

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

May 17, 2010

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington, NS, with the following members present:

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

Absent was member Murray Atkinson on approved leave of Council due to illness.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Meeting dates.
- Old Ferry Boat Wharf at North East Point
- HST on poppies.
- Closed Session Re: SWSDA legal matter.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by C. Stoddard that the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. O'Donnell that the minutes of the last previous meeting held May 3, 2010 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

BARRINGTON REGIONAL CURLING CLUB

Mr. Elwin Smith appeared before the meeting for the purpose of giving a brief report on the further activities of the Barrington Regional Curling Club.

Mr. Smith indicated that the Club has raised funds recently at some fundraising events and as a result they have paid the Nova Scotia Power bill and received another one which has been estimated incorrectly. He will be contacting Nova Scotia Power to have the meter read and a proper bill completed. The Club will be holding a Trivia Night on June 19th and is inviting Municipal Council to enter a team. The drain that was plugged near the ice surface has been flushed out and is now working properly, however there is still water coming in between the footing and the outside cement ramp near the exit doors. Mr. Smith will contact Cameron Whiteway our Property Services Supervisor to evaluate further remediation that can be done to eliminate the water problem in this area.

Having completed his discussion of the Curling Club, Mr. Smith then retired from the meeting.

BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

Property Services

Cameron Whiteway the Property Services Supervisor reviewed his proposed budget for the coming year. Mr. Whiteway provided specific explanations for variances in vehicle expenditures, roof repairs that are necessary at the Robertson Building, at the sewage treatment plants and at the Sherose Island Public Works building. He also requested the Municipality purchase a portable welder with a generator for approximately \$7,500.00 which can be used by Municipal employees rather than hiring this work out. It was also suggested that the Municipality purchase a used single axle dump truck at a cost of approximately \$10,000.00 for the purpose of moving gravel. Over the course of the next two years this cost would be recovered by paying less for the purchase of gravel. Mr. Whiteway also indicated that it would be necessary to purchase 3085 sewer pumps; two for the Wood's Harbour system and one for the Barrington system at a cost of approximately \$5,000.00 each.

Recreation Department

Anna Kenney, Recreation Director, presented the budget for the Recreation Department which also included the budget for the Recreation Centre. She indicated that two capital items were included in the budget; one is for the addition of another heat pump for the Barrington Municipal Swimming Pool, and the second is an allowance of approximately \$8,000.00 to install a new floor in the small meeting room in the Recreation Centre. Mrs. Kenney also indicated that a wellness program for employees and a "Move More" program would be initiated during the year. Also included in the budget is covering over the gravel on the inside of the pool area with a boardwalk in order to provide for better movement around the pool during the summer.

Barrington Municipal Arena

Shelly Blinkhorn, Manager of the Barrington Municipal Arena, reviewed Arena revenues and expenditures in detail. It is proposed at this time that the Arena rental rates be increased from \$105.00 per hour to \$115.00 per hour across the board. This is necessary in order to help reduce the deficit at the Arena. Further discussion followed regarding various methods of reducing the deficit at the Arena by increasing revenues or reducing expenditures.

Building Inspection

The Building Inspection budget was presented by the Municipal Clerk as there is no Building Inspector. It is anticipated that the budget for the current year will be the same as the one for the previous year unless Council makes any significant changes in inspection services.

Visitor Information Centre

Our Visitor Information Centre Manager had previously submitted a budget. This budget was presented by the Municipal Clerk. It is anticipated that Destination Southwest Nova Scotia will provide assistance from the Province for the funding of a student at the Centre again this year.

Having completed their budget presentations, the department managers then retired from the meeting.

YARMOUTH FERRY SERVICE

Correspondence has been received by email from the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities requesting support for a Yarmouth to New England ferry service. This information was provided to all members.

Resolution COW100512

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by C. Stoddard that it be recommended to Council that a letter of support for the reinstatement of the Yarmouth to New England ferry service for the 2010 season and beyond be forwarded to the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities.

Motion carried unanimously.

WOOD'S HARBOUR BALL FIELD

This matter had been referred to Committee by Council. The Property Services Manager has reviewed the Wood's Harbour Ballfield site and provided a report, together with pictures, indicating the condition of the property. The property is in need of several repairs to both the seating area, the roof of the canteen and the parking lot area as well.

It was agreed by consensus of members that the Property Services Manager should also provide an estimate of the cost of these repairs. The Manager will be requested to do so and this will be brought forward to Committee again in future.

BARRINGTON REGIONAL CURLING CLUB REQUEST

The request from the Barrington Regional Curling Club for financial assistance has been forwarded to the budget process by consensus of members.

MUNICIPAL WASTE COLLECTION

Much correspondence has been received from the Municipal Waste Collector regarding the collection process and recommendations for changes to the process.

Resolution COW100513

Moved by L. Halliday and seconded by D. Messenger that municipal policy regarding the number of times and length of times councillors can speak should be waived for purposes of discussion of this matter as the matter will take lengthy and detailed discussion.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was suggested that the Municipal Waste Collectors be brought in to discuss this matter in detail with councillors so that conclusions can be reached as to what is to be done.

