

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

January 16, 2006

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
 - Eddie Nickerson (7:15 p.m.)
 - Larry Stewart
 - Sean Strang
- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

Absent was member Donna LeBlanc-Messenger who was attending an Emergency Measures Training Session in Halifax.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Nothing Fancy Request
- EMO Coordinator
- S.W.S.D.A. Meeting
- Crosswalk Lights
- Old Furniture
- Wind Turbine Generators was deferred to the February 6, 2006 meeting of Council due to the inclement weather this evening.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINTUES

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by F. Bower that the minutes of the last previous meeting held December 19, 2005 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

NOTHING FANCY REQUEST

Nothing Fancy is a furniture retailer who wishes to hold a special event sale at the Barrington Municipal Arena. They wish to rent the Arena for ten (10) days, which would include two (2) weekends, in order to sell furniture and related merchandise. They are asking that the Municipality allow them to have two days to set up the merchandise at the beginning of the sale and one day at the end of the sale to remove any unsold merchandise, and that these three days be provided without charge.

Resolution COW060101

Moved by L. Halliday and seconded by L. Stewart that the Municipality agree to provide two days for setup and one day for removal, to Nothing Fancy Furniture, for a ten (10) day sale at the Barrington Municipal Arena, to be conducted sometime during the spring of this year, and that Nothing Fancy be required to make payment in advance of the rental.

Motion carried unanimously.

CED CENTRE/LIBRARY PROJECT UPDATE

Mark MacIsaac appeared before the meeting and presented a project update. A written summary of the site work, building construction, electrical work and mechanical work that has been completed to date was provided together with a project budget to date. This information is attached and forms part of the meeting minutes.

Mr. MacIsaac will check the specifications on the columns on the front of the building to determine exactly how they will look when they are completed. He again assured councillors that they will not be green as they currently are, but will be white in appearance when the building is completed.

Members were also asked to approve additional financing for this project, as it is apparent that the project will cost considerably more than originally budgeted.

Resolution COW060102

Moved by L. Stewart and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that the interim financing for the CED Centre/Library project be increased from \$500,000 to \$750,000 to ensure that funds are available for completion of the project.

Motion carried unanimously.

R.C.M.P. SERVICES

Correspondence has been received from the Department of Justice indicating salary increases provided to law enforcement regular members and civilian members by the Treasury Board. The increases are 4.42 % for 2005 and 2.63 % for 2006, therefore, the Municipality can expect a substantial increase in its R.C.M.P. policing costs in the coming year. The exact amount has yet to be determined and will be communicated to municipal units sometime during the spring.

This information was provided so that Council would be well aware that policing costs will be

rising this year.

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CLOSED SESSION

Members entered into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing disposition of municipal property. These properties include the remaining portion of the slough property and the B.M.H.S. property that will be returned to the Municipality in the near future.

Having completed their discussion of possible negotiation for the disposition of property, the Committee then returned to Open Session.

ARTHUR SMITH REQUEST

Arthur Smith has requested Council consider selling him the remaining portion of the slough property so that he may use it as a parking area for his motorcross course which is located on the adjacent property.

Correspondence has been received from the Department of Environment and Labour indicating the conditions that are required to fill in the septic lagoon that had previously been operated on the slough property. This lagoon has not been operated since 1998. Mr. Smith is willing to purchase the property including the lagoon site.

Resolution COW060103

Moved by F. Bower and seconded by L. Halliday:

WHEREAS the remaining municipally owned property located on Highway 103, known as the “slough” is deemed by Council to be no longer required for the purposes of the Municipality;

BE IT THEREFORE recommended to Council that the Municipality sell the remaining slough property to Mr. Arthur Smith for the appraised price of \$2,000.00, plus related expenses for transferring title of the property, with the following conditions:

1. Mr. Smith will infill the lagoon and record the septage disposal facility location as required by the Department of Environment and Labour.
2. If the property is unused as a motorcross track for a continuous period of three (3) years, then the property shall be reconveyed to the Municipality for consideration of \$1.00.

Motion carried unanimously.

B.M.H.S. PROPERTY

The property on which Barrington Municipal High School is located is owned by the Municipality of Barrington and will be returned to the Municipality once the Department of Education ceases to use it as a high school or for educational purposes. This property includes both the old school annex and the current high school buildings.

Members discussed how the Municipality wishes to dispose of this property.

