

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

November 16, 2009

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

- Louise Halliday, Chair
- Murray Atkinson
- George El-Jakl
- Shaun Hatfield
- Cecil O'Donnell
- Cathy Stoddard

Absent was Donna LeBlanc-Messenger due to illness.

- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Public Economic Development Meeting November 19th.
- McGray Avenue Parking Lot.
- Regional Visitors Guide.
- B.M.H.S. Request.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by C. O'Donnell that the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by M. Atkinson that minutes of the last previous meeting held November 2, 2009 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

BARRINGTON REGIONAL CURLING CLUB

No representative from the Curling Club appeared before the meeting this evening.

R.C.M.P. MANAGEMENT REVIEW

The R.C.M.P. is in the process of conducting its routine management review of the local detachments in the southwestern area of the province. For this purpose representatives of the R.C.M.P. will be in the area on Wednesday and Thursday to do local interviews with the Warden and Municipal Clerk in order to obtain input into the local detachments' performance.

Members were asked if they had any issues they wished to be communicated to the R.C.M.P.

There were no issues brought up by members.

R.C.M.P. MONTHLY REPORT

Sgt. Forbes appeared before the meeting for the purpose of presenting the report for the month of October 2009.

Sgt. Forbes circulated statistics for October 2009 and comparable statistics for October of 2008. These statistics were reviewed by members.

Sgt. Forbes informed members that his budget for the local detachment is approximately \$180,000.00. This does not include salaries and wages and related benefits.

Sgt. Forbes informed members that Halloween had been relatively quiet compared to other years and that due to the R.C.M.P.'s proactive work prior to Halloween there were few significant events during the weekend.

The R.C.M.P. continues to monitor the parking situation along the Oak Park Road near Barrington Municipal High School.

Having completed his monthly review, Sgt. Forbes retired from the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

SOUTH WEST SHORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
RE: PROVINCIAL GUARANTEE REQUEST

A copy of a letter of support to the Minister of Economic and Rural Development, from the Municipality of Shelburne, has been received and circulated to members. It was noted that this letter of support was very generic in nature.

Resolution COW091114

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality of Barrington wait to send a letter of support until public consultation and municipal consultation meetings have been completed during November and on December 1st.

AFFIRMATIVE

Murray Atkinson
Louise Halliday
Shaun Hatfield
Cecil O'Donnell
Cathy Stoddard

NEGATIVE

George El-Jakl

Motion carried.

DR. D'EON

Members were informed that Dr. d'Eon may be interested in seeing patients at the Community Health Centre, in Barrington, while renovations are taking place at her clinic in Argyle.

Further consideration of this matter will be given after Dr. O'Connor has made his presentation to Council next Monday, November 23rd.

ROGER CROWELL PROPERTY - MIDDLE CLYDE

It has recently been determined that an assessment account in the name of Roger Crowell for property located in Clyde River is an invalid account. Property Valuation Services Corporation will be deleting this account for the upcoming taxation year. The taxes have been levied on this account for the previous two taxation years, in error.

Resolution COW091115

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that the balance of taxes on Assessment Account #10071569, in the amount of approximately \$150.00, be written off as uncollectible as this account was established in error.

Motion carried unanimously.

SHAG HARBOUR FISHERIES (1996) LIMITED AND HARBOUR LOBSTER LIMITED

Members were informed that these two companies are currently going through a receivership process. As a result of this process, the property taxes, which are a first lien on the property, will still be collectible, however, the business occupancy taxes will be uncollectible as a result of the receivership process. The outstanding business occupancy taxes are approximately \$4,500.00.

Resolution COW091116

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by C. O'Donnell that it be recommended to Council that the outstanding balance of business occupancy taxes in the name of Shag Harbour Fisheries (1996) Limited and Harbour Lobster Limited, in the amount of approximately \$4,500.00, be written off as uncollectible.

Motion carried unanimously.

WEBCAST

Information obtained from various municipal units on the South Shore and in South Western Nova Scotia was provided to members for their information.

Further information will be obtained on the cost of webcasting of council and committee meetings.

AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

Information on the Provincial Government's Age-Friendly Communities Program was circulated to members for their information. This program provides \$220,000.00 for Age-Friendly Communities Programs across the province. Applications must be made for funding under this program. The program will fund 50% of the total project cost to a maximum of \$5,000.00.

Members were informed that at the present time the Municipality has applied for funding under Service Nova Scotia's ACCESSability Program for automatic door openers at the front entry to the Municipal Administration Building. This program provides two-thirds of the cost of such a project up to \$10,000.00, and therefore is a better program for this purpose. The Age-Friendly Communities Program will be used when possible.

AMENDMENTS TO POLICY NO. 12 "SALE OF MUNICIPAL PROPERTY"

Redrafted amendments to Policy No. 12 have been circulated to members for their review. The most recent amendment is to insert in Section 1 a paragraph indicating that the Municipality will consider leasing property first prior to any consideration of selling property.

It was the consensus of members that since the proposed amendments are now acceptable, Council be given first notice at their next subsequent Council meeting, for consideration of these amendments.

COMMUNITY GRANT REQUEST

A Community Grant request has been received for work to be done to what is referred to as the "Wilson's Cemetery" in Charlesville. There is no known formal organization taking care of this cemetery.

Resolution COW091117

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by C. Stoddard that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to Ruth McComiskey informing her that whereas the Municipal Government Act does not provide for grants to be given to individuals, and whereas municipal policy requires that a formal organization be in place to receive municipal grants for specific purposes, it is suggested that she contact the local churches in order to get assistance for the care of the “Wilson Cemetery” and that she contact the descendants of those buried in this cemetery for assistance in its care.

Motion carried unanimously.

RECYCLING AND ORGANICS PROCESSING AGREEMENTS

Members were informed that additional information has been obtained regarding the Recycling and Organics Processing Agreements with the Region of Queens. These agreements will expire on March 31, 2010. Further research is still to be done in regards to the processing of organics and recyclables. A staff report will be forwarded to the committee with a recommendation regarding these agreements.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT COMPLAINT
RE: ROAD ON MUNICIPAL PROPERTY

An email has been received from the Nova Scotia Department of Environment Office in Yarmouth. This email concerns a complaint that was received by them in 2007 regarding a road being constructed on municipal property in the Goose Lake area.

Municipal Staff will further investigate the site of the complaint and determine in conjunction with the Department of Environment what action may be required.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

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

NOVEMBER 19TH PUBLIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MEETING

Resolution COW091118

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by C. Stoddard that expenses of members to attend the November 19th meeting, in Shelburne, be paid by the Municipality.

Motion carried unanimously.

MCGRAY AVENUE PARKING LOT

It was noted that the McGray Avenue parking lot now requires grading. This will be done in the near future, if possible.

REGIONAL VISITOR'S GUIDE

Email correspondence has been received from the South West Nova Association requesting that a member be placed on the committee for the purpose of providing information and input into a regional tourism guide and map.

Resolution COW091119

Moved by C. Stoddard and seconded by S. Hatfield that it be recommended to Council that our Visitor Information Centre Manager be appointed to the South Shore Task Force for a short term, four month period, as this Task Force will be dealing with the South Shore Tourism Guide and tourism map.

Motion carried unanimously.

B.M.H.S. REQUEST

A request has been received from the coach of the Barrington Municipal High School boys hockey team that the Municipality consider reducing the rate charged for ice time at the Arena for a fundraising event to be held on Wednesday, November 18, 2009. This fundraising event will raise contributions for the local area food bank.

Resolution COW091120

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. O'Donnell that it be recommended to Council that equal contributions from all district community funds, who have funds available, be used to defray the cost of ice rental for the B.M.H.S. boys hockey team event that will be held on November 18, 2009 to raise funds for the local area food bank.

Motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

Council then entered into Closed Session to discuss possible land acquisitions.

Direction was given to the Municipal Clerk regarding notice for vacant possession of properties obtained at Tax Sale.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 8:55 p.m.

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting

On website November 17, 2009.