

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Barrington Municipal Council held in the Council Chambers, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington, N.S., on Tuesday, May 13, 2003.

The meeting was called to order by the Warden at 7:05 p.m. with the following members present:

- Warden Sterling Belliveau
- Deputy Warden Eddie Nickerson (7:08 p.m.)
- Councillor Angus Atkinson
- Councillor Fred Bower
- Councillor Louise Halliday
- Councillor Dwayne Hunt
- Councillor Wayne Smith

- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk
- Lesa Rossetti, Deputy Clerk

CHANGES TO AGENDA

It was agreed that Item 14 be deleted from the agenda and that the following items be added:

- Letter from Pat Nickerson Re: B.M.H.S.
- Invitation
- Resignation
- Closed Session of Council Re: Personnel Matter - if time permits

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by D. Hunt and seconded by A. Atkinson that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held April 23, 2003, and the Special Meeting of Council held April 30, 2003, be approved as circulated.

Motion carried.

RCMP PROPOSAL

Mr. Blair McKnight, Superintendent, from the R.C.M.P. District Office and Mr. Raymond Cusson from the Department of Justice appeared before the meeting. Also in attendance were Sergeant Mike Leighton from the Barrington R.C.M.P. Detachment; Frank Foran, Advisory NCO; and Corporal Michel Lacroix from the Yarmouth R.C.M.P. Detachment.

Mr. McKnight circulated information to members on the possible consolidation of the two R.C.M.P. Detachments in Shelburne County. The organization structure in the Barrington R.C.M.P. Detachment currently is five Constables, one Corporal Supervisor, and one Chief of Police, plus a Detachment Assistant. Under the new structure there will be a Chief of Police and Operations NCO shared between the two detachments; one being located in the Shelburne Detachment and one being located in the Barrington Detachment. The Barrington Detachment will also consist of a Corporal Supervisor and five Constables, plus one Detachment Assistant. Under the new structure a Community Policing Officer will be put in place for the Shelburne County Detachment.

Councillors raised many questions regarding the suggested restructuring. As a result of questioning, Mr. McKnight informed members that R.C.M.P. officers working out of the Barrington Detachment will be encouraged to live in the area. Either the Staff Sergeant or the Sergeant will reside in Barrington. Mr. McKnight informed members that under the new structure the R.C.M.P. intends to house their officers in the four R.C.M.P. houses currently existing in the Municipality.

In regards to the new proposal the following benefits were identified:

- one Chief of Police for the entire County as a strategic point of contact for the five municipal units, at the Staff Sergeant level
- one Operations NCO at the Sergeant level that ensures appropriate operational response to community problems
- standardizing the police response across the entire County
- more effective shift scheduling
- access to additional skills and expertise in the larger resource pool
- increased ability to allocate resources to serious criminal investigations.

Drawbacks identified:

- sense of loss without an identifiable Barrington Detachment Commander.

Mr. Raymond Cusson was questioned regarding costs as it relates to R.C.M.P. vs. a private police force. Mr. Cusson informed members that the proper procedure would be to contact the Department of Justice requesting a police review. At that time, Mr. Cusson would meet with members to determine exactly what they want to accomplish and a full review would then take place. This process takes approximately six to eight months. During discussion of this matter it was noted that the review would be paid for by the Department of Justice.

Mr. McKnight informed members that the proposal is just a suggestion at the present time and no time table has been put in place to deal with this matter.

Representatives were thanked for appearing before Council to discuss this matter.

SECOND READING - BY-LAW NO. 21 "MUNICIPAL SEWERS"

The Clerk informed members that an advertisement had been placed in the Coast Guard Newspaper informing the public that second reading of By-Law No. 21 "Municipal Sewers" was to take place tonight at 8:00 p.m.

It is proposed that the Schedule "A" of the by-law be amended to make provision for mini-home parks. It is suggested that mini-home parks be rated for sewer as follows:

- | | |
|--|------|
| - for the first three mini-homes, per unit | 1.0 |
| - for each additional mini-home thereafter, per unit | 0.75 |

The Clerk reported that correspondence has been received from Ken Anthony regarding the proposed amendments. The letter was copied and circulated to members.

Mr. Anthony is suggesting that the by-law be amended with additional types of consumers being added as follows:

- a) Under mobile homes = 1
Have multiple mobile homes or mini-home parks, first unit = 1 and then any additional unit 3/4 of one unit
- b) Under individual apartments = 1
Have multiple units up to 3 = 3 units
4th unit and more = 1/2 of 1 unit
- c) Under stores, banks, clubs, etc. strip malls to be added
With the first washroom facility = 1 and each additional washroom facility being 1/2 unit

General discussion took place regarding this matter.

