

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

July 4, 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
 - Fred Bower
 - Louise Halliday
 - Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
 - Eddie Nickerson (7:09 p.m.)
 - Larry Stewart
 - Sean Strang
- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Women in Local Government.
- Illegal Dumping.
- Parade Float.
- Street Lights.
- Station Road Property.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by L. Stewart that the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by L. Stewart that the minutes of the last previous meeting held June 20, 2005 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

SHAG HARBOUR/BEAR POINT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT INTERVIEW

Ricky Banks, Chief; Jason Shand, Treasurer; and Edward Nickerson appeared before the committee on behalf of the Shag Harbour/Bear Point Volunteer Fire Department. The request from the fire department is for the Municipality to co-sign for a loan at the local Royal Bank so that the fire department can obtain a 15 year term loan to purchase a new fire truck. The present truck will soon be 20 years old. It has a small pump and is overweight according to the road restrictions, when loaded. It will cost between \$170,000 and \$180,000, plus H.S.T. to purchase a new truck.

The fire department can borrow this money over a period of ten (10) years without a co-signer, however, they do not believe they can repay it over a period of ten years and would like to borrow it over a period of 15 years. The bank is insisting that the fire department have the Municipality co-sign for the loan if it is to be borrowed over a period of 15 years.

The Municipality has a policy in place for making a capital purchase by fire departments that are financed through the Municipality. The policy requires that fire departments hold a public meeting so that residents of the fire district have the opportunity to voice their opinion before any major capital purchase is made that is financed through an area rate.

The effect of this fire department for a guarantee would be to circumvent that policy by having a loan put in place guaranteed by the Municipality, that may in the end require the Municipality to repay the loan either by putting an area rate in place or by obtaining the funds from the General Tax Rate.

It was noted that the Island/Barrington Passage Volunteer Fire Department had received a loan guarantee for the mortgage on their building, however an area rate of \$.05/\$100 had been put in place at a public meeting held regarding this area rate. This particular area rate is in place for a ten year period.

It was also noted that the Wood's Harbour Volunteer Fire Department had some time in the past received a guarantee from the Municipality for a loan to purchase a fire truck. This loan guarantee will be further researched in order to determine when and how it was obtained.

The members of the Fire Department were asked to further discuss the matter with the Municipal Clerk in an attempt to try and find an agreeable manner for financing the loan without putting an area rate in place.

Having completed their discussion of the matter, the fire department members retired from the meeting.

CED CENTRE/LIBRARY

Mark MacIsaac appeared before the meeting for purposes of discussing the additional design features of the proposed CED Centre/Library. Mr. MacIsaac presented draft designs of the front, rear and side views of the Library, with a revised floor plan. Members indicated that the hip roof design was the preferred design of the roof. It was also suggested that the electrical service being provided to the building be done underground rather than from electrical poles.

Members were also informed that Thomas Wheaton from the Department of Fisheries & Oceans had visited the proposed site of the CED Centre/Library.

Mr. Wheaton has provided a letter stating that "the portion of man-made pond affected is not 'Fish Habitat', therefore the Fisheries Act does not apply".

Resolution COW050701

Moved by F. Bower and seconded by L. Stewart that the Committee approve the floor plan and exterior design incorporating the hip roof which had previously been circulated to members, and that further options for the design of windows on the front of the building be provided at a later date.

Motion carried unanimously.

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There followed some discussion about including a “local preference” in the tender documents. This matter will be further researched with the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency to determine whether or not such a preference can be included in the tenders. It was also suggested that ACOA be asked whether or not tenders can be done by invitation rather than by public advertisements. This information will be obtained and returned to the committee.

CLOSED SESSION

The committee then entered into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing the sale of Municipal properties and a potential legal issue.

After completing their discussions, the committee then returned to Open Session.

EVALUATION OF PROPERTY

Resolution COW050702

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by L. Stewart that it be recommended to Council that the South West Shore Development Authority be given permission to do certain property tests on Municipal property to evaluate its possible uses.

Motion carried unanimously.

RESPONSE TO OMBUDSMAN

Resolution COW050703

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality respond to a request from the Ombudsman’s Office indicating that the Municipality has exercised due diligence in the matter referred to by the Ombudsman’s representative, and therefore no further action is required by the Municipality.

Motion carried unanimously.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

The Municipal Solicitor was requested to provide an opinion regarding the status of the Fundraising Committee. The Solicitor’s response informs the Committee of the Whole that the Fundraising Committee does not constitute a committee of Council as determined by the criteria provided by our insurers. As a result, our Solicitor is recommending that Council reframe the committee criteria using the exact terms in the memo from the insurance company.

Resolution COW050704

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by L. Halliday that Municipal staff contact representatives of the Arena Fundraising Committee regarding the requirements of the insurance company and discuss possible resolutions to this matter with them.

Motion carried unanimously.

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BIRTHDAY PARTIES AT THE ARENA

A recent request to hold a birthday party at the Arena using the Arena proper for the birthday party to enable the party guests to skateboard on the cement surface has been received by the Property Services Supervisor. The present policy of the Municipality does not cover this situation.

Resolution COW050705

Moved by L. Halliday and seconded by S. Strang that the Municipal Staff be requested to amend the Arena Policy permitting rental of the Arena for activities such as birthday parties at a rate of \$100.00 per hour similar to the rate for ice rental.

Motion carried unanimously.

LETTER RE: C.S.I. SEWER

Correspondence has been received regarding the proposal for providing public sewer on Cape Sable Island. This letter was circulated to members for their information.

