

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

March 5, 2007

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson at 7:07 p.m., in the Conference Room, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington, N.S., with the following members present:

- Louise Halliday, Chairperson
 - George El-Jakl
 - Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
 - Eddie Nickerson
 - Wilford Smith
 - Larry Stewart
 - Sean Strang
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- Lesa Rossetti, Deputy Clerk

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

It was agreed that the following items be added to the agenda:

- Community Grant Request.
- Capital Investment Program.
- Condolence Cards.
- Provincial Volunteer Nominations.
- Travel.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by D. Messenger that the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by G. El-Jakl that the minutes of the previous meetings held February 20, 2007 and February 28, 2007 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

INTERVIEW WITH MLA STERLING BELLIVEAU

Mr. Sterling Belliveau, MLA for Shelburne County, appeared before the meeting. He was invited to meet with members to discuss the following issues:

- CAP Assessment.
- Cape Sable Island Causeway Environmental Study.
- Out migration of residents from the County to Alberta and other points west.
- Economic Development Initiatives.

The Warden expressed concern to Mr. Belliveau regarding the passing of Bill C92. This bill was passed without consultation with municipal units. At present the CAP is set at 10%, but effective January 2008 the CAP will be reduced to the Consumer Price Index. The Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities has found that this CAP Assessment Program will lead to an unfair distribution of the tax burden among property owners in Nova Scotia. Such a low CAP rate will significantly broaden the base of CAP properties and shift a significantly higher percentage of the tax burden to properties that are uncapped. There will also be a necessary increase in property tax rates across the board. This increase in taxes will be necessary to generate annual revenues required to operate the Municipality and to cover contributions to provincially run programs such as education, housing and corrections. The Warden informed the MLA that it is our hope that all three parties will reconsider the CAP Assessment Program.

This matter was discussed in detail and the MLA assured members that he will take their concerns back to caucus.

The request of Council to have an environmental study carried out at the Cape Sable Island Causeway was explained to the MLA. Numerous attempts have been made to make contact with the appropriate department to have such a study completed, without success. The purpose of the environmental study would be to determine whether or not there is environmental pollution resulting as a result of the Causeway, and also whether or not it would be advisable to have some type of alteration made to the Causeway that would allow the passage of water from one side to the other.

Much discussion took place regarding this matter.

Resolution COW070301

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by W. Smith that all correspondence relating to the Cape Sable Island Causeway Environmental Study request be forwarded to the MLA.

Motion carried unanimously.

The MLA informed members that he is very aware of the out migration problem.

Much discussion took place regarding the need to establish industry in the area and to draw people back to the area.

The MLA circulated a Fisheries Discussion Paper which will be further discussed at a meeting tomorrow night at the Fire Hall in Shelburne. All councillors were invited to attend. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the process of fishery renewal with the fishery being the main industry in the area.

Much discussion took place regarding seasonal fisheries, the processing of raw products here, much needed infrastructure in the area, the number of required hours for EI benefits, and the need to develop rural economic strategies. The MLA encouraged councillors to submit their ideas to him for consideration.

The MLA was then thanked for appearing before members and discussing various issues of concern.

DESTINATION SOUTH WEST NOVA SCOTIA

It was reported that Council had previously approved a motion for the Municipality to pay the membership fee and become members of the Destination Southwest Nova Scotia Tourism Association. At that time it was believed that the Municipality could become a member by paying a membership registration fee of \$513.00. Since then it has been realized that the membership fee of \$513.00 does not apply to municipal units.

Municipal units are being asked to participate in the Partnership Program which will automatically make them members. The proposal presented by the Association proposes a contribution of \$4,960.00 for the Municipality of Barrington. As previously agreed by Council, the Partnership Program will be considered during budget deliberations.

EMPLOYEE WAGE REQUEST

In advance to the meeting each member was provided with a copy of the letter received from an employee requesting a wage increase. It was agreed that additional information be obtained on salaries paid by other municipal units, and that this matter be further discussed at the next meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

LANDFILL POLICY

Much discussion took place regarding the current Landfill Policy.

Resolution COW070302

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by D. Messenger that revenues generated from the Landfill be obtained and presented at the next meeting of the Committee of the Whole, at which time the Landfill Policy will be further discussed.

Motion carried unanimously.

GOOSE LAKE ROAD

Resolution COW070303

Moved by W. Smith and seconded by G. El-Jakl that this matter be deferred until the next meeting of the committee.

Motion carried unanimously.

FIRE DEPARTMENT MEETING DATE

It was agreed that this matter be tabled until the Capital Investment Plan has been finalized.