Resolution COW060104

Moved by L. Halliday and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality send a letter to the Tri-County Regional School Board requesting the date when all or any of the B.M.H.S. property will be returned to the Municipality. It is being requested that the School Board provide whatever tentative dates possible in order that the Municipality can make plans for the disposition of this property.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution COW060105

Moved by L. Halliday and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that a Request for Proposal for disposition of the former B.M.H.S. property be prepared by Municipal Staff in anticipation of the return of this property to the Municipality.

Motion carried unanimously.

SHELBURNE COUNTY WOMEN'S FISHNET

Correspondence has been received from the Shelburne County Women's Fishnet requesting a grant of \$500.00 towards an event which they will be hosting. In their correspondence, the Women's Fishnet indicate they will be hosting an event on Saturday, July 29th, entitled "Harmony Bazaar A Festival of Women and Song". Local musicians may be participating in this event.

Resolution COW060106

Moved by L. Halliday and seconded by L. Stewart that it be recommended to Council that at this time the Municipality does not wish to make a grant to this event, but wishes them well in their efforts.

AFFIRMATIVE

Sterling Belliveau
Louise Halliday
Eddie Nickerson
Larry Stewart
Sean Strang

NEGATIVE

Fred Bower

Motion carried.

FEDERAL CULTURAL FUNDS

Information was circulated to members on funding provided by the Federal Department of Canadian Heritage under the Cultural Spaces Canada Program. Information was also provided to members about funding provided under the Commercial Heritage Properties Incentive Fund. Although both of these funds provide money for various cultural and heritage projects, we do not at the present time qualify for either. This information is being provided for the benefit of

members.

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SHEROSE ISLAND PROPERTY

The former CFS Barrington Site at Sherose Island has been the subject of discussion at previous meetings. As a result of a motion from a previous meeting, the Department of National Defence was requested to provide the environmental cleanup plan that was prepared by engineers at the time the Municipality took over the property at Sherose Island. This plan was provided as requested. The plan indicates that there were two scenarios possible. The first was that the site be totally cleaned up before it was turned over and that any possible contaminants be removed before it was turned over to the Municipality. The second scenario was that the mobile homes and the furnace oil tanks associated with those mobile homes remain on the site and that it be turned over to the Municipality. It was agreed by the Municipality at the time that it would accept the site at Sherose Island together with the mobile homes on the site and the related furnace oil tanks.

As a result, the Municipality has no recourse to the Department of National Defence for potential contamination from these tanks.

As a result of correspondence from the Department of Environment and Labour, it is necessary for the Municipality to determine what remediation may be necessary at Sherose Island.

Resolution COW060107

Moved by L. Halliday and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality engage an engineer to determine what remediation may be required to deal with environmental issues at the Sherose Island property owned by the Municipality.

AFFIRMATIVE

Sterling Belliveau
Louse Halliday
Eddie Nickerson
Larry Stewart
Sean Strang

NEGATIVE

Fred Bower

Motion carried.

VISITOR'S GUIDE 2006

Copies of the official Visitor's Guide 2006 South West Nova Scotia was circulated to members for their information. Members were directed to page 105 which contains the advertisement the Municipality has purchased at a cost of just over \$3,000.00.

It was pointed out to members that because this guide contains information on all communities in South Western Nova Scotia, the Municipality of Barrington's portion of the guide becomes much less significant than it was in the previous South Shore Tourism Association Guide.

MUNICIPAL CLERK'S PENSION PLAN

Members were informed that the company Eckler Partners Ltd. have completed the tri-annual actuarial evaluation as at March 31, 2005 for the Municipal Clerk's pension plan. The Municipality will be required to continue funding this plan for another three years, of which 2005/2006 is one year. At the end of that time a new actuarial evaluation will be done which it is expected will indicate the plan is completely or nearly completely funded.

INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

Information regarding the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund has been provided to members. The applications for funding must be submitted to the Management Board through Service Nova Scotia by February 15, 2006. The total amount of funding provided to Shelburne County municipal units is \$1,298,772.00. This is considerably less than the amount required for the funding of a sewer system on Cape Sable Island. It may be possible for the Municipality to apply for "strategic funding" under the program, and by applying for strategic funding the Municipality may possibly receive more funding towards this project.

This matter will be further discussed at a subsequent Council meeting following the meeting of the C.S.I. Sewer Committee.

BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Correspondence has been received from the Barrington & Area Chamber of Commerce indicating that the 2005 Business Excellence Awards Dinner will be held on January 28th at the Barrington & Area Lions Hall. The Municipality is being requested to again sponsor a table at a cost of \$100.00. This sponsorship will be paid for from the Municipal Advertising Account and will be done as in previous years. It is anticipated that the Warden will again attend this meeting as he has in the past.

COMMUNITY LITTER CLEANUP PROGRAM

The Community Litter Cleanup Program has begun in the past two years during the month of April and continued through May and June. Because this program is begun early in the new year it is done prior to approval of the Municipal Budget. As a result Council is required to approve the rates to be paid and the amount to be paid prior to approval of the annual operating budget.

Resolution COW060108

Moved by L. Stewart and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality pay the same fee as the previous year for the Community Cleanup Program and allocate the same total expenses of \$15,000.00 towards the program.

Motion carried unanimously.

LOW INCOME PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

Low income earners are provided with a property tax exemption each year. Current low income thresholds are \$16,000.00 and \$14,499.00. Due to increases in the Canada Pension Plan, Old Age Security and the Guaranteed Income Supplement, it is proposed that the household income level be raised to \$17,700.00 and that the lower amount of \$14,499.00 remain unchanged.

Resolution COW060109

Moved by L. Halliday and seconded by L. Stewart that it be recommended to Council that the maximum total household income under the Low Income Property Tax Exemption Policy be raised to \$17,700.00 and that all other elements of the program remain unchanged.

Motion carried unanimously.

THREE YEAR WAGE REVIEW

Information was provided to councillors regarding current wages for all municipal positions. Information was also provided from the AMA Nova Scotia 2004 Salary and Wage Survey indicating the comparative wages of similar positions in other municipal units in the area. Members were asked to review this information so that it could be discussed at a subsequent council meeting.

Recommendations for changes to the Salary and Wage Schedules was also provided to members for their consideration.

At the same time proposed policy amendments to the Personnel Policy dealing with the on call service, overtime and regular hours of pay were provided to members. These policy amendments will also be dealt with at a later date, prior to April 1, 2006.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAW NO. 13 "TRADE AND LICENSING"

It was suggested that the cost of licenses under the Trade and Licensing By-Law be increased in order to reflect current monetary values. It was further proposed that the license required for the sale of automobiles in the Municipality be increased as the value of vehicles is very substantial compared to the cost of licenses.

It was agreed by consensus of the committee that this matter would be deferred for further consideration at a later date.

PROPOSED COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY ON MUNICIPAL PROPERTY BY-LAW

A proposed by-law to regulate commercial activity on municipal property was circulated to members for their consideration.

Resolution COW060110

Moved by L. Halliday and seconded by F. Bower that it be recommended to Council that notice be given at the next subsequent Council meeting that the proposed Commercial Activity on Municipal Property By-law will be considered.

Motion carried unanimously.

MUNICIPAL GRANTS POLICY

A draft of a proposed Municipal Grants Policy was circulated to members prior to the meeting for their consideration. This policy would replace the Grants to Organization Policy and the Community Grants Policy that are now in place.

After much discussion, it was the general consensus of members that there should still be some provision made in the Municipal Grants Policy for the provision of grants for district allocations, and it was also the consensus of members that the councillor's recommendations should also be required for the proposal of community grants. It was also suggested that a criteria be included to determine the approval of community grants. It was agreed by members that this matter would be deferred for further consideration at a later meeting of the committee so that members would have time to further consider its implications.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

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

COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL POLICY

It was agreed by consensus of members that consideration of this policy be deferred to a future meeting of the committee.

EMO COORDINATOR

Members were informed that one application was received for the position of EMO Coordinator and will be forwarded to the Executive Committee of the Joint Emergency Measures Organization for consideration.

S.W.S.D.A. MEETING

Members did not attend the S.W.S.D.A. on Saturday, January 14, 2006 as they felt the attendance of councillors at this meeting may inhibit the public from making comments and giving candid input to the S.W.S.D.A.

CROSSWALK

It was indicated that the flashing light at the crosswalk in Barrington Passage is now out and the Department of Transportation should be informed that it is not working properly.

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OLD FURNITURE

This matter was deferred to a later meeting of the committee.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at approximately 11:00 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary for the Meeting

On website January 19, 2006.

