



## **Village of Point Edward**

### **PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

#### **Transit Service**

**Tuesday, March 29, 2011 at 4:00 p.m.**

**Point Edward Council Chambers, 135 Kendall Street, Point Edward, Ontario**

---

#### **1. Introduction by Mayor Kirkland**

The Village of Point Edward will be considering transit service in the Village as a result of increasing costs and declining ridership. Council will be contemplating changing the current service level to an hourly service from Monday to Friday. This will be a change from the half hour service during the peak periods in the morning and afternoon. There will be no change to the Saturday transit service or the Care-a-van service.

This public meeting is being held to receive comments, concerns or potential impacts of changes from the riders, residents and businesses.

#### **2. Presentation on the proposed transit option**

The Village of Point Edward Council previously considered various options for transit service due to the escalating costs and declining ridership. Following input from the public, Council is now proposing a change that will provide hourly service only from Monday to Friday with no change on Saturday. The existing service on Monday to Friday runs at 30 minute intervals from 6:45 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. and from 2:45 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. with hourly service during the non-peak period. The existing hourly service for Saturday is proposed to continue. This meeting will provide an opportunity to obtain public input from riders, residents and businesses to determine the potential impact of the proposed changes.

No changes are being proposed to the Care-a-van service.

#### **3. Comments by General Public**

CAO Cramp read an e-mail received by Anna Moscardelli.

Linda Houlbrook, 26 Maud Street advised that she uses the bus very often for doctor and dentist appointments, shopping and groceries. She noted that there are no grocery stores available in the Village. It will be inconvenient for the riders, particularly in the winter waiting in the cold.

Robert Swift, 505 Louisa Street commented regarding the fact that the reduction may not be possible. Mr. Peters from Sarnia Transit indicated that Route 2 is interlined with Point Edward and it is likely that they would have to reduce as well. He will await Sarnia Council instruction on that issue as it will affect the Sarnia service.

Robert Swift asked about the study and why the ridership is decreasing. It was explained that initiatives have been taken as a result of the study but the ridership continues to decrease even after the changes as well as the ½ price transit fee. There was a significant reduction following the Village Bingo closure.

Don Whalen, 1295 Sandy Lane commented that he has three girls that board the bus in the morning and after school. It will cause difficulties to him if changes are made. He asked for a comparison between Bright's Grove and Point Edward. He noted that the population is getting older and there will be greater need in the future.

Deputy Mayor MacKenzie noted it is a no-win situation. The people who use the bus are in need of the service. How we treat older people in the community is a measure of the municipality.

Mayor Kirkland commented that a lot of money has been placed in transit. The proposal will allow it to continue at a more reasonable cost.

Councillor Romlewski noted that the routes are not going to change – it will be a timing change to hourly service.

Janice Robson, 9 Albert Street noted that five years ago, there was a study to determine improvements that could be made to the service to increase ridership. Three years ago, the routes were changed for better service. Last July, there was a public meeting held on the transit issue. If a change is to be made, the hourly service is the best of all options. She asked if the \$80,000 would be saved in the operating budget. She was advised that for this year, the reduction would be only from June 1.

Linda Houlbrook asked if the funding from the Point Edward Casino could be used towards the transit costs. Mayor Kirkland advised that it is already being used for many other areas. Ms. Houlbrook noted that her mother has a hard time getting places. The snow was high at the bus stop and is that shoveled away. She was advised that the roads receive maintenance first prior to the sidewalks.

Gavin Hall, 20 Alfred Street noted that the bus goes by his house every 1/2 hour. He is in the yard quite often and he doesn't see many people on the bus. He appreciates that the Village needs the bus service that is provided by the taxpayers. It may be an inconvenience to schedule appointments but should not create a big problem. The hourly service should be acceptable. Every ½ hour was overkill. If he was voting, he would go for the hourly service so that there is a decrease in costs but the service is at least available for those needing it.

Councillor Hand appreciated the comments received. It is clear that everyone does not want the service to be eliminated but the status quo is no longer possible with rising costs and casino revenue down. When the change in schedule takes place, appointments can be changed accordingly.

Gavin Hall asked about the Care-a-van. It was noted that it will continue but the individuals using it must qualify for the service.

Florence Mair, 319 Alexandra commented that she loves the bus. She will be 90 years old in June and she has no problem getting on and off the bus, even with the snow pile-ups. She feels the hourly service is great and she is thankful for the bus.

Councillor Churchill noted that it is a balanced solution. No one wants to take away the bus. He noted that there will be some inconveniences but people will be able to adapt to the change.

Florence Mair noted that some people would be off the bus by the time they reach Alfred Street. She noted that her corner does not have a bus stop but the Transit drivers will pick her up at the stop sign. The drivers are great.

Anna Moscardelli, 706 Charles Street, noted that it is important to consider the change with an \$80,000 decline in cost. She noted that most of the concerns were from Sarnia residents. She suggested that the City should contribute more.

Councillor Romlewski noted that there is a contract and Sarnia pays accordingly.

**4. Conclusion by Mayor Kirkland**

Mayor Kirkland advised that Council will be considering the proposed option for transit service following this meeting or at a future date. Your input is very important to us and we thank you for taking the time to provide written or verbal comments.

**5. Meeting adjourned by Mayor Kirkland**

Moved by Deputy Mayor MacKenzie

Seconded by Councillor Hand

THAT the transit service public meeting be adjourned, at 4:45 p.m.

CARRIED.

---

Mayor Dick Kirkland

---

CAO Peggy Cramp