REQUEST FOR SEWER EXTENSION

In advance to the meeting each member was provided with a copy of a letter received from Michael Hennigar. In his letter he advised that Butler's Estates Limited is proposing to develop the land behind the old I.O.O.F. Hall in Barrington Passage. Mr. Hennigar is requesting the Municipality to extend an 8" sewer main across Highway #3 to the property line for the connection of this project.

Resolution COW070304

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by G. El-Jakl that the Municipal Clerk check legal ramifications of this request and review the current policies and by-laws, and that this matter be further discussed in closed session at the March 12, 2007 meeting of Council.

Motion carried unanimously.

SHELBURNE COUNTY MINOR HOCKEY

In advance to the meeting each member was provided with a copy of a letter received from the Shelburne County Minor Hockey Association. The letter advised that Barrington will be hosting the Midget AA Provincial Hockey Championships on March 9 - 11, 2007. The Association is requesting the donation of ice time for the championship game.

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by D. Messenger that the Municipality donate ice time for the championship game.

Motion withdrawn.

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by D. Messenger that:

WHEREAS the Shelburne County Minor Hockey Association is hosting Midget AA Provincial Hockey Championships;

AND WHEREAS this will promote the youth of our community to be active in extracurricular activity;

AND WHEREAS the economic spinoff to the Municipality will greatly outweigh the cost of ice time, with having the additional ice time book and canteen revenues;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipality of Barrington donate the ice time for the championship game.

AFFIRMATIVE

Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
Eddie Nickerson

NEGATIVE

George El-Jakl
Louise Halliday
Wilford Smith
Larry Stewart
Sean Strang

Motion defeated.

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by S. Strang that the Municipality provide the Shelburne County Minor Hockey Association with municipal pins.

Motion withdrawn.

The Warden agreed to provide the Association with municipal pins.

INDUSTRIAL PARK SITING STUDY

A draft RFP was received from the South West Shore Development Authority and circulated to members in advance to the meeting. The RFP was concerning our proposed industrial park. It is estimated that the cost would be \$25,000.00, plus H.S.T. and the South West Shore Development Authority will attempt to access \$15,000.00 from ACOA to assist with this cost.

Resolution COW070305

Moved by L. Stewart and seconded by W. Smith that it be recommended to Council that the draft RFP concerning the proposed industrial park be approved as presented by the South West Shore Development Authority.

Motion carried unanimously.

TEAM SHELBURNE

In advance to the meeting each member was provided with a copy of a letter received from Howard and Anne Roszel. The letter stated that the properties and buildings of the former Youth Centre and the DND base at Sandy Point should be retained as assets by the community and used for community development in Shelburne County.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

The Schedule of Fees paid to employees since the last meeting of the committee was circulated.

GRANT REQUEST

Everett Arey, trustee of the Parkdale Cemetery in Upper Port LaTour, is requesting a grant of \$800.00 to gravel the road to the Parkdale Cemetery.

Resolution COW070306

Moved by W. Smith and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that \$800.00 be granted to the Parkdale Cemetery Association from the District 4 Community Grants Fund for the purpose of upgrading the cemetery road.

Motion carried unanimously.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAM

General discussion took place regarding the evaluation questionnaire circulated to councillors for completion.

It was agreed that councillors carry out the evaluations individually in accordance with the time line provided by the Municipal Clerk.

CONDOLENCE CARDS

Resolution COW070307

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by W. Smith that condolence cards be purchased to be used for volunteer fire department representatives and other volunteers in the community.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was agreed that it would be the responsibility of councillors to request condolence cards to be sent.

VOLUNTEER NOMINATIONS

In advance to the meeting each member was provided with photocopies of completed nomination forms. Members were asked to review nominations and be prepared to select a municipal volunteer at the next meeting of Council.

BRIAN TOWNSEND REQUEST

Councillor Stewart informed members that Mr. Brian Townsend had been in contact with him and has indicated that he would not be affecting the brook in altering the access road for 4-wheelers. Mr. Townsend is now questioning whether or not it is still necessary for him to obtain written permission from the Department of Environment & Labour before doing any work.

It was the feeling of members that Mr. Townsend would still require written permission from the Department of Environment & Labour.

TRAVEL TO FCM

Deputy Warden Nickerson expressed concern regarding the booking of flights for the upcoming FCM Conference.

After much discussion it was agreed that this matter be placed on the agenda for the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by D. Messenger that the meeting adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 p.m.

____Chairperson

____Secretary for the Meeting

On website March 9, 2007.