There then followed much discussion regarding this matter.

Resolution COW100514

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by L. Halliday that all related information regarding the waste collection issues be provided to the Municipal Solicitor and his advice be sought in this matter before proceeding.

Motion carried unanimously.

REPEAL OF POLICY NO. 37

Members were informed that Policy No. 37, "Recreation Loans Policy" is now no longer a legal and valid Recreation policy.

Resolution COW100515

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by D. Messenger that Policy No. 37, "Recreation Loans Policy", be repealed, and that notice be given to Council at the next subsequent Council meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

SOUTH WEST SHORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY INVOICE

Members were informed that an invoice has been received from the South West Shore Development Authority for legal fees regarding the OPI lawsuit. No further information of the breakdown of the legal fees has been received.

Resolution COW100516

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by L. Halliday that this matter be sent to the Municipal Solicitor for his legal advice regarding its discussion in open or closed session of the committee of Council.

Motion carried unanimously.

BUILDING INSPECTOR POSITION

This matter has been referred to Committee from the previous Council meeting. There was some discussion regarding whether or not an applicant should be hired as Building Inspector or whether to continue with the purchase of services from other municipal units.

It was the consensus of members that this matter be discussed further in Closed Session as the matter of establishing a wage would require further discussion.

BUDGET SURPLUS

Members were provided with a preliminary report of the expected surplus for the fiscal year completed March 31, 2010. A list of projects that were scheduled to be completed during the year for which funding had been provided was also circulated to members. These projects are projects that are ongoing and will be completed in the coming year. It is suggested that the funds from the surplus for the current year be transferred to Reserves so that these projects will continue to be funded and will not require additional funding from the General Tax Rate in the coming year.

Having reached the hour of 10:00 p.m. it was necessary for a motion to be made to continue with the order of business.

Resolution COW100517

Moved by L. Halliday and seconded by C. O'Donnell that members continue the meeting past the hour of 10:00 p.m., until the business of the meeting is completed.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution COW100518

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the auditors make provision in the financial statements for the transfer of up to \$200,000.00 of any current years surplus for the year ended March 31, 2010 to the Special Reserve Fund Operating for the purpose of completing the projects that are currently in progress by the Municipality, and that an additional surplus over and above that amount remain in the General Revenue Fund Surplus to be used for working capital purposes.

Motion carried unanimously.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Members were informed that there will be a meeting of the CAOs and Clerk-Treasurers in Shelburne County with a representative of the Department of Economic and Rural Development on Thursday, May 20th, at 2:00 p.m., for the purpose of discussing further economic development in the County. The Clerk-Treasurer will be attending this meeting on behalf of the Municipality.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

The Schedule of Fees was circulated to members for their information and review.

MEETING DATES

The budget meeting scheduled for May 19th will only be held if necessary. This will be determined during the budget meeting as scheduled for tomorrow, May 18th.

On May 20, 2010 there is a Region 6 Solid Waste Management Committee Meeting being held at the Town Hall in Bridgewater. The Warden is unable to attend this meeting. Councillor Halliday agreed to attend this meeting on behalf of the Municipality, together with the Clerk-Treasurer.

Members were informed that Monday, May 24th is Victoria Day and therefore a holiday. The Council meeting normally scheduled for that date will be held the following day, Tuesday, May 25th.

The Committee meeting scheduled for May 31, 2010 will be rescheduled to June 1st as a quorum of members will not be available on May 31st.

Members were informed that an invitation has been received from Service Nova Scotia to participate in the CAP review. This meeting will be held on June 25th at the Rodd Grand Hotel in Yarmouth. It will commence at 9:00 a.m. and continue until 3:30 p.m. Warden El-Jakl, Deputy Warden Messenger and Councillor Halliday will attend along with the Municipal Clerk.

OLD FERRY BOAT WHARF

Upon questioning, members were informed that pictures have been taken of the piers remaining in the sand at North East Point Beach. These piers are the remains of the Old Ferry Boat Wharf which has not been in use since 1949. These pictures will be forwarded to the Minister of Transportation and the Minister of Natural Resources as well as our MLA requesting that the Province address the dangerous condition presented by these structures.

H.S.T. ON POPPIES

Resolution COW100518

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by S. Hatfield that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to the Prime Minister requesting that H.S.T. not be charged on poppies being sold on behalf of the Royal Canadian Legion, and that this letter be copied to the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities as well as to leaders of the federal opposition parties.

Motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

Members then entered into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing the Building Inspector wages and the South West Shore Development Authority legal issue.

Having completed their discussion of these matters in Closed Session members then returned to Open Session at 11:35 p.m.

BUILDING INSPECTOR

Resolution COW100519

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality offer the position of Building Inspector to the alternate, as recommended by the Hiring Committee, as the preferred candidate has declined to accept the position.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Having completed the business of the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 11:39 p.m.

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting

On website May 21, 2010.