

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

March 3, 2008

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson at 7:08 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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- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk
 - Brian O'Connor, Property Services Supervisor
 - Anna Kenney, Recreation Director

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Community Grants.
- Crosswalk.
- Firefighters Association Banquet.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by W. Smith and seconded by G. El-Jakl that the minutes of the last previous meeting held February 18, 2008 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Anna Kenney appeared before the meeting for the purpose of delivering the Recreation Director's Report for the month of February 2008. Mrs. Kenney reviewed various initiatives of the Recreation Department including the Youth Basketball Program, the Take the Roof off Winter Program, preparations for March Break Day Camp, Volunteer Week preparations and other events that were held during the month, and that are being prepared for in subsequent months.

It was suggested that the gazebo at the Causeway could be used during the summer months on Friday or Saturday evenings, or both, for the purposes of having local entertainment. This will be further investigated by the Recreation Director.

At this time Council chose to elect a nominee for the Annual Volunteer of the Year Award. Members voted independently by secret ballot.

After counting the secret ballots, the results of the voting indicated that Howard Lamrock was chosen as Volunteer of the Year for 2008.

Having completed her presentation of her report, the Recreation Director then retired from the meeting at approximately 7:30 p.m.

PROPERTY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Brian O'Connor appeared before the committee for the purpose of delivering the Property Services Department Report for the month of February 2008. He provided a written report.

There then followed much discussion regarding the Yarmouth Mariners hosting two hockey games at Barrington Municipal Arena in early April.

During this discussion the Deputy Warden assumed the Chair for a period of time while the Warden addressed the matter.

Having completed her address of the matter, the Warden then resumed the Chair.

The Property Services Supervisor provided a written report which summarized activities during the month of February.

PUBLIC SORTING STATION

It is proposed that a public sorting station be constructed at the C & D Landfill Site so that more mixed waste will be sorted at that site when it is brought in.

The Property Services Supervisor continued to attend the meeting for the purpose of discussing this proposal. The proposal had been forwarded to members for their review prior to the meeting. It is proposed that a public sorting station be constructed at the C & D Landfill Site. This station would be used by members of the public who deliver mixed waste to the site. The public would be required to sort mixed waste at these stations minimizing the amount of mixed waste that is being deposited at the Site. The waste would be sorted into bins which would later be distributed to the various locations in the site by Municipal Staff.

The Warden asked the Deputy Warden to assume the Chair while she addressed this matter.

The Warden then resumed the Chair.

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by W. Smith that it be recommended to the Council that the Municipality apply to RRFB for funding for the construction of a public sorting station at the C & D Landfill Site.

AFFIRMATIVE

Wilford Smith

Sean Strang

NEGATIVE

George El-Jakl

Louise Halliday

Donna LeBlanc-Messenger

Eddie Nickerson

Larry Stewart

Motion defeated.

Resolution COW080301

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by S. Strang that this matter be placed on next months agenda of the Committee of the Whole for further discussion.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Property Services Supervisor then retired from the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

BARRINGTON REGIONAL CURLING CLUB

Resolution COW080302

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by L. Stewart that this matter be deferred to the next meeting of the committee.

Motion carried unanimously.

SHEROSE ISLAND TOURIST REST STOP

Members were informed that communication has been received from the Department of Transportation, by email, indicating that the siting distances for a driveway to a proposed location for a tourist rest stop on the Sherose Island Road across from Civic #91 is satisfactory to the Department of Transportation. This means that the siting distances are satisfactory for access to the property.

There then followed some discussion regarding the construction of a tourist rest stop along the Sherose Island Road.

Resolution COW080303

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by W. Smith that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality survey the residents on Sherose Island to determine whether or not they wish to have a rest stop constructed along the Sherose Island Road.

Motion carried unanimously.

SHELBURNE COUNTY TOURISM COORDINATOR

This matter was deferred to Committee of the Whole by Council. A proposal for the establishment of a Shelburne County Tourism Coordinator was circulated to members for their information and review.