Resolution C030501

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by L. Halliday that proposed amendments to By-law No. 21 "Municipal Sewers" be referred to the Finance Committee for further consideration.

Motion carried.

DANGEROUS AND UNSIGHTLY PREMISES

Councillor Atkinson informed members that he, Councillor Smith and Deputy Warden Nickerson, met with a group of citizens regarding dangerous and unsightly premises. Two main properties of concern were as follows:

- 1. Stanley Greenwood's Boat Shop located in Centreville
- 2. Property of Gary Smith located at Centreville. This property is used by Jim Swimm for his recycling operation.

Letters from concerned citizens were read and photographs were circulated.

The Clerk informed members that the process is underway to have Stanley Greenwood's Boat Shop property cleaned up. The By-Law Enforcement Officer has visited the site and taken a number of photographs. Mr. Greenwood has been given fourteen (14) days in which to clean up around the roadway and thirty (30) days to clean up the remainder of the property.

Sixty-three photographs have been forwarded to the Department of Environment for their attention.

It was agreed that Council be provided with an update at the end of the fourteen (14) day period given to Stanley Greenwood to clean up his property.

It was agreed that the By-Law Enforcement Officer be requested to investigate property of Gary Smith located at Centreville.

During discussion of this matter it was reported that citizens have also expressed concern regarding the amount of litter along our highways, beaches, etc.

It was suggested by the Clerk that Council may want to consider hiring a full-time person to deal with the enforcement of various by-laws, including dangerous and unsightly premises. This person could also act as Waste Diversion Coordinator for the Municipality.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

McGray Avenue Project

The Clerk reported that the following motion was tabled at the last meeting of Council:

Resolution C030502

“Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by W. Smith that the second half of the Municipal contribution relating to the McGray Avenue Project in the amount of \$64,170.00 be paid to the South West Shore Development Authority.”

This motion was tabled until after the Waterfront Development Committee Meeting which was scheduled to be held on April 24, 2003.

The Chairman of the committee informed members that the matter was discussed and the committee approves of the payment of \$64,170.00.

The motion was then put to a vote and carried.

Causeway Opening

The Warden informed members that the South West Shore Development Authority is continuing to work towards identifying funding to facilitate the completion of a study to determine the impact of creating an opening in the Cape Sable Island Causeway.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mainland Nova Scotia Building and Construction Trades Council

Correspondence has been received from Mainland Nova Scotia Building and Construction Trades Council. This letter was copied and circulated to councillors in advance to the meeting. The Trades Council is challenging government to move more quickly with the regulatory and policy process to help accelerate offshore exploration and development.

Planners Conference

It was reported that the Canadian Institute of Planners Conference is scheduled to be held from July 6 - 9, 2003. The early registration deadline is May 15, 2003.

It was agreed that this matter be placed on the agenda for the upcoming PAC meeting.

Shelburne County Volunteer Coordination Program

It was reported that correspondence has been received from the South West Shore Development Authority regarding the Shelburne County Volunteer Coordination Program. This program is \$10,000.00 short of its projected expenses. In order to meet the shortfall the S.W.S.D.A. are asking each municipal unit to contribute a prorated amount of \$10,000.00 based on population. The Municipality of Barrington is being asked to contribute \$4,712.00.

Resolution C030503

Moved by D. Hunt and seconded by L. Halliday that the request from the South West Shore Development Authority be referred to the budget process.

Motion carried.

It was agreed that information be obtained from the South West Shore Development Authority showing a breakdown of users.

Federal Budget

An invitation has been received from Jack Layton, Leader of Canada's NDP, for Council to complete a survey to provide input for them to further understand specific infrastructure challenges faced by our municipality. The survey was copied and circulated to Council members.

B.M.H.S.

Correspondence has been received from Pat Nickerson, former teacher at the Barrington Municipal High School. She informed members that she taught in the new Home Economics Department from 1973 - 1982. During that time there was a constant foul odor coming up the sinks in the Food Lab and also in the Industrial Arts Department. It was presumed to be sewer gas due to bad plumbing, but did not improve after the school was hooked up to the municipal sewer. Several of the Home Economics' teachers suffered major health problems but did not lay blame on the school building. She personally had itchy rashes on her face, neck and arms that were attributed to allergies. Mrs. Nickerson questioned whether the old septic system was removed from the site or if the bad plumbing was ever replaced. She also asked if the school had been checked for sewer gas.

Question was raised by councillors as to why the letter was addressed to them and not the Tri County District School Board.

Resolution C030504

Moved by D. Hunt and seconded by F. Bower that a copy of the letter received from Pat Nickerson be forwarded to the Tri County District School Board for their attention.

