

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

April 2, 2007

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

- Louise Halliday, Chairperson
 - Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
 - Eddie Nickerson
 - Wilford Smith
 - Larry Stewart
 - Sean Strang
- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

George El-Jakl was absent due to vacation.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda.

- No Parking Signs in School Area.
- Charitable Society Sponsorship.
- Shawn Stoddard Request.
- Hiring Committee.
- False Alarm Calls.
- Ball Fields.

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 W. Smith and seconded by L. Stewart that the minutes of the last previous meeting held March 19, 2007 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

BARRINGTON AREA LIONS CLUB

Mr. Bob Crowell appeared before the meeting to speak on behalf of the Barrington Area Lion's Club. Mr. Crowell was accompanied by Philip Cameron, Club Treasurer; and Andrew Goreham, Club President.

Mr. Crowell summarized the function of the Lion's Club in the community, indicating that it is a community group that raises funds for community purposes. He indicated that the Club has contributed in the range of \$63,000.00 to community projects, and to helping needy residents of the Municipality and the Town of Clark's Harbour over the past two years.

Mr. Crowell is requesting that the Barrington Area Lion's Club become 100% exempt from property taxes. At the present time the Club has its property taxes reduced from the commercial rate to the residential rate, and further reduced by 1/3. The effective property tax rate on the Barrington Area Lion's Club is presently 2/3 of the residential property taxes.

Resolution COW070401

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by D. Messenger that Municipal Staff be requested to draft an amendment to By-Law No. 25 exempting the Barrington Area Lion's Club from municipal property taxes. The Club would still remain liable for area rates and sewer charges and other service charges similar to other exempt organizations in the Municipality.

Motion carried unanimously.

Lion's Club members then retired from the meeting.

FIRE DEPARTMENT SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

It was agreed by consensus of members that the Fire Department's Semi-Annual Meeting would be held on Tuesday, April 24, 2007. The fire departments will be notified of the date of this meeting.

COMMUNITY SERVICES LEASE

The space occupied by Department of Community Services was formerly under lease to the Shelburne County Children's Aid Society. The Shelburne County Children's Aid Society has been taken over by the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services. The lease is due to expire in September of 2007. As a result the Municipality will wish to renew the lease. It is proposed that the lease be renewed for another three year term with an escalation clause added to it. The escalation clause would provide that the cost of the lease would increase each year according to the Consumer Price Index.

Resolution COW070402

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that the lease with the Department of Community Services for space in the Administrative Centre in Barrington be renewed, and include an escalation clause tied to the annual increase in the Consumer Price Index for Canada.

Motion carried unanimously.

EMPLOYEE WAGE REQUEST

At a previous meeting a request by the Building Inspector to have the wage range of the Building Inspector and the Building Inspector's secretary reviewed was discussed by members. At that time further information was requested regarding the average salary indicated by the Building Inspector, as well as the information on the salary range of the Building Inspector and Assistant Building Inspector in the Municipality of Argyle.

There then followed much discussion regarding the salary range of the Building Inspector and the salary range of the Building Inspector's secretary.

Resolution COW070403

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by W. Smith that the Building Inspector be informed that the salary range of all employees in the Municipality was reviewed in January 2006, and that the Building Inspector's salary range is deemed to be adequate for the Municipality of Barrington at the present time. Information that he has recently provided will be kept on file and used in the next review which is to be conducted in January 2009.

AFFIRMATIVE

Louise Halliday
Eddie Nickerson
Wilford Smith
Larry Stewart
Sean Strang

NEGATIVE

Donna LeBlanc-Messenger

Motion carried.

There then followed some discussion regarding the wage review of the Building Inspector's secretary.

Resolution COW070404

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by W. Smith that the Building Inspector be informed that the Secretary's salary range was also reviewed in January 2006, and that it is deemed by members to be adequate for the Municipality of Barrington at the present time, and that the information provided will also be kept on file and brought forward for the review of salaries and wages to be conducted by Council in January of 2009.

Motion carried unanimously.

WIND TURBINE GENERATORS

Members were informed that correspondence has been received by email from Sou-Wester Wind Fields. In this correspondence, Mr. Keith Towse is informing the Municipality that until further information is received from the Federal Department of National Defense, any further development of wind turbine generators in the Baccaro Point area will be placed on hold. It is necessary to obtain this information to determine whether or not wind turbine generators would have a negative effect on the radar station at that location.

Members were also informed that the company operating Pubnico Point Wind Farms has also applied for a permit to put a wind turbine generator on private property in West Baccaro.

