

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

February 7, 2005

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 7:00 p.m., in the Conference Room, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington, N.S., with the following members present:

- Sterling Belliveau, Chairman
  - Fred Bower
  - Louise Halliday
  - Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
  - Eddie Nickerson
  - Larry Stewart
  - Sean Strang
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- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

### ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Laptop computers and Website
- B.M.H.S. Reunion Request
- B.M.H. S. On-site Septic
- ACCESS-ability Program
- Community Health Board Request
- Chamber of Commerce Request
- Closed Session Re: Personnel Matter and Physician Contract

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Moved** by F. Bower and seconded by S. Strang that the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Moved** by S. Strang and seconded by L. Stewart that minutes of the last previous meeting held January 31, 2005 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION INTERVIEW - BENNY ACKER

Mr. Benny Acker, the Shelburne County Supervisor for the Department of Transportation and Public Works, appeared before the committee for the purpose of discussing his department's work within the Municipality. The following items were discussed with Mr. Acker:

- Side roads in the Baccaro area are still being plowed after the recent snow storm. Mr. Acker informed members that vehicles have been stuck in both Wood's Harbour and on Cape Sable Island and that one of the plow vehicles has been off the road. Once these vehicles were returned the roads were plowed.
- There was some mis-communication regarding the plowing of three gravel roads in the Port LaTour area. These roads were missed during the first day of plowing and were plowed the following day.
- It was suggested to Mr. Acker that the procedure for plowing roads on Cape Sable Island needs to be changed so that more of the Island could be "opened up" sooner for traffic after snowstorms. Mr. Acker informed members that he was required to keep the plow trucks on Route #330 on Cape Sable Island as his priority in that location, according to the Department's procedures.
- Some alternative procedures for plowing were discussed and suggested. These will have to be further addressed with the Department of Transportation and it is not within Mr. Acker's authority to change the protocol for plowing.

Mr. Acker was thanked for the repairs to the shoulder of the road completed in Shag Harbour.

Mr. Acker also informed members that signs will be replaced in the spring after the snow is gone. These are location signs for various villages that have become damaged over the course of the winter.

Having completed his discussion with members, Mr. Acker retired from the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

DOWN TO BASICS FURNITURE AND BEDDING INC.

Down to Basics Furniture and Bedding Inc. is a limited company that has closed its business in Barrington Passage. It appears that the company has no further assets and the outstanding business occupancy taxes in the amount of approximately \$2,800 will therefore be uncollectible.

Resolution COW050201

**Moved** by E. Nickerson and seconded S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that the balance of the business occupancy taxes in the name of Down to Basics Bedding and Furniture Inc. be written off as they are deemed to be uncollectible.

AFFIRMATIVE

Sterling Belliveau  
Louise Halliday  
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger  
Eddie Nickerson  
Larry Stewart

NEGATIVE

Fred Bower  
Sean Strang

Motion carried.

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There then followed some discussion by members regarding the possibility of instituting a licencing system for businesses in the Municipality.

#### Resolution COW050202

**Moved** by E. Nickerson and seconded by L. Stewart that it be recommended to Council that Municipal Staff determine if a licence fee system can be put in place in the Municipality which would ensure the payment of business occupancy taxes.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### SCHEDULE OF FEES

The Schedule of Fees for the previous two weeks was circulated to members for their information.

#### SOUTH SIDE PIRATES INTERVIEW

Mr. Leo Atkinson and Mr. Gary Black appeared at this time for the purpose of discussing the Arena Discipline Policy and the suspension of the South Side Pirates which was put in place pursuant to that policy.

Approximately 15 members of the public also appeared at the meeting during this discussion.

The South Side Pirates Old Timers Hockey Team had been suspended from the Arena by the Arena Manager because there was evidence found in their dressing room which lead Arena employees to believe that the team was drinking beer in the dressing room. As a result the team was suspended by the Arena Manager for two regular season games. Mr. Atkinson informed members that the team "sat out" the first game. At the time of the second game for which they were suspended Mr. Atkinson stated that the team did not play a league game but played a "pick-up" game which involved other players other than those in the Old Timers Hockey League. This action was not acceptable to the Arena Manager and as a result a letter was sent by the Manager to the South Side Pirates indicating that their second game suspension would be served for the game of January 21, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Mr. Atkinson informed the meeting that the team did not play at 7:30 and rescheduled their game for that evening to 9:00 p.m. and played the game at 9:00 p.m. He indicated that by not playing at 7:30 p.m. the Team felt that they had served the second game suspension. The next day this matter was discussed with the Arena Manager who felt that the suspension had not been satisfactorily served and therefore further suspended the Team. Mr. Atkinson was appearing on behalf of the Team this evening to dispute the further suspension. He also indicated that a meeting had been held on September 9, 2004 at which time enforcement of the Arena Discipline Policy had been discussed. He indicated that he and others at that particular meeting had felt that a different enforcement procedure or protocol had been agreed upon. It was indicated in the minutes of that meeting that an alternative enforcement protocol had been discussed but that none had been adopted. Mr. Atkinson and Mr. Black both indicated that they were satisfied with the policy as it is but not with the enforcement of the policy.

