

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

February 2, 2009

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
 - George El-Jakl
 - Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
 - Cecil O'Donnell
 - Cathy Stoddard
 - Sean Strang
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- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Long Boat Society Request.
- Year of the Lobster.
- Post Office Parking Lot.

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 S. Strang and seconded by C. O'Donnell that the minutes of the last previous meeting held January 19, 2009 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Recreation Department

Anna Kenney, Recreation Director, appeared before the meeting for the purpose of providing a report for the month of January. A written report was circulated to members for their information and review.

The Recreation Director requested that the Lobster Festival opening in June be held at the library location rather than North East Point. This would allow for more flexibility in the opening ceremonies especially in the case of inclement weather. The Lobster Festival opening will be held on Thursday, June 4, 2009.

The Volunteer Banquet will be held on Thursday, April 23, 2009, at 7:00 p.m., at the Lions Hall in Barrington.

ARENA

Shelly Atwood, Arena Manager, appeared before the committee for the purpose of providing her report for the month of January. A written report was provided.

PROPERTY SERVICES

Cameron Whiteway, Property Services Manager, appeared before the meeting for the purpose of providing his report for the month of January. A written report was provided.

BUILDING INSPECTION

A written report was provided by the Building Inspector. He was unable to attend this evening due a prior medical commitment.

Having completed the provision of their reports, the department managers then retired from the meeting.

TRI-COUNTY LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM INVITATION

An invitation has been received by email from the Tri-County Local Food System. This group is hosting a meeting on February 20, 2009 at the Yarmouth Lions Club, 55 Parade Street, Yarmouth. The purpose of this meeting will be to explore local food systems and to connect people with ideas about local food systems, and to create opportunities to move forward together. A representative of the Municipality is invited to attend.

Resolution COW090201

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that expenses of councillors who wish to attend the Tri-County Local Food System meeting on February 20, 2009 be paid by the Municipality.

Motion carried unanimously.

WORKSHOPS FOR COUNCILLORS

There is a workshop being held in Halifax, on Friday, March 27, 2009, titled "Meetings and Rules of Order". This workshop will discuss the ideas for making meetings more inclusive, efficient and effective, and the use of Rules of Order sensibly and intelligently.

It is suggested that several members of Council may wish to attend this workshop. The workshop is being conducted by Eli Mina who is a registered parliamentarian.

Resolution COW090202

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by C. O'Donnell that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality pay the expenses of councillors wishing to attend the workshop on "Meetings and Rules of Order".

Motion carried unanimously.

The Warden, Deputy Warden and Councillor Stoddard expressed interest in attending this workshop.

TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

Correspondence has recently been received from the Woodland Multi-Use Trail Association. The Association has informed Council that Phase II of their planned construction is for the area on the former CNR right of way between Doctor's Cove and the Shelburne County line. This area is being done next at the request of the Trail Association members from the Barrington area.

Council's request to do the area along the former CNR right of way between Port Clyde and Clement's Pond will be placed on their list of areas for further trail development in the future.

Resolution COW090203

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Woodland Multi-Use Trail Association be thanked for their response and be requested to keep the Municipality informed on their future endeavors to develop trails in Shelburne County.

Motion carried unanimously.

FCM CONFERENCE

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference will be held during the first week of June in Whistler, B.C. A summary of attendance policies from other units was read to members for their information and review. This summary was obtained from the Municipality of Argyle who had recently completed it.

It was the consensus of members that there is no requirement for changing the Municipal Policy in this matter at the present time.

COMMUNITY GRANTS POLICY AND ACTIVITY FUNDS POLICY

It was suggested that when Community Grants are applied for by local organizations that approval of the grant be left up to the councillor of the district to recommend it without restriction.

Moved by C. O'Donnell that it be recommended to Council that the Community Grants Policy be amended to provide that grants be approved by the councillor of the district without restriction.

There then followed some discussion of this motion with the result that the motion was withdrawn by the mover.

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by C. Stoddard that it be recommended to Council that additional purposes for the use of Community Grants be added to the policy by amending the policy.

There then followed some discussion of this proposed amendment resulting in the motion being withdrawn.

Resolution COW090204

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by C. O'Donnell that further consideration of these policies be deferred to the end of the meeting this evening.

Motion carried unanimously.

WARDEN'S REPORT FOR LOCAL NEWSPAPER

This matter was referred by Council to committee for further discussion. It has been suggested that the Warden write a monthly report to be published in the local newspaper. Providing a report from the Warden would allow the Warden to address municipal matters from the Municipality's point of view as apposed to a reporter's point of view.

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality publish a monthly Warden's report in the local newspaper.

There then followed much discussion regarding this motion.

After further consideration the motion was withdrawn.

OCEANS FIRST TASK FORCE

This matter was referred by Council to the committee for further discussion. Information was provided regarding the Oceans First Task Force from the local newspapers. The Province is continuing to seek members for this task force. Since the Minister for Service Nova Scotia will be visiting the Municipality tomorrow afternoon, this matter will be brought up with him at that time.

NORTH EAST POINT BEACH ACCESS

Members were provided with a summary of the meeting held on January 27th with officials from the Department of Natural Resources. It was the opinion of these officials that development of a boardwalk for access to the North East Point Beach by handicapped individuals would require a considerable amount of development. In order to provide adequate access and egress from the beach it would be necessary to construct a boardwalk and corresponding area for egress on the opposite side of the beach.

Resolution COW090205

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by D. Messenger that this project be included with other projects being considered during budget deliberations.

Motion carried unanimously.