ORGANICS PROCESSING

Our Municipality currently transports organics from our residents to the Region of Queens Landfill. The Region of Queens Landfill transships these organics to the Whynott's Settlement Organics Processing Plant operated by the Municipality of Lunenburg. The Municipality of Lunenburg is experiencing significant problems with the operation of their organics processing plant at Whynott's Settlement. The Region 6 Steering Committee will be discussing how these problems being experienced by the Lunenburg Processing Plant will affect the region, and how the region should deal with these problems. A letter has been forwarded to all municipal units in the region regarding this issue. In this correspondence the Regional Authority is asking municipal units, as a stakeholder in Region 6, would your municipality support investigating either of the following two options:

1. Host a regional organic processing facility?
2. Share in the fiscal liability (capital and operating cost) of a regional organic processing facility?

These two options will be discussed at a meeting of the Region 6 Steering Committee to be held on April 27, 2007.

It was the general consensus of members that the Municipality would not wish to host a regional organic processing facility.

There was some question as to who would be investigating these options, the Region or the host facility. This question will be asked of the Waste Reduction Coordinator for the Region.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TEMPORARY COUNT PROGRAM

Correspondence has been received from the Department of Transportation asking if the Municipality wishes to conduct any temporary count programs in the coming year.

Resolution COW070405

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by S. Strang that D.O.T. be informed that the Municipality does not wish to conduct any counts during the coming year.

Motion carried unanimously.

LANDFILL EQUIPMENT

A memo from the Property Services Supervisor was previously circulated to members for their information and consideration. It is proposed that an excavator and a truck be obtained for the Municipal C & D Landfill in order to be able to better sort and move waste at the site, as well as to be able to transport waste and recyclables to the Queens Landfill.

After much discussion it was the consensus of members that this matter be deferred for further consideration during the budget process.

It was requested that further information on the cost of shipping waste to the Queen's Landfill be obtained for consideration of the committee during the budget process.

FACILITY USE AGREEMENT

The Municipality currently has a Facility Use Agreement with the Tri-County Regional School Board for the use of the Barrington Municipal High School. Under this agreement community activities are defined as the term used to identify a recreation, cultural or educational program, or any activity that is sponsored and/or administered by the Barrington Municipal Recreation Department or a community group recognized and authorized by the Barrington Municipal Recreation Department/Barrington Municipal High School. This program may take place during or after regular school hours during times approved by the Principal.

As a result of this agreement, it is apparent that there are three types of activities that take place at the High School. First, activities that are sponsored by Barrington Municipal High School or the School Board and other school activities. Second, activities that are municipal programs that are sponsored by the Barrington Municipal Recreation Department. Third, other activities that may be sponsored by other groups in the community. At the present time all activities whether they are sponsored by the Barrington Municipal Recreation Department or not, are being referred to the Municipal Recreation Director by Barrington Municipal High School. The third class of activities which are community groups that are neither municipally sponsored activities nor school activities, are being directed to the Municipality.

After much discussion it was agreed that the use of the High School by community groups should be further discussed by the committee, and discussed with the Tri-County Regional School Board. The administration of this agreement is not consistent with the use being made of other Tri-County Regional Schools in Yarmouth, Shelburne and Lockeport.

Resolution COW070406

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by L. Stewart that discussion of this topic be further deferred to the next Committee of the Whole Council Meeting.

<u>AFFIRMATIVE</u>	<u>NEGATIVE</u>
Louise Halliday	Sean Strang
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger	
Eddie Nickerson	
Wilford Smith	
Larry Stewart	

Motion carried.

The request by Shawn Stoddard for use of the school gym through the Municipality was also brought up at this time and explained to members.

Mr. Stoddard has a basketball team which he wishes to use to enter into provincial playoffs. This basketball team is not a municipal program and is also not a school program. Mr. Stoddard wishes to have access to the school gym on Sunday evenings. The request from Mr. Stoddard at the present time does not fit into the Community Use Agreement, and therefore will not be dealt with until the Community Use Agreement has been more clearly defined. As a result, Mr. Stoddard's request cannot be accommodated at this time.

LITTER CLEAN-UP PROGRAM

Correspondence has been received from Michelle Goreham regarding the Community Litter Clean-up Program. In this correspondence, Michelle indicates that she is not satisfied with the response she received when she called regarding the program. She indicated that even though the Municipality had advertised for people to do this work, all of the positions seemed to be filled already prior to the advertising being done. This correspondence was forwarded to Shelly Atwood who is administering the program on behalf of the Property Services Manager. Shelly indicated in her response that she has since talked to Michelle Goreham to correct the matter. The program was not filled before the advertising was done, as was erroneously reported to Mrs. Goreham. Mrs. Goreham has subsequently applied to participate in the Community Litter Clean-up Program and her application has been processed accordingly. Shelly has apologized for any mix-up and has corrected the situation appropriately.