The proposal was reviewed in detail. The proposal addressed four significant aspects of establishing this position. The four issues that must be addressed are:

1. Funding of the Coordinator.
2. Supervision of the Coordinator.
3. Location of the Coordinator.
4. Duties of the Coordinator.

These were all addressed in the proposal which was reviewed by members.

Resolution COW080304

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by L. Stewart that it be recommended to Council that the proposal for the establishment of a Tourism Coordinator for Shelburne County be presented by the Warden and Clerk-Treasurer to other municipal units in the County for their consideration.

Motion carried unanimously.

RICHARD NICKERSON REQUEST

Correspondence has been received from Richard Nickerson, by fax. This correspondence indicates to the Municipality that Mr. Nickerson wishes to sell two parcels of land that he owns on Petticoat Lane in Barrington.

After reviewing the letter, Council discussed the possibility and potential of the Municipality using these properties.

Resolution COW080305

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality respond to Mr. Nickerson indicating that they have determined that the Municipality is not interested in purchasing these properties.

Motion carried unanimously.

POLICIES ON COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

A draft policy on Committees of Council was circulated to members for their consideration and review.

Resolution COW080306

Moved by L. Stewart and seconded by W. Smith that consideration of the policy on Committees of Council be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee.

Motion carried unanimously.

UNSM MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF POLICY

The Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities is proposing a Property Tax Relief Policy to be put in place by all 55 municipal units across the province. This Tax Relief Policy would replace the assessment capping legislation that is now in place. This policy is being proposed as an alternative to the CPI Assessment Capping Program which has been downloaded onto municipalities by the province in 2007. Current research indicates that the Assessment Capping Program will not help those homeowners most in need. It is proposed that the Property Tax Relief Policy will better address the problems of low income home owners.

Members then discussed this policy at length reviewing its impact on the Municipality and municipal taxpayers. In the 2007/2008 taxation year there were 172 taxpayers who took advantage of the Municipality's low income property tax exemption. As a result, there were 120 taxpayers who received a reduction of \$150.00, and 52 taxpayers who received a reduction of \$125.00. The total reduction resulting from this policy was \$24,600.00. Applying the proposed UNSM Policy to these taxpayers would have produced a total reduction of \$63,600.00. 120 taxpayers would have received a tax exemption of \$400.00, and 52 taxpayers would have received a tax exemption of \$300.00. If the policy included a minimum annual property tax payment of \$250.00 there were 39 taxpayers who would fall into this category. 39 taxpayers who received a total credit of \$4,140.00 would not receive any credit at all if there was a minimum tax of \$250.00 in place. At the present time the CPI Cap on Assessment results in the Municipality losing over \$25,000,000.00 in assessment for the current year. At a residential tax rate of \$1.08 per \$100.00 this means the Municipality foregoes approximately \$250,000.00 in taxes.

After much discussion it was agreed by members to respond to the questions being asked by the UNSM as follows:

Question 1: Does your Municipality agree that there should be a province wide low income property tax relief policy to address low income home owners?

Response: Yes.

Question 2: Does your Municipality agree with maximum annual property tax relief of \$500.00?

Response: Yes.

Question 3: Do you agree that the maximum family income to be eligible for property tax relief in the District of Barrington should be \$20,000.00 as recommended by Statistics Canada Low Income Cutoff Statistics?

Response: Yes.

Question 4: Does your Municipality agree that there should be a minimum tax paid by all property owners? If so, should that amount be \$250.00?

Response: No, there should be no minimum tax paid by all property owners.

Resolution COW080307

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by W. Smith that it be recommended to Council that these responses be forwarded to the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities as requested.

Motion carried unanimously.