BOTTLED WATER

Members were informed that the Municipality is progressing with the limiting of the use of bottled water. It is the goal of the Municipality to use tap water wherever it is feasible and possible. This does not mean that bottled water will cease to be used, only that where it is possible tap water will be used instead.

The main change that will take place as a result of this policy will be in the Administration Building where tap water will be used and bottled water will cease to be purchased.

PROPERTY VALUATION SERVICES CORPORATION

Correspondence has been received from the Property Valuation Services Corporation indicating that they are expecting a 1.3% increase in their core budget for the 2009/2010 fiscal year. This amounts to an increase of approximately \$213,000.00. The current budget is \$15,810,000.00. In addition, there may be a 2.7% increase due to H.S.T. that is required to be paid by the Canada Revenue Agency. In total, this will make the 2009/2010 budget for PVSC, \$16,433,000.00. The payments required from the municipal units across the province will be adjusted accordingly.

PVSC RE: NOVA SCOTIA POWER INC.

Correspondence has been received from the Property Valuation Services Corporation explaining the assessment of Nova Scotia Power Inc. across the province. The taxation of Nova Scotia Power is changing so that the corporation will pay taxes based on assessment rather than on electrical sales. This has a significant impact in many of the municipal units across the province, although it is not a significant impact to the Municipality of Barrington. The Province has recently announced that it will freeze the contributions paid to the municipal units for a period of one year and then phase in the changes in Nova Scotia Power taxation over a number of succeeding years.

UNION CEMETERY REQUEST FOR COMMUNITY GRANT

A Community Grant application has been received from the Union Cemetery in Smithville. The purpose of this grant will be for cemetery repairs including the removal of trees, 4 loads of loam, leveling and straightening the tombstones. It is estimated that the cost of this project will be \$2,450.00.

Resolution COW090206

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by C. Stoddard that consideration of this request be deferred to a future meeting of the committee.

Motion carried unanimously.

LOBSTER FESTIVAL REQUEST

Each year the Shelburne County Lobster Festival requests a grant from each of the municipal units in Shelburne County. The amount of the grant requested is \$250.00. The Lobster Festival Committee has submitted an application along with the appropriate financial statement requesting a grant of \$250.00 for the coming year.

Resolution COW090207

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by C. Stoddard that it be recommended to Council that a grant of \$250.00 be provided to the Shelburne County Lobster Festival for the 2009/2010 fiscal year.

Motion carried unanimously.

HIGHWAY 103 UPGRADE COMMITTEE

Councillor Owen Hamlin, a representative for the Region of Queens Municipality has called the Municipal Office inviting the Municipality to provide a member for a Highway 103 Upgrading Committee. The committee will meet in the Region of Queens Municipal Office on Wednesday, February 11, 2009, at 10:00 a.m.

Resolution COW090208

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by C. Stoddard that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to Councillor Owen Hamlin at the Region of Queens thanking him for his invitation, but informing him that no one is currently available to serve on this committee, and requesting that the Municipality be kept informed of any future developments.

Motion carried unanimously.

WOOD'S HARBOUR SEWER

Correspondence has been received by email from an individual owning property in Wood's Harbour. This individual is suggesting that since there is an expectation that there will be funding available for infrastructure projects, the Municipality should now pursue the expansion of the sewer system in Wood's Harbour.

Resolution COW090209

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality reply to the request of Wendy Lund indicating that the expansion of the Wood's Harbour sewer system is one of the many projects included in the Capital Investment of the Municipality, however, it is at present not near the top of the priority list of projects. Ms. Lunds suggestion is much appreciated and Council certainly appreciates Ms. Lunds interest in municipal business and in keeping up to date by viewing the municipal website.

Motion carried unanimously.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

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

SHELBURNE LONG BOAT SOCIETY REQUEST

Correspondence has been received by email from the Shelburne Long Boat Society requesting a letter of support from the Municipality of Barrington for the Society's business plan for the coming year. The Society hopes to promote Shelburne County by attending various events and promotional opportunities throughout Shelburne County and other areas during the coming year.

Resolution COW090210

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that a letter of support be sent to the Shelburne Long Boat Society for their promotional efforts for Shelburne County in the coming year.

Motion carried unanimously.

YEAR OF THE LOBSTER

Correspondence has been received from Mr. Timothy Gillespie regarding the Municipality's efforts to support the local lobster industry by declaring 2009 the Year of the Lobster. This information was circulated to members for their review.

Resolution COW090211

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to Mr. Gillespie thanking him for his letter and expressing Council's appreciation for his suggestions which will be considered in the Municipality's efforts in promoting the Year of the Lobster.

Motion carried unanimously.

POST OFFICE PARKING LOT

It was noted by a member that the parking lot behind the Barrington Passage Post Office is very muddy.

COMMUNITY GRANTS AND ACTIVITIES FUNDS POLICY

Much discussion ensued regarding the Community Grants Policy and the Activities Funds Policy which is to be considered at the next meeting of Council.

It was the consensus of members that any changes to the Community Grants Policy be considered during the budget deliberations.

The Activities Funds Policy will again be considered during the next Council meeting.

CLOSED SESSION RE; LEGAL MATTERS

The committee then entered into Closed Session in order to receive information and to give the Clerk further direction in the matter of the Department of Environment ticket issued at the Landfill and the request of Randal Smith for the waiver of tax sale expenses.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Having completed their discussion in Closed Session the Committee then returned to Open Session.

Resolution COW090212

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by C. Stoddard that it be recommended to Council that in light of legal advice received from the Municipal Solicitor, the Municipality will not pursue collection of tax sale expenses from Mr. Randal Smith, but the interest applicable to the outstanding taxes will still be liable for collection.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 10:06 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary for the Meeting

On website February 4, 2009.