

**TOWN OF HAMPTON
SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL
August 19, 2008**

A Closed Session of Council was held immediately preceding the regular Council meeting, commencing at 6:00 p.m. A regular meeting of Council was held in the Council Chambers at 27 Centennial Road on August 19, 2008 commencing at 7:00 p.m. A second Closed Session of Council was held immediately following the regular meeting of Council, commencing at 8:15 p.m.

Attendance

Council: Mayor Ken Chorley
Deputy Mayor Dwight Bond
Councillor Peter Behr
Councillor Robert Doucet

Staff: Richard Malone, Chief Administrative Officer
Megan O'Brien Harrison, Town Clerk
Gillian Reid, Assistant to the Clerk
Richard King, Building Inspector

Delegation: Frank McCarey, Saint John Transit Commission
Chris (confirm names with Ken), Saint John Transit Commission
Richard (confirm names with Ken), Saint John Transit Commission

1. CLOSED SESSION

In accordance with Section 10.2(4) of the *Municipalities Act*, Mayor Chorley called the Closed Session to order at 6:30 p.m. and adjourned the same meeting at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Chorley called a second Closed Session to order at 8:15 p.m. and adjourned the same meeting at 8:50 p.m. During that time, a number of issues were discussed and the confidential information from such discussions was classified as follows:

<u>Subsection of 10.4 (2)</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u># of Items</u>
(a)	Confidential information protected by law	1
(b)	Personal information	1
(c)	Financial loss or gain (individual or municipal) or could jeopardize negotiations leading to an agreement or contract	
(d)	Land transactions for a municipal purpose	
(e)	Violates confidentiality of information obtained from other governments (Federal and/or Provincial)	
(f)	Legal opinions or advice, and privileged communications	
(g)	Litigation or potential litigation	
(h)	Access to/or security of particular buildings, other structures or systems	
(i)	Information gathered by police	
(j)	Labour/Employment matters	

2. OPEN SESSION

Mayor Chorley called the Open Session to order at 7:00 p.m. It was noted that Councillor Clara Lights was not in attendance as she was out-of-town on vacation.

3. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

N/A

4. PUBLIC HEARING AND DELEGATIONS

Saint John Transit Commission

Mayor Chorley welcomed the delegation from the Saint John Transit Commission.

Frank McCarey, representing the Saint John Transit Commission, requested that the Town of Hampton make a five year commitment to cover all operations expenses to Saint John Transit for the Hampton routes of the Comex Bus Service for a period of January 1st, 2009 to December 31st, 2013.

Mr. McCarey informed council that the Hampton to Saint John Express buses had an average ridership of 100 rides per day. He expressed that the popularity of the service was resulting in some crowding and overload on some buses. As a result the Saint John Transit Commission would like to make application on behalf of the Town of Hampton (and the other communities using the Comex Service, including Quispamsis, Rothesay and Grand Bay-Westfield) to purchase two articulated buses. The five-year commitment from the Town of Hampton is essential to the application. The application deadline is September 1st, 2008.

Mr. McCarey indicated that he was able to locate two from a supplier in Quebec if the application for funding was successful. He stated that if funding was successful, the buses could be in use as early as October.

Council, in general, was impressed by the statistics tabulated by the Saint John Transit Commission regarding the Commuter Express (Comex) Growth in Hampton. Mr. McCarey indicated that the Commission was working with the business community in Saint John in order to increase the ridership. They indicated that one employer was interested in having thirty (30) of their employees use the service regularly in order to relieve some of their parking shortfalls. The business was looking for ensure that the service would be continuing.

Mr. McCarey noted that the number of passengers from Hampton did decrease in the month of August, however he attributed this decrease to summer vacations and the fact that students were not attending university during this time. The Commission expected the ridership numbers to return to normal in September.

Council wondered if fares could be raised to alleviate some of the predicted operational shortfall. Mr. McCarey stated that the Town would have the authority to make a request to adjust bus fare prices. He cautioned that the Town will need to strike a balance, as too high an increase would result in reduced usage. Mr. McCarey assured Council that if the service did not continue to be successful, the Town could simply cancel the service and return the buses.

Mayor Chorley stated that he felt that the town residents are very pleased with the bus times and the service provided.

Councillor Doucet expressed concerns regarding arrival time of the bus that proceeds from Hampton to King Square to UNBSJ and the Saint John Regional Hospital. Currently it is an express route to King Square, but than make regular stops from King Square to the university and hospital. Mr. McCarey indicated if there was an increase in the number of riders who were using this route that the commission would look into cutting the ride time by making it an express route between King Square and the university/hospital. He reiterated that the Saint John Transit Commission's biggest goal in creating the Comex service is to decrease parking uptown.

Councillor Behr enquired as to whether seat belts would be added to the buses in the future, given that they are used for highway travel. The Commission members did not foresee the installation of seatbelts as they indicated that studies show demonstrate that it is safer without seatbelts on the buses.

Council noted that the Town is increasing the Park and Ride parking area. Mr. McCarey indicated that there may be further funding available from the Saint John Transit Commission to assist with the parking lot expansion.

Council indicated they were pleased with the presentation and discussion.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bond and seconded by Councillor Behr that the Town of Hampton sponsor an application to the Rural Urban Commuter Program for the acquisition of two articulated transit buses to be supplied to the Saint John Transit with the Town of Hampton committing to provided funding to cover all operations expenses to Saint John Transit for Hampton Commuter Express Buss Service for a period of five years, starting January 1st, 2009 to December 31st, 2013. The Town of Hampton retains the right to apply for a fare increase in order to decrease the annual predicted shortfall.

Motion Carried

5. ADJOURNMENT

The regular meeting of Council was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bond and seconded by Councillor Doucet that the meeting be adjourned.

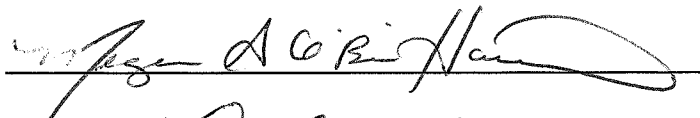
Motion Carried

6. CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Chorley called a second Closed Session to order at 8:15 p.m. and adjourned the same meeting at 8:50 p.m.

APPROVAL:

TOWN CLERK



MAYOR