DEBBIE ATKINSON REQUEST RE: FORGIVENESS OF INTEREST

This matter was again reviewed by members. A draft letter to Mrs. Atkinson was read to members for their information and review. The requirements of the Municipal Government Act as indicated in Section 114 were explained to councillors. This section states that taxes on properties may be collected or recovered even if the assessment of the property is under appeal. It further states that after an assessment appeal is determined and any appeal from that decision is decided, any taxes that were overpaid shall be refunded to the appellant together with interest at a rate set by the Council by policy. The taxes had been outstanding and unpaid from August 2006 to August 2007. The portion of the taxes that should have been paid during that time attracted interest. This is the interest that is due and payable to the Municipality for which Mrs. Atkinson is asking forgiveness. There is no authority under the Municipal Government Act for this interest to be waived by Council. Because the taxes were not paid for the period of a year, interest is due and payable on them and has been recorded accordingly.

It was the general consensus of members that the resulting letter should be sent to Mrs. Atkinson as reviewed by members.

REGION OF QUEENS FEES

A new Schedule of Fees has been received from the Region of Queens indicating that their fees will be rising for the coming year. The Municipality will pay \$70.59 per ton for second generation solid waste, \$50.73 per ton for first generation solid waste, \$159.62 for blue bag recyclables, and \$86.39 for compostable organic materials. These increases are contained in the contracts the Municipality has with the Region of Queens and will be instituted beginning April 1, 2008.

WASTE COLLECTORS

Members were informed that complaints have been received from waste collectors regarding the distribution of waste at various sites within the Municipality. It is becoming apparent that certain commercial waste collectors are not disposing of their waste properly to acceptable Municipal solid waste collection sites.

This matter will be further investigated and again addressed by the committee at a later date.

Members were also informed that an application had previously been made to the RRFB for funding of a curbside inspection program. This curbside inspection program is to be done in the Municipality of Barrington and also in the areas served by the Joint Services Board. The Municipality of Barrington is jointly funding this program with the Joint Services Board and the RRFB. The Municipality is funding this program only within the Municipality of Barrington. The RRFB is paying 50% of the cost of this program. It will be necessary for the Municipality to provide \$7,500.00 for funding of a curbside inspection program within the Municipality of Barrington in the coming year, beginning April 1, 2008.

Resolution COW080308

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that \$7,500.00 be included in the 2008 fiscal budget for the funding of a curbside inspection program within the Municipality.

Motion carried unanimously.

It is the intention of this curbside inspection program to emphasize education to residents so that they may improve their sorting of wastes.

LILLIAN PERRY LETTER

Correspondence has been received from Lillian Perry indicating that she is unable to store the antique switchboard which may be available for use in a telephone museum.

There then followed much discussion regarding the use of this switchboard, and whether or not the Municipality should store it.

Resolution COW080309

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by L. Stewart that it be recommended to Council that Municipal Staff contact Mr. Vernon Schnare, Regional Coordinator for Aliant, South Shore, regarding the storage of an antique switchboard.

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

Motion carried.

ANNAPOLIS ROAD

This matter was referred to committee by Council.

Correspondence has been received from the Municipality of the District of Shelburne indicating that they wish to hold an initial meeting to discuss whether or not a project for reconstruction of the Annapolis Road is worth pursuing, and how to proceed. The District of Shelburne is requesting the Municipality to have someone attend this meeting on Wednesday, April 16, 2008 at 2:00 p.m., in the Shelburne Municipal Council Chambers.

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality send a representative to this meeting.

AFFIRMATIVE

George El-Jakl
Eddie Nickerson
Larry Stewart

NEGATIVE

Louise Halliday
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
Wilford Smith
Sean Strang

Motion defeated.

Resolution COW080310

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by W. Smith that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to the District of Shelburne indicating that the Annapolis Road project is something that should first be addressed as part of a tourism plan for Shelburne County to be developed by a Shelburne County Tourism Coordinator.

AFFIRMATIVE

George El-Jakl
Louise Halliday
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
Eddie Nickerson
Wilford Smith
Larry Stewart

NEGATIVE

Sean Strang

Motion carried.

EARTH HOUR

This matter was also referred to committee by Council.