It was also brought up by a member at this time that 50/50 cost sharing had been provided by the provincial government for the extension of a sewer system in Milton, near Liverpool. Further information will be obtained on this funding and circulated to members for their information.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

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

COMMUNITY GRANT

Community Grant applications were reviewed individually by members.

Parkdale Cemetery, Greenhill Cemetery, West Baccaro Cemetery & Woodside Cemetery

Resolution COW050706

Moved by F. Bower and seconded by L. Stewart that it be recommended to Council that the following grants be approved from the District 4 Community Grants Fund: Parkdale Cemetery, \$600.00; Greenhill Cemetery, \$300.00; West Baccaro Cemetery, \$1,000.00; and Woodside Cemetery, \$2,000.00.

Motion carried unanimously.

Wood's Harbour Minor Ball Association

Resolution COW050707

Moved by F. Bower and seconded by L. Stewart, upon the recommendation of the Councillor from District 1, that it be recommended to Council that a grant in the amount of \$1,500.00 be provided to the Wood's Harbour Minor Ball Association from the District 1 Community Grants Fund.

Motion carried unanimously.

Stoney Island Community Club

Resolution COW050708

Moved by L. Stewart and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that a grant of \$2,000.00 be provided to the Stoney Island Community Club from the District 5 Community Grants Fund.

Motion carried unanimously.

White Lily Cemetery & Evergreen Cemetery

Resolution COW050709

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that grants in the amount of \$1,500.00 for the White Lily Cemetery and \$500.00 for the Evergreen Cemetery be provided from the District 7 Community Grants Fund.

Motion carried unanimously.

Barrington Regional Curling Club

Resolution COW050710

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by F. Bower that the request of the Barrington Regional Curling Club for a community grant be denied. The Curling Club will be providing a financial plan to the Municipality in the fall and in the interim has been provided with a \$10,000.00 operating loan.

Motion carried unanimously.

Shelburne Sailing School

Resolution COW050711

Moved by L. Halliday and seconded by S. Strang that the request from the Shelburne Sailing School for a grant from the Municipality be denied.

Motion carried unanimously.

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Shelburne County Genealogical Society

Resolution COW050712

Moved by F. Bower and seconded by L. Stewart that it be recommended to Council that a grant in the amount of \$500.00 be provided to the Shelburne County Genealogical Society with \$100.00 coming from each of the Community Grants for Districts 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6.

AFFIRMATIVE

Sterling Belliveau

Fred Bower

Louise Halliday

Donna LeBlanc-Messenger

L. Stewart

S. Strang

NEGATIVE

Eddie Nickerson

Motion carried.

Point of Order

A point of order was then raised by Councillor Nickerson. Councillor Nickerson raised the point of order that the Shelburne County Genealogical Society did not qualify under the Community Grants Policy for a grant from the Municipality because this organization was not within the Municipality as required by the policy.

Resolution COW050713

The Chairman expressed some doubts regarding this point of order and therefore requested that the committee vote on the point of order.

AFFIRMATIVE

Fred Bower

Louise Halliday

Donna LeBlanc-Messenger

Eddie Nickerson

L. Stewart

S. Strang

NEGATIVE

Sterling Belliveau

Motion carried.

The point of order was carried and therefore the previous motion was deemed to be out of order by the chairman as the Shelburne County Genealogical Society does not qualify for a grant under this policy because it is an organization that is not within the Municipality.

Moved by F. Bower and seconded by S. Strang that the following organizations be classified as requesting Grants to Organizations rather than Community Grants: Shelburne County Genealogical Society, Shelburne Sailing School, Victorian Order of Nurses and Shelburne

County Museum.

After some discussion this motion was withdrawn by both the mover and the seconder.

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Shelburne County Genealogical Society

Resolution COW050714

Moved by F. Bower and seconded by E. Nickerson that it be recommended to Council that \$700.00 be provided from Grants to Organizations to the Shelburne County Genealogical Society.

Motion carried unanimously.

Barrington Area Soccer Association

Moved by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that each district provide \$200.00 from the District Community Grant Funds to the Barrington Area Soccer Association.

After asking three times and having received no seconder for this motion the motion was declared lost by the chairman.

Shelburne County Museum

Resolution COW050715

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by E. Nickerson that the Municipality deny the request of the Shelburne County Museum for a grant from the Municipality.

Motion carried unanimously.

Barrington 7E Ball Field

Resolution COW050716

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality provide a \$500.00 grant from the District 3 Community Grant Fund for the Barrington 7E Ball Field for the purpose of purchasing new lights for the field.

Motion carried unanimously.

Conflict of Interest

Councillor Messenger declared conflict of interest in the consideration of an application by Riverdale Cemetery for a Community Grant as she is the president of that association.

Riverdale Cemetery

Resolution COW050717

Moved by F. Bower and seconded by L. Stewart that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality provide a grant in the amount of \$568.00 to Riverdale Cemetery for maintenance to the cemetery.

Motion carried unanimously.

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Barrington 7E Volunteer Fire Department

Resolution COW050718

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that a grant of \$1,000.00 be provided to the Barrington 7E Volunteer Fire Department for the purpose of purchasing equipment.

Motion carried unanimously.

WOMEN IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities is hosting a Focus Group on Wednesday, July 6th, in Liverpool, for purposes of discussing the topic of Women in Local Government.

Resolution COW050719

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality reimburse councillors who wish to attend the Focus Group being held by the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities, in Liverpool, on the topic Women in Local Government, on July 6, 2005.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 11:07 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary for the Meeting

On website July 5, 2005.