Motion carried.

Invitation

It was reported that an invitation has been received for councillors to attend the Annual Inspection of 327 Unicorn Sea Cadets Corps, to be held at 11:00 a.m., on Saturday, May 31, 2003, at the Recreation Centre, at Sherose Island.

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Resignation

It was reported that Cindy Harris has tendered her resignation for the position of Animal Control Officer. She advised that due to family obligations she is unable to hold this position any longer than May 31, 2003. She will continue to honor her contract for Municipal Pound Facilities until March 2004.

The Clerk also informed members that the second Animal Control Officer, Sandra Wilson, has also indicated that she will be resigning from her position as soon as another officer is put in place.

At this time general discussion took place regarding the creation of a new position to deal with Animal Control, By-law Enforcement, etc.

Resolution C030505

Moved by F. Bower and seconded by W. Smith that this matter be referred to the Finance Committee for further consideration.

Motion carried.

It was agreed that a draft job description be prepared for this position.

REPORT OF WARDEN

UNSM Conference Planning Committee

The Warden informed members that a Conference Planning Committee Meeting will be held on May 21, 2003 and at that time Regional Dinners will be discussed.

Resolution C030506

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by L. Halliday that the Municipality express an interest in sponsoring a Regional Dinner.

Motion carried.

Diversion Credits

The Warden informed members that a meeting was held with officials of the Department of Environment on May 7, 2003 to discuss Diversion Credits. A letter has now been received from Mr. Gerard MacLellan, Executive Director, Department of Environment and Labour, in which he recommends that the Municipality and Waste Check enter a mediation process to resolve the matter of Diversion Credits. The letter further advised that the Department is prepared to examine cost sharing arrangements to facilitate the mediation process.

Much discussion took place regarding this matter.

Moved by D. Hunt and seconded by W. Smith that the Municipal Solicitor be instructed to initiate legal action to obtain Diversion Credits from Waste Check.

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At this time the Warden turned his chair over to the Deputy in order that he could address the motion.

The Warden stated that he felt that the motion was premature at this time and that Council may want to consider the mediation process first.

The chair was then resumed by the Warden.

The motion was put to a vote and defeated.

Moved by L. Halliday and seconded by E. Nickerson that the Municipality enter into the mediation process in an attempt to obtain the Diversion Credits.

Motion defeated.

Moved by F. Bower that the Municipality rejoin Waste Check.

There being no seconder, the motion was declared lost.

COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS

Finance and Administration Committee

Construction & Demolition Debris Landfill Site

Resolution C030507

Moved by D. Hunt and seconded by W. Smith that an information letter be sent to contractors indicating what material is accepted at the Landfill, what separation of material is required, the hours of operation at the Landfill, and an indication that advanced notice will be given to contractors of any future changes at the Landfill that significantly affect them.

Motion carried.

The Clerk informed members that the information letter was prepared in the form of a brochure. The brochure was circulated to members for their information. One addition will be made indicating that advanced notice will be given to contractors of any future changes at the Landfill that significantly affect them. Once the brochure has been updated it will be circulated to contractors in the Municipality.

Rising Assessments

Resolution C030508

Moved by D. Hunt and seconded by W. Smith that the Municipality support local Tax Deferral Programs as a means of dealing with dramatically increasing assessments on principal residences of low income property owners. This support means that Council wishes to see each case dealt with individually based on its own merit.

Motion carried.

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Resolution C030509

Moved by D. Hunt and seconded by F. Bower that the Municipality respond to the UNSM stating that it does not support requesting the province to remove from uniform assessment calculations amounts equal to assessments which have been deferred.

Motion carried.

Resolution C030510

Moved by D. Hunt and seconded by W. Smith that Council support the UNSM requesting a complete independent review of assessment services providing the province pays for such a review.

Motion carried.

Deed Transfer Tax

Resolution C030511

Moved by D. Hunt and seconded by W. Smith that a by-law be drafted by Municipal staff implementing a Deed Transfer Tax of 1/2% in the Municipality of Barrington.

Motion carried.

In advance to the meeting each member of Council was provided with a Draft Deed Transfer Tax By-Law.

Resolution C030512

Moved by W. Smith and seconded by F. Bower that the Deed Transfer Tax By-Law be approved in first reading.

Motion carried.

By-Law No. 25 "Tax Exemptions"

It was reported that as a result of changes in the previous year it is necessary to make several amendments to By-Law No. 25. The following amendments are required due to changes in circumstances of various organizations:

1. The Children's Aid Society of Shelburne County no longer owns the former Barrington Consolidated School and therefore the Society's name and this property should be deleted from the by-law.