Correspondence had been received from Mayor David Miller of the City of Toronto indicating that the citizens of Toronto will be conducting an earth hour on March 29, 2008, from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. During that hour all lights in the city will be turned off. They are asking that other municipalities across Canada also observe this earth hour.

Resolution COW080311

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that all local residents who wish to participate in the earth hour on March 29, 2008 from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., be encouraged to do so.

Motion carried unanimously.

PAC NON COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Planning Advisory Committee has two non council members on it at all times. The Municipality advertised to the public for expressions of interest to serve as non Council members on PAC. The two members who are on the committee now will complete their term of service as of March 31, 2008. As a result of recent advertising of the public PAC membership, three expressions of interest have been received.

Members then reviewed the expressions of interest that have been submitted.

Resolution COW080312

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by W. Smith that it be recommended to Council that Mr. Robbie Newell and Mr. Cecil Swimm serve as the public members of the Planning Advisory Committee for the next two years, beginning April 1, 2008.

AFFIRMATIVE

Louise Halliday
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
Eddie Nickerson
Wilford Smith
Larry Stewart
Sean Strang

NEGATIVE

George El-Jakl

Motion carried.

YOUTH CRIME

Correspondence has been received from the Minister of Justice regarding a new website that has been set up by the province. The Minister of Justice has circulated a petition to the Government of Canada to strengthen the Youth Criminal Justice Act, and is asking the public to sign this petition. This petition is available online, as well as provided in paper. Members may access this petition if they wish through the provincial government website.

WOMEN IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT BURSARY

Correspondence has been received from the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities requesting that all municipal units support the Women in Local Government Bursary with a financial contribution. For municipalities with a population of between 5,000 - 10,000 people, they are requesting an annual contribution of \$300.00, for a three year period.

Resolution COW080313

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality pay an annual contribution of \$300.00 for a period of three years for the Women in Local Government Bursary as requested by the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities.

AFFIRMATIVE

George El-Jakl
Louise Halliday
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
Eddie Nickerson
Larry Stewart

NEGATIVE

Wilford Smith
Sean Strang

Motion carried.

JOANNE ROSE REQUEST

Employees of Bay Side Home were formerly part of the Sun Life Financial Pension Plan together with the municipal employees. Unionized employees of Bay Side Home have decided to leave this pension plan and join another plan. Mrs. Rose wishes to remain in the Sun Life Financial Plan and is asking permission from the Municipality to do so.

Resolution COW080314

Moved by W. Smith and seconded by L. Stewart that it be recommended to Council that Mrs. Joanne Rose, the Administrator of Bay Side Home, be permitted to maintain her membership in the Sun Life Financial Pension Plan, together with our municipal employees, at no cost to the Municipality.

Motion carried unanimously.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

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

COMMUNITY GRANT REQUEST

Resolution COW080315

Moved by W. Smith and seconded by L. Stewart that it be recommended to Council that a grant in the amount of \$585.00 be provided to the West Baccaro Cemetery from the District 4 Community Grants Fund.

Motion carried unanimously.

CROSSWALK

It was noted that the crosswalk in Barrington Passage has not been painted yet. The Department of Transportation Supervisor has assured us that this crosswalk will be painted in the Spring as soon as weather permits.

FIRE FIGHTERS AWARDS BANQUET

Correspondence has been received from the Secretary of the Shelburne County Fire Fighters Association requesting that the Warden or her representative attend the Shelburne County Fire Fighters Association Annual Awards Banquet, on March 8, 2008, at the Shelburne Legion, at 6:00 p.m.

Warden Halliday indicated that the Deputy Warden has agreed to attend the banquet on her behalf, unless she is requested to attend by the Shag Harbour Volunteer Fire Department.

In their correspondence the Fire Fighters Association also mentions the cost of the banquet and that over 100 fire fighters from across the County will be attending.

Resolution COW080316

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by D. Messenger that the volunteer fire departments in the Municipality be asked if the Municipality is expected to make a financial contribution towards this banquet on their behalf, and if so, what the contribution should be.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 11:27 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary for the Meeting

On website March 4, 2008.