

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

November 6, 2006

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

- Eddie Nickerson, Chairperson

- Donna LeBlanc-Messenger

- George El-Jakl

- Larry Stewart

- Sean Strang

- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

Absent was Warden Louise Halliday due to illness.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Arena Sign.

- Destination Southwest Nova Scotia Meeting, November 15th.

- Recreation Director's Retirement.

- C.S.I. Sewer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by G. El-Jakl that the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by S. Strang that the minutes of the last previous meeting held October 30, 2006 be approved with the amendment that the wreath being placed in Stoney Island is being placed at the Stoney Island Cenotaph.

Motion carried unanimously.

R.C.M.P. INTERVIEW

Staff Sergeant Bill Mooney and Constable Shawna Schmalz appeared before the meeting to discuss the R.C.M.P. activities over the previous month. A written report was provided by Sgt. Mooney, which is filed in the Municipal Office.

It was noted that during Halloween of last year there were 26 complaints received by the R.C.M.P., of which 7 were in Wood's Harbour, and 15 were on Cape Sable Island. This year there were a total of 15 complaints received, 8 in Wood's Harbour, 5 in Brass Hill and 2 on Cape Sable Island. During the afternoon of Halloween Day there was a house set on fire in the Wood's Harbour area. Sgt. Mooney indicated that the R.C.M.P. have some leads regarding this incident and there are charges pending related to other activities during Halloween.

It was noted on the written monthly report that during October of this year there were 11 assaults compared to 5 the previous year, and 9 break and enters compared to 5 the previous year. There were 12 motor vehicle collisions compared to 5 during the same month of the previous year, and 21 false alarms compared to 12 during the same month of the previous year.

Members were congratulated for the good job that was done in the Stoney Island and Clam Point area on Halloween night. It was also indicated that parents in the Wood's Harbour area were interested in learning what was done in Stoney Island during Halloween so that it could be duplicated in their area.

Sgt. Mooney also indicated that an inventory program would be instituted in seasonal dwellings in the area in order to make a list of items that could potentially be stolen from season dwellings.

Having completed their discussion of these matters, Sgt. Mooney and Cst. Schmalz retired from the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

INTERVIEW WITH FIRE DEPARTMENTS

The following members of the various fire departments appeared before the meeting for the purpose of discussing fire department issues:

- Barrington Volunteer Fire Department; John Nickerson, Paul Thomas
- Port Clyde Volunteer Fire Department; Wade Christie, Becky Stoddard
- Wood's Harbour Volunteer Fire Department; Shannon Newell, Jody Goreham
- Island & Barrington Passage Volunteer Fire Department; Garnett Sullivan, Dwayne Hunt, Eugene Stoddard
- Port LaTour Volunteer Fire Department; Blanchard Chetwynd, David Garron, Richard Nickerson, Wilford Smith
- Shag Harbour Volunteer Fire Department; 2 members

A letter received by Council regarding TMR coverage in the Municipality of Barrington was read to members for their information. It was indicated by Aliant in this letter that there are at present no plans to initiate additional coverage in the Municipality of Barrington.

Members questioned how many cellular and TMR towers there are currently located in the Municipality of Barrington and where. This information will be obtained from Aliant.

Resolution COW061112

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to the provincial government minister responsible for the trunk mobile radio coverage, in relation to fire departments and emergency measures, indicating the response that had been received from Aliant.

Motion carried unanimously.

LONG TERM PLANNING

As a result of a previous request from Council, all of the fire departments presented written summaries of their long term planning for the next five years. These were briefly reported to the members and then discussed at length.

The rural departments provide first responder services in their areas much more than the volunteer fire departments in more developed areas. This is a result of the location of the ambulance services being more remote from rural areas.

Much discussion followed regarding the provision of the fire services in various areas of the Municipality over the next several years.

Having completed their discussion of this matter, the fire department members retired from the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

PHYSICIAN NEWS RELEASE

A draft of a press release was circulated to members for their perusal and information. It was suggested that a news release be drafted concerning the recruitment and relocation of doctors to our area.

Resolution COW061113

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by L. Stewart that Municipal Staff draft a news release regarding the recruitment of doctors to be submitted to Council for their review and subsequent publication.

Motion carried unanimously.

Council motions will also be drafted regarding the agreements necessary to bring doctors to this area.

FORMER B.M.H.S. PROPERTY

A recommendation from the Clerk-Treasurer was previously circulated to members, by email, regarding the proposals received on the former B.M.H.S. property.

It is the recommendation of the Clerk-Treasurer that the proposal received from Anthony Properties Limited be accepted by the Municipality. This proposal appears to be the best of the alternatives provided. It would provide \$25,001.00 for the property to the Municipality. The property would then become taxable and produce tax revenues to the Municipality. Mr. Anthony would develop the property in future so as to add to the Municipality's tax base and to create jobs in the area. The portion of the property that is not usable would be demolished by the owner and removed from the site, and finally the Municipality would not become involved in environmental issues with the property as it would be sold on an as is/where is basis. The sale of the property would also allow the Municipality to retain ownership of the track and field for use of the public.

Resolution COW061114

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the former Barrington Municipal High School property be sold to Anthony Properties Limited and that the appropriate Agreement of Sale be completed, including the stipulation that the purchaser is responsible for all survey and legal costs for the purchase of the property.

