



TOWN OF HINTON Standing Committee of Council Meeting September 24, 2013

PRESENT: Mayor Ian Duncan, Deputy Mayor Bill Bulger
Councillors Jane Macridis, Dale Currie, Lorraine Johnston-MacKay,
ABSENT: Ryan Maguhn
SECRETARY: Lil Wallace - Executive Assistant
ALSO PRESENT: Bernie Kreiner - Town Manager
Rhonda West - Legislative & Administrative Services Coordinator
Denise Parent - Director of Corporate Services

ORDER

Deputy Mayor Bill Bulger called the Standing Committee Meeting to order. The time was 11:33 a.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

There was consensus to accept the Standing Committee Meeting Agenda of September 24, 2013.

ACTION ITEMS

Refer to the Standing Committee Meeting Agenda package for September 24, 2013 for detailed background information on these decisions.

2013 Capital Budget Variance Report Update - Denise

Denise Parent advised council this report has been changed to include when projects are expected to be completed, if the project will occur in the current year or carry forward to the next year, and what the year-end projected expenditures will be.

Going forward, our AS-400 system has a budget/project module and this could potentially result in easier-to-understand reporting. The Corporate Services division is looking into this.

There was consensus that this report be accepted for information.

Council Updates from Executive (discussion - no attachments)

Council had previously requested the question "How does the executive committee best like reporting status updates back to council?". The following four choices were discussed by the Executive Committee:

- written reports
- divisional updates presented at Regular Council meetings
- quarterly meetings covering strategic and project items
- only give status report on big ticket items when timing is appropriate

Mr. Kreiner advised the Executive Committee felt a special standing committee meeting update on strategic items is best every 3 months. However, council felt by discussing the items at Standing Committee they would have a better opportunity to talk to each director about specific pieces of the strategic plan. The base services have already been covered well in previous reports, and council would like to concentrate on strategic items.

There was consensus that Council direct Administration to bring updated reports to Standing Committee every three months.

Direction of LAPP pension plan moving forward (overview).

Mr. Kreiner advised council that pensions for all three levels of government are under scrutiny right now and approximately ten days ago the provincial government made an announcement proposing pension changes in AB municipalities. Council then watched a self-explanatory video provided on the Govt. of Alberta Finance Dept. website through video link: <http://finance.alberta.ca/publications/pensions/sustainability/index.html#info>

There was consensus that this report be accepted for information.

The mayor called a recess at 1:01 pm and Councillor Dale Currie left the meeting at this time as he had to go back to his job. The meeting reconvened at 1: 09 p.m.

Discussion on MGA Review - Jane Macridis

Councillor Jane Macridis brought up this topic to obtain more information prior to completing a questionnaire that was recently distributed by Municipal Affairs. She enquired what was happening at the provincial level and what discussions have taken place. The Mayor advised this topic will be brought up as an agenda item at the next AUMA conference in November.

Each councillor can respond to the questionnaire and present their individual views.

Bernie Kreiner left the meeting at 1:27 pm to attend an Emergency Operations Centre training session being held today.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Urgent Matters from Council and Town Manager

Councillor Johnson-MacKay advised council that the post office in Hinton is being downsized to just a wicket. The post office workers are concerned and requested this be discussed with MP Rob Merrifield. It was noted that no jobs are being lost but in a few years quite a few employees will be retiring and these jobs will not be replaced. Councillor Johnson-MacKay is to gather more information to bring back to council.

Councillor Macridis reminded council of the signing of the landfill memorandum of agreement on October 9, 2013 at the Government Centre Foyer. The bbq will be held at 12:30 pm and the official signing of the agreement will take place at 1:30 pm with a guided tour of the landfill afterwards. Councillors are asked to send their RSVP to Mona Hegion (865-2634).


Initial

The Mayor advised he attended the regional mayor's meeting in Drayton Valley on Friday, September 20, 2013. MP Rob Merrifield and Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development ("ESRD") Diana McQueen were also there. The group discussed AB Newsprint's loss of FMA land to caribou habitat and are developing strategies for the next steps. The *Species at Risk Act* needs to be looked at. As a group they are continuing to work to understand their role and refine a group message. The Mayor will attend a multi-stakeholder workshop being held October 3, 2013 in Nisku, AB and will provide council with an update when he returns.

Executive Assistant Logistics Information

No upcoming events logistics were discussed.

Councillor Jane Macridis thought the "Celebrate Democracy" bbq held immediately after the election nomination period yesterday was a great day and wanted to say thank you to the organizers. It was great to see so many people of the public in attendance.

IN CAMERA (if necessary)

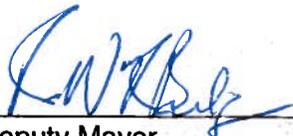
N/A

ADJOURNMENT

L. JOHNSTON-MACKAY - That Standing Committee Meeting of Council adjourn.

The time was 1:44 p.m.

Carried



Deputy Mayor



Director of Corporate Services

Initial

