



**TOWN OF HINTON
STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
July 14, 2015**

PRESENT: Mayor Rob Mackin, Deputy Mayor Dale Currie, Councillors Marcel Michaels, Glen Barrow, Matthew Young, Stuart Taylor

ABSENT: Councillor Ryan Maguhn

SECRETARY: Rhonda West – Legislative & Administrative Services Coordinator

ALSO PRESENT: Mike Schwirtz - Town Manager; Laura Howarth – Director of Community & Protective Services

ORDER

Deputy Mayor Dale Currie called the Standing Committee Meeting to order. The time was 3:59 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

There was consensus to accept the Standing Committee Meeting Agenda of July 14, 2015 as presented.

DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Trevor Haas spoke to Council, as a community member and mental health official, with respect to two matters relating to the Compliance Order issued by Bylaw Enforcement for 102 Aspen Street (June 16, 2015 Regular Council Meeting):

- During the June 16, 2015 Council meeting the word “insane” was used by Councillor Maguhn and Mr. Haas finds that very derogatory. There is a huge stigma around mental health and the use of that word by an official is appalling. He understood by what Councillor Maguhn most likely meant and hopes that councilors put some thought into the words that they choose to use. He also felt someone should have brought the matter up at the meeting and was disrespectful to staff and to community members that brought it to the attention of staff. Deputy Mayor Currie thanked him for coming and raising the issue. Mr. Haas encourages Councillor Maguhn to consider an apology to the community and challenges him to make some sort of apology for his conduct to help others think of the use of that term as well. Mr. Haas is advocating for people with mental illness where that word is used quite often. Acknowledgement would go a long ways to helping others understand. Mayor Mackin offered an apology on behalf of Council to Mr. Haas.
- The second matter was in relation to the decision made by Council in relation to the Compliance Order issued by Bylaw Enforcement. He would like to see Council reverse their decision. He made contact with mayors in other communities and felt that the decision made by Council was like cutting the knees off of your employee. Whether you like it or not it's a bylaw....a rule....a system of rules to govern behavior. Many lawmakers don't always agree with laws but they are bound by those laws and council changed it on the fly. It seems to him somewhat like micro-managing the staff. When he (Bylaw Officer) did go and do his job council told him that the law was wrong. If council is questioning what staff are doing all of the time it doesn't make for a secure work force. Do you trust your staff? How can he (Bylaw Officer) be consistent when council isn't consistent in their decisions? What does that say to community members? Why listen to staff when they (the public) can come to council to get a yes answer. Not a good trend he is seeing as a community member. Back up your staff – they know what they are doing. Council has to

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follow the laws as they exist right now. If they don't like it then change the law. He hopes council listens to their staff and trust the work that they do. He is simply making his own observations as a community member.

ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Refer to the Standing Committee Meeting Agenda package for [July 14, 2015](#) for detailed background information on these decisions.

Smoking in Outdoor Recreational Areas

There was consensus that Council accepts the report for information.

LAV III Monument Program

There was consensus that Council accepts the report for information.

Review Existing Town Events and Expand / Improve

There was consensus that Council accepts the report for information.

Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee

There was consensus that Council accepts the Mayor's verbal report for information.

Boundaries/Limits on Franchise Fee

There was consensus to invite a representative from Fortis to speak to Council about Franchise Fees and rate structures (current and future).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Urgent Matters from Council

Councilors received clarification on items relating to Town boundaries and maps for the Beaver Boardwalk.

Town Manager Status Report

Town Manager Mike Schwartz provided an update on current items.

ADJOURNMENT

YOUNG - That Standing Committee Meeting of Council adjourn.

Carried

The time was 5:22 p.m.



Deputy Mayor



Town Manager

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