2. It has been indicated to Municipal staff that the Fort St. Louis Rebekah Lodge 35, hall and land, in Port LaTour, is no longer operating as an organization. It was indicated by a former member of this organization that the property should be allowed to go to Tax Sale. In order for the property to go to Tax Sale it must first be removed from the tax exemptions provided by By-Law No. 25.

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3. The property recorded as Trustees of Baccaro/Port LaTour Skating Rink was purchased by the Municipality of Barrington at Tax Sale last year and therefore it should be removed from this by-law.
4. The Island and Barrington Passage Fire Department is the amalgamated fire department resulting from the amalgamation of the Barrington Passage Volunteer Fire Department, the South Side Volunteer Fire Department and the Town of Clark's Harbour Volunteer Fire Department. This fire department and its properties should be added to Schedule "C" contained in the by-law.

Resolution C030513

Moved by D. Hunt and seconded by E. Nickerson that the above proposed amendments to By-Law No. 25 "Tax Exemption By-Law" be approved in first reading.

Motion carried.

Hiring Committee

Consistent with our policy one reference check was carried out on each person being recommended for summer employment in the Recreation Department. All reference checks were favourable.

Outdoor Recreation/Special Events Coordinator

Resolution C030514

Moved by A. Atkinson and seconded by E. Nickerson that Katrina Mood be hired as Outdoor Recreation/Special Events Coordinator and that Laura Swaine be named alternate for this position.

Motion carried.

Program Coordinator

Resolution C030515

Moved by A. Atkinson and seconded by D. Hunt that Meagan Smith be hired as Program Coordinator.

Motion carried.

Resolution C030516

Moved by A. Atkinson and seconded by D. Hunt that Alicia Ross be designated alternate for the position of Program Coordinator.

Motion carried.

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Aquatic Supervisor

Resolution C030517

Moved by A. Atkinson and seconded by W. Smith that Shawn Newell be hired as Aquatic Supervisor.

Motion carried.

Public Works and Property Committee

Library Project

Resolution C030518

Moved by A. Atkinson and seconded by E. Nickerson that Municipal staff contact the owners of the IOOF Hall in Barrington Passage to discuss the potential establishment of a Library at that location.

Motion carried.

Visitor Information Centre

Resolution C030519

Moved by A. Atkinson and seconded by W. Smith that the Municipality build a new Visitor Information Centre and leave the Seal Island Lighthouse concept separate from it so that the Museum can maintain the revenues that it receives from this source and that the Municipality decide what to do regarding the Lighthouse motif at a later date when the Visitor Information Centre is moved to a new site near Highway 103.

Motion carried.

Waterfront Development Committee

Chairman Eddie Nickerson provided a brief update on activities of the Waterfront Development Committee.

At their last meeting their budget was prepared for the upcoming year and some discussion took place regarding a policy to regulate commercial activity at McGray Avenue and along the Barrington Bay Walking Trail.

The Committee is recommending that the Municipality install handicap parking signs at McGray Avenue.

Resolution C030520

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by W. Smith that the Municipality of Barrington purchase and erect two (2) handicap parking signs in the parking lot at McGray Avenue as recommended by the Waterfront Development Committee.

Motion carried.

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TEMPORARY BORROWING RESOLUTION - V.I.C.

Resolution C030521

Moved by D. Hunt and seconded by E. Nickerson and carried.

WHEREAS Section 66 of the Municipal Government Act provides that the Municipality of the District of Barrington, subject to the approval of the Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, may borrow to expend funds for a capital purpose authorized by statute;

AND WHEREAS clause 65(z) of the Municipal Government Act authorizes the Municipality of the District of Barrington to borrow funds for the purpose of lands and buildings required for a municipal purpose namely a visitor information centre;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED

THAT under the authority of Section 66 of the Municipal Government Act, the Municipality borrow a sum or sums not exceeding One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000) in total for the purpose set out above, subject to the approval of the Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations;

THAT the sum be borrowed by the issue and sale of debentures of the Municipality to such an amount as the Council deems necessary;

THAT the issue of debentures be postponed pursuant to Section 92 of the Municipal Government Act and that the Municipality borrow from time to time a sum or sums not exceeding One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000) in total from any chartered bank or trust company doing business in Nova Scotia;

THAT the sum be borrowed for a period not exceeding Twelve (12) Months from the date of the approval of the Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations of this resolution;

THAT the interest payable on the borrowing be paid at a rate to be agreed upon; and

THAT the amount borrowed be repaid from the proceeds of the debentures when sold.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by F. Bower that the meeting adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Warden

Clerk

Secretary for the Meeting

Copied for Councillors on May 20, 2003 by Sharon Brannen.