HOSPITALITY SUITE

Correspondence has been received from the Municipality of Digby indicating that they wish to know if municipal units wish to participate in a Hospitality Suite at the UNSM Meeting being held at UNSM Annual Conference being held in Halifax.

Resolution COW070407

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by L. Stewart that Warden Thurber of the Municipality of Digby be informed that the Municipality of Barrington does not wish to participate in a hospitality suite at the UNSM Fall Conference.

Motion carried unanimously.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

The schedule of fees paid over the previous two weeks was circulated to members for their information.

WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

A fax has been received from the Waterfront Development Committee requesting the Municipality to carry forward any funds that are unused, to date, into the 2007/2008 fiscal year. The 2006/2007 operating budget contained a provision of \$2,500.00 for the Waterfront Development Committee. As of the end of February, \$2,151.00 of these funds have been expended. It is anticipated that the remaining funds will be expended for member fees during the month of March, and therefore no funds will remain from the operating budget for the Waterfront Development Committee. In previous years funds have been placed in the Special Reserve Fund Capital for the use of the Waterfront Development Committee. The funds remaining in the reserve for the use of the Waterfront Development Committee are \$7,252.97. These funds continue to be held in reserve for future use of the committee.

CLOSED SESSION RE: SALE OF PROPERTY

Members entered into Closed Session to discuss the sale of municipal property.

Members returned to Open Session to continue their meeting.

NO PARKING SIGN AT SCHOOL AREA

It was indicated that there are many vehicles parking along the side of highway in Oak Park near the Barrington Municipal High School. It was indicated by one of the bus drivers that these cars pose a hazard to traffic traveling on the highway near the school.

Resolution COW070408

Moved by L. Stewart and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to the Department of Transportation Supervisor, in Shelburne, asking the Department to determine whether parking on the side of the highway near Barrington Municipal High School is a hazard, and if so, will the Department of Transportation place “No Parking” signs in those locations, if necessary. If further information is required, the Department of Transportation should be instructed to contact Angus Atkinson who is a bus driver at the school.

Motion carried unanimously.

HIRING COMMITTEE

As a result of an advertisement for a vacant Property Services Technician position, 23 applications have been received. It is now necessary for the Hiring Committee to short list these applications and interview applicants for the job.

Councillor Stewart who is on the Hiring Committee declared a conflict of interest due to the fact that his son has applied for the job.

Councillor Wilford Smith volunteered to serve on the Hiring Committee in place of Councillor Stewart.

Resolution COW070409

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by D. Messenger that Councillor Smith be appointed to the Hiring Committee in the place of Councillor Stewart for the purposes of short listing and interviewing applicants for the position of Property Services Technician.

AFFIRMATIVE

Louise Halliday

Donna LeBlanc-Messenger

Eddie Nickerson

Larry Stewart

Sean Strang

NEGATIVE

Wilford Smith

Motion carried.

Members agreed that the 23 applications received would be short listed to six (6) for the purposes of interviewing. The six applicants will be interviewed on Friday, April 20, 2007 by the committee. The short listing will be completed and returned to the Municipal Office by Friday, April 6, 2007.

WESTERN SHELburne COUNTY HEALTH CARE CHARITABLE SOCIETY

Correspondence has been received by email from the Western Shelburne County Health Care Charitable Society requesting the Municipality to sponsor a table at a fundraising dinner to be held at the Barrington Area Lion's Club on May 5, 2007.

Resolution COW070610

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by L. Stewart that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality pay \$100.00 to sponsor a table at the fundraising dinner to be held at the Barrington Area Lion's Hall by the Western Shelburne County Health Care Charitable Society.

Motion carried unanimously.

FALSE CALLS

It was indicated by a member that the Port LaTour Volunteer Fire Department has received two (2) false fire alarm calls in the Blanche area. These calls require much effort by the Fire Department in order to respond to them due to the distance from the Fire Hall.

The member was advised that it would be appropriate for the Fire Department to respond to the property owner regarding these false alarm calls, and require that the alarm system be repaired before any further response is made.

BALL FIELDS

A member indicated that there is a need for the location of more recreation facilities in District 4 of the Municipality. The youth in the area need to have some recreation facility such as a ball field for their recreational activities. At the present time the ball field in Blanche is no longer available for youth in the community.

UNSM SPRING WORKSHOPS

Only the Warden indicated that she would be attending the Spring Workshop at White Point Beach May 10th and 11th. The reservation will be done for her through the Municipal Office.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 11:48 p.m.

Chairperson	Secretary for the Meeting
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On website April 4, 2007.