

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

June 2, 2009

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson at 8:30 a.m., in the Conference Room, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington, N.S., with the following members present:

- Louise Halliday, Chairperson
 - George El-Jakl
 - Shaun Hatfield
 - Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
 - Cecil O'Donnell
 - Cathy Stoddard
- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

PURPOSE OF MEETING

The purpose of this meeting is to review the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2009/2010. The budget was reviewed in all aspects including all expenditures and all revenues. The following items were considered specifically:

1. District Planning Commission. Because the Municipality of Clare is withdrawing from the District Planning Commission and an Integrated Community Sustainability Planner has been hired, the expenditures related to the Commission will be much higher this year than in the previous year. The total estimated cost of the Commission will be included in the Municipality's budget, however these may be defrayed somewhat during the year as a withdrawal settlement is negotiated with the District of Clare.
2. It was suggested that a sign be posted at the roadside for the Visitor Information Centre. The cost of purchasing or constructing a sign will be incorporated in the cost of the operation of the Visitor Information Centre.
3. A discussion took place regarding the annual sewer charges in the Barrington area as well as other areas of the Municipality. No definitive motions were made regarding changing the sewer charges and as a result the current sewer charges will be continued.
4. It was suggested a breakdown of the tax expenditures be included in the next Warden's Report.
5. There was much discussion regarding the Tax Exemption By-law. It was suggested that these exemptions should be increased so that tax payers whose income is less than the recognized "poverty line" would receive an exemption. This matter will be further researched and placed on an agenda of the Committee of the Whole once a new councillor is elected in District 6.
6. The Barrington Pregnancy Care Centre was discussed at length by members. There is some question as to whether they will be able to continue to operate in the location they are presently at. Further information will be obtained on this facility for the consideration of councillors.

7. After much discussion it was agreed by councillors that the Community Grants' ceiling provided for would be \$5,700.00 in each district.
8. All of the requests for Grants to Organizations were reviewed by the Committee and incorporated in the budget which will be presented to Council. Also all of the Community Grants that have been received to date were reviewed. These Community Grants will be considered separately by Council after the budget has been approved.
9. Estimated revenues were reviewed by councillors and proposed tax rates were agreed to for the residential, commercial and business occupancy. These will be forwarded to Council for approval on June 22, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

Having completed their consideration of the budget, the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary for the Meeting

On website June 4, 2009.