Resolution COW050203

**Moved** by S. Strang and seconded E. Nickerson that it be recommended to Council that the Manager be instructed to remove the suspension of the South Side Pirates.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was the general consensus of members that the 7:30 game on January 21<sup>st</sup> had served the purpose of the second game suspension.

EMERGENCY MEETING OF COUNCIL

At this time the Warden convened an Emergency Meeting of Council pursuant to Section 19(3) of the Municipal Government Act.

After completing the Emergency Meeting of Council, the Committee of the Whole returned to session.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES PROPERTIES

There are balances remaining on seven (7) accounts of the Department of Natural Resources' properties which have been claimed by the Province. These are properties that were formerly assessed as "owners unknown" properties and were tax exempt. The Department of Natural Resources claim these properties through a legal process. The resulting delay in time in notification from the Assessment Services Office caused some balances to remain on these tax accounts.

Resolution COW050204

**Moved** by S. Strang and seconded by L. Stewart that it be recommended to Council that the remaining balances of property taxes on the "owners unknown" properties claimed by the Department of Natural Resources be written off as these are uncollectible by the Municipality.

Motion carried unanimously.

WASTE DISPOSAL CONTRACTS

Copies of three (3) waste disposal contracts were circulated to members for their information and perusal. Three contracts are for:

1. Residual Waste
2. Recyclable Waste
3. Organic Waste

The residual waste contract was reviewed in detail with members as an example of all three contracts. The contracts will be forwarded to the Municipal Solicitor for his opinion and will be put on the agenda for the next council meeting.

#### LAPTOP COMPUTERS AND WEBSITE

There was some discussion regarding the addition to the website of the Municipal By-Laws. This will be done in the near future as soon as Municipal Staff have the time to do it.

Further information will be obtained on the cost of providing laptop computers to councillors, and the estimated cost of providing communication through the internet with councillors and the Municipal Office. Other aspects of providing computers to councillors will also be investigated including provision of training and distribution and storage of information.

#### B.M.H.S. SCHOOL REUNION REQUEST

The committee proposing a school reunion and requesting a grant from the Municipality has been asked to appear before the Committee of the Whole to explain their need for funding. As yet no response has been received from the reunion group.

#### B.M.H.S. ON-SITE SEPTIC

Correspondence has been received from Mr. Paul MacLellan of the Department of Education indicating the estimated cost of extending the Municipal Sewer System to the new B.M.H.S. school site. It is estimated in this correspondence that the extension of the sewer up the Oak Park Road to the school site would cost approximately \$451,000.00. The Department of Education would save between \$130,000.00 and \$135,000.00 as a result of the sewer line being extended to the property. The net cost to the Municipality would therefore be \$316,000.00.

Before further consideration may be given to this matter, Mr. MacLellan will be asked to confirm that these are the estimated costs, and also Service Nova Scotia will be consulted regarding potential funding for this project and the reasonability of cost.

#### ACCESS-ABILITY PROGRAM

The Municipality has applied for funding through Service Nova Scotia's ACCESS-ability Program. This funding would be used to install accessible equipment for the entry to the Community Health Centre.

Correspondence has been received from Service Nova Scotia indicating that the Municipality may proceed with this project in the current fiscal year to be completed not later than March 31, 2005.

#### Resolution COW050205

**Moved** by S. Strang and seconded by F. Bower that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality proceed with the ACCESS-ability project for the Community Health Centre in conjunction with Service Nova Scotia.

Motion carried unanimously.

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COMMUNITY HEALTH BOARD REQUEST

Correspondence has been received from the Community Health Board indicating that they wish to have all five municipal units in Shelburne County consider setting up a Regional Development Authority for Shelburne County. This matter was discussed by members and will be placed on the next subsequent Council agenda for further discussion and decision.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REQUEST

The Barrington & Area Chamber of Commerce is requesting that a sign be placed at the Visitor Information Centre indicating that their office is located at that site.

Conflict of Interest

Councillor Bower declared a conflict of interest in this matter as his wife is a member of the Chamber.

Resolution COW050206

**Moved** by E. Nickerson and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that a sign be erected at the Visitor Information Centre indicating that the Chamber of Commerce office is located there.

Motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION RE: PERSONNEL MATTER - MICHELLE DESANTIS AND  
POTENTIAL PHYSICIAN CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

Having completed the discussion of the potential negotiations for physician contract and the personnel matter, Council then returned to Open Session.

ADJOURNMENT

Having completed the business of the meeting, the meeting was adjourned by mutual consent at 10:10 p.m.

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Chairman

Secretary for the Meeting

**Copied for Councillors on February 8, 2005 by Sharon Brannen.**