Motion carried unanimously.

VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

At the time the Visitor Information Centre was constructed it was anticipated that it may some day be moved to a location adjacent to the 103 highway, as a result of the highway bypassing the Municipality. The highway is soon due to be completed. It is now suggested that the Municipality wait at least one full tourist season before determining whether or not the Visitor Information Centre should be moved, in order to determine the desirability and viability of this change.

Resolution COW061114

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality wait one full tourist season before determining whether or not the Visitor Information Centre should be moved to a location adjacent to Highway #103.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was suggested that a slide show be prepared of the local area that could be shown at the Visitor Information Centre in order to showcase the area to tourists who are visiting the facility.

Resolution COW061115

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by S. Strang that Municipal Staff determine the information required in order to complete a slide show of the Municipality to be shown at the Visitor Information Centre.

Motion carried unanimously.

WHARF AT MCGRAY AVENUE

Members were informed that there is a wharf located at McGray Avenue which is considered to be dangerous and unsightly. It is recommended by the Municipal By-Law Enforcement Officer that the property owner be required to demolish this wharf and that an order for demolition be made by Council. The wharf is located at McGray Avenue and is believed to be owned by Mr. Dwayne Stewart. There has been much discussion with Mr. Stewart regarding the state of this wharf and its removal. Mr. Stewart indicates that he does not wish to have the wharf removed, that some day he intends to repair it and use it.

Resolution COW061116

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by D. Messenger that consideration of the removal of the wharf at McGray Avenue be deferred until a spring 2007 meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

Motion carried unanimously.

SCOTIA MARINE BUSINESS OCCUPANCY TAXES

Scotia Marine Electronics has declared bankruptcy and as a result it is unlikely that their outstanding business occupancy taxes will be collectible.

Resolution COW061117

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that the balance of business occupancy taxes in the name of Scotia Marine Electronics Limited, which has declared bankruptcy, be written off in the amount of approximately \$1,851.06, as being deemed to be uncollectible.

Motion carried unanimously.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT CHARTS

This matter was referred to Committee by Council.

It was suggested that the Municipality provide regular news releases on a monthly basis in order to make the public more aware of Municipal business. This matter will be placed on a future Council agenda for further consideration.

ARENA SIGN

Concern was expressed regarding the visibility of a sign for the Barrington Municipal Arena along Highway #3. There is a sign located on Highway #3 near the Sherose Island Road indicating Barrington Municipal Recreation Complex.

Information will be obtained by Municipal Staff regarding the possible location of a sign which would be more prominent in indicating the location of not only the Arena but also the other recreation facilities at Sherose Island.

DESTINATION SOUTHWEST NOVA SCOTIA MEETING - NOVEMBER 15TH

Members have received notice that there will be a meeting at the Shelburne Town Fire Hall on November 15th. This meeting is being held by Destination Southwest Nova Scotia in order to explain their function in regards to tourism in the area.

Resolution COW061118

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by G. El-Jakl that the Municipality pay the expenses of any councillors wishing to attend the Destination Southwest Nova Scotia meeting, in Shelburne, on November 15th.

Motion carried unanimously.

At the same time a letter from Discover Shelburne County was brought to the attention of members. The president of Discover Shelburne County, Mr. Allan Nelson, is requesting a meeting with Council in order to explain that organization's function in relation to tourism.

It was agreed by consensus of members that Mr. Nelson be requested to appear before a Committee of the Whole Council during the month of January 2007.

RECREATION DIRECTOR RETIREMENT

Our Recreation Director is retiring after almost 23 years of service with the Municipality. A function will be held celebrating his service with the Municipality prior to his retirement.

Resolution COW061119

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that a retirement function be held celebrating the 23 years of service for our current Recreation Director, Mr. Ray Green, and that a budget of \$2,000.00 be allocated for this purpose.

Motion carried unanimously.

C.S.I. SEWER

It was suggested that the federal and provincial ministers responsible for Infrastructure Works be approached regarding possible future development of the Cape Sable Island Sewer System.

After some discussion it was the consensus of members that this matter would be dealt with at a subsequent committee meeting during the month of December.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

A member indicated that there was no ad placed in the local newspaper from the Municipality of Barrington regarding Remembrance Day.

This matter will be further investigated by Municipal Staff.

KEITH MENZIES VISIT

It was suggested by members that Mr. Keith Menzies be invited to attend a Council meeting on December 11, 2006 in order to inform Council of further developments regarding the additional beds being placed at Bay Side Home.

Mr. Menzies will be contacted by Municipal Staff to arrange for his interview at Council.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION LETTER

Correspondence has been received from the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Public Works regarding cost shared paving of local and subdivision streets for 2007/2008. Municipalities are advised that if they wish to take part in this program, paving of local and subdivision streets will be done on a 50/50 basis. The estimated cost to pave one (1) kilometre of road is now \$250,000.00. Municipalities must indicate no later than December 15, 2006 which roads they wish to participate in paving.

At the present time councillors were advised to bring information to Council regarding this matter if they wish to have roads paved under this program.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 11:15 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary for the Meeting

Emailed to Councillors on November 7, 2006.