, Meadow Lane, Sunset Crescent and Spring Garden Road

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Smith, seconded by Councillor den Haan, on recommendation of Committee of the Whole, that the \$32,124.00 over-budget amount on the School Street, Meadow Lane/Sunset Crescent be financed from the Special Reserve Fund borrowing. Motion carried.

c. Transit

It was moved by Councillor Britney, seconded by Councillor Himmelman, on recommendation of Committee of the Whole, that Middleton continue to fund transit at the same level it has in the past by way of an annual public transportation grant in the amount of \$20,000.00 for 2013/2014 and that the grant will be reviewed annually, in conjunction with the Town's budget; that partners will be advised of the amount for that fiscal year; that any changes to the routes or bus stops will trigger an automatic review of the grant and possible pro-rated changes; and that the Town will continue to issue bus passes and collect and remit fares on behalf of King's Transit. Motion carried.

d. Bills

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Smith, seconded by Councillor Britney, on recommendation of Committee of the Whole, that Council approve the payment of the bills for November 2012 in the amount of \$316, 126.11. Motion carried.

12.12.07 REPORTS.01 Committee of the Whole

All items from the Committee of the Whole meeting of November 19, 2012, have been dealt with earlier in the meeting.

.02 Mayor

Mayor Eddy tabled his report for the month of December.

Mayor Eddy advised that the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremonies were well attended, although it was very, very cold.

.03 Managers

The Management reports have been circulated to all members of Council.

.04 Planning Services - October

The report for the month of October has been circulated to all Council members.

.05 Planning Services – November 2011 to October 2012

The report for the period November 2011 to October 2012 has been circulated to all Council members.

.06 RCMP

The RCMP report for the month of October is available at Town Hall for review by Council members.

.07 ADEDA

CAO MacMurtry advised Council that the Province is proposing six new jurisdictions, called Regional Enterprise Networks (REN), as a replacement to the existing Regional Development Authorities (RDA). In the new model, the Town of Middleton will partner with the counties of Annapolis, Kings and West Hants and the Towns of Annapolis Royal, Berwick, Bridgetown, Hantsport, Kentville, Wolfville and Windsor. A similar partnership exists with Valley Waste Resource Management. Questions still to be answered include when it will be implemented and the funding model. The Province's funding of the RDAs ends spring 2013.

.08 Valley Waste-Resource Management (VWRM)

Councillor Himmelman advised Council the VWRM *Management Minute* comes out monthly and details the items covered in the Board meeting. He will ensure that Council members have a copy. Council agreed with the proposed wind turbine for the new administration building, with the understanding that it will be part of the budget submission from VWRM.

12.12.08 CORRESPONDENCE

A list of correspondence for the month of November has been circulated to all Council members.

In response to the letter from *Henry Hicks, Chair, and Ken Crowell, Volunteer – Our Community, Our Health Campaign* (Item # 6), requesting inclusion on a Council agenda early in 2013 to present up-to-date information about the Capital Campaign that is being conducted by the Valley Regional Hospital, Council agreed to invite them to the January Town Council Meeting.

12.12.09 ANYTHING BY MEMBERS

Councillor Britney stated that he thought the project for electric car charging stations is a good idea and suggested that it should be located in the downtown area so that people can shop while they wait for their car to charge.

Councillor den Haan advised Council that:

- The proceeds from the Nictaux Christmas Show will be donated by the Middleton Rotary Club to the Middleton Splash Pad. The Rotary Club will have someone onsite, informing people that the funds are being raised for the Middleton Splash Pad.
- The Heart of the Valley Festival Committee is going to have a New Year's Gala at the Legion. Tickets are \$25 and Scotiabank will be matching the funds raised.

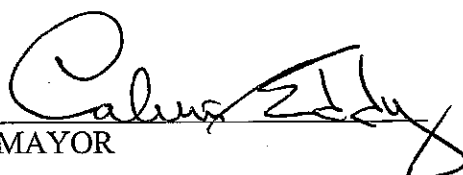
Deputy Mayor Smith advised Council that the Middleton & Area Business Association (MABA) would like to host a "Meet Council Night" sometime in early January. Council agreed that Deputy Mayor Smith should talk to MABA regarding available dates.

Councillor Himmelman advised Council that a citizen had requested that a second set of lights be placed lower on the crosswalk poles, as the lights cannot be seen by the pedestrians. CAO MacMurtry will speak to the citizen and put it in the budget discussions. Perhaps an option would be to see how much they are going to cost, install them in one location and see if it makes a difference.

Mayor Eddy advised Council to inform Jodi Moase if they will be attending the Town's Christmas party and their choice of food and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

12.12.10 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was **moved by Councillor Britney, seconded by Councillor den Haan that the Council adjourn at 9:14 p.m. Motion carried.**


MAYOR


RECORDING SECRETARY