

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

August 16, 2010

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

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

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Seal Island Light Museum.
- Office Air Conditioning.

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 MINTUES

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

Motion carried unanimously.

RCMP MONTHLY REPORT

Sgt. Bob Forbes appeared before the meeting together with Cst. Mark Israel. Sgt. Forbes introduced Cst. Israel to Council as he is now a new member of the local detachment.

Sgt. Forbes provided a written report of the RCMP calls for the month of July 2010. The Detachment now has a full complement up until September 1st. Cst. Swim is working out of the Detachment up until this time, at which point he will again serve as the RCMP Liaison Officer with the schools in Shelburne County. Members were advised that the Police Advisory Committee will have a meeting in early September and will proceed from that time.

Having completed his report, Sgt. Forbes then retired from the meeting.

BRCC MONTHLY REPORT

Elwin Smith, President of the Barrington Regional Curling Club, appeared before the meeting to give a brief report. He thanked Council for the Municipal grant given to the Curling Club. The Club has had two trivia nights as fundraisers at which they raised \$900.00 and \$800.00 respectively. The Club also had a Washer Tournament at which they raised \$200.00. The main fundraising event for the Club will be their Fall Fling which will be held on September 18, 2010. The Club has yet to receive any additional information regarding the IREP Program and when it is to be done. Mr. Smith has been advised to call the Arena Manager as the IREP Program at the Arena is scheduled to begin on August 20, 2010.

Having completed his report to the committee, Mr. Smith then retired from the meeting.

MACDONNELL GROUP RE: ENGINEERING FEES

Mr. Gordon Davidson appeared before the meeting on behalf of the MacDonnell Group requesting an additional \$14,000.00 in engineering fees for their services performed on the Business Park project in Barrington Passage. Mr. Davidson informed members that this amount could be paid out of the contingency costs provided in "soft costs" for the project. He stated that he felt these were normal contingencies that were incurred on many different projects. Mr. Davidson indicated that it took approximately ten (10) weeks to do the work on the business park and that it had only been expected to take six (6) weeks. He also stated that the On Site Inspector had spent additional time on the site inspecting the construction as it was being done. He felt that additional costs were incurred in order to stay within the "tight budget" for the project.

It was apparent from the beginning that there were not enough funds available to do the full length of the road and as a result the length of the road was reduced. Mr. Davidson inferred that this increased the engineering cost of the project. Large rock was encountered on the road site which required extra funds for blasting the rock. These funds were provided for out of the contingency allowance made for the construction. There was also extra rock fill required for Stirl's Road which was dug out deeper than expected in order to reduce the moisture content in the road.

There were negotiations with Nova Scotia Power in order to have the power lines brought in underneath the transmission power lines across the property. The power is being installed to the property in two phases; the first along Stirl's Road, and the second along the actual road into the business park. In order to do this the roadway was redesigned and cut down from the original grade set in December of 2009. Mr. Davidson indicated this freed up approximately \$25,000.00 for the budgeted construction. Mr. Davidson indicated he felt that the extra time he put into keeping costs under budget warranted the extra fees being requested.

Mr. Davidson also indicated that the project was substantially completed approximately the end of June 2010.

Resolution COW100812

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by C. O'Donnell that this matter be referred to a Closed Session at the beginning of the next Council meeting in order that the Municipal Solicitor may attend and Council may consult with him regarding negotiating any additional payment for engineering fees on this project.

Motion carried unanimously.

Having completed his discussion of the matter, Mr. Davidson then retired from the meeting.

BARRINGTON BUSINESS PARK

An email has been received from a constituent regarding the promotion of the Barrington Business Park. It was suggested that promotional material be prepared in the form of a brochure and a web page so that the park could be promoted to potential tenants.

Resolution COW100813

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that Municipal Staff obtain estimated costs of preparing a brochure and web page for the promotion of the Barrington Business Park.

AFFIRMATIVE

George El-Jakl
Louise Halliday
Shaun Hatfield
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
Cecil O'Donnell
Cathy Stoddard

NEGATIVE

Murray Atkinson

Motion carried

It was also suggested that the Chamber of Commerce and the CBDC be consulted regarding the promotion of the park.

MUNICIPAL AUDITOR GENERAL REPORT

A report has been circulated to all councillors regarding the proposal of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities for a Municipal Auditor General. Comments are requested by the Union before September 11th.

No decision was made at this time regarding this proposal.

RRFB ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

Members were informed that Region 6 has made an application to the RRFB for funding for a proposed enforcement plan to be developed and applied across the region. This plan will be a baseline for enforcement of waste collection and separation services in order to provide consistency throughout the region. It will be developed over the next year and then further developed in subsequent years. This information has been provided to members so that they are aware that it will be developed in the near future.

PRESENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

Members then discussed how recommendations from Committee of the Whole could be brought forward to Council. Various aspects of the method of bringing recommendations forward were discussed.

Resolution COW100814

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. Stoddard that it be recommended to Council that amendments to Policy No. 52 be drafted to provide for councillors taking turns reading the recommendations to Council from Committee of the Whole, and that a mover and seconder for each of the recommendations be requested by the chairperson at Council meetings.

Motion carried unanimously.

FALSE SECURITY ALARM BY-LAW

In light of comments made by Sgt. Forbes, members felt that this matter should be deferred until further information is made available.

Resolution COW100815

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by L. Halliday that consideration of a False Security Alarm By-Law be deferred until further information is obtained from the local RCMP Detachment.

Motion carried unanimously.

DRAFT MUNICIPAL GRANTS POLICY

The draft Municipal Grants Policy had been deferred to this meeting from a previous meeting of the Committee so that all members could be present for its discussion.

Discussions then ensued regarding the expenditure of Municipal Grant Funds for both Grants to Organizations and Community Grants.

Resolution COW100816

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality continue with its current grant policies.

AFFIRMATIVE

Murray Atkinson
George El-Jakl
Shaun Hatfield
Cecil O'Donnell
Cathy Stoddard

NEGATIVE

Louise Halliday
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger

Motion carried.

NORTH EAST POINT INTERPRETIVE PLAQUE

It was suggested by a member that an interpretive plaque should be installed in the North East Point Beach area providing for recording some of the history and selling points of the area.

Resolution COW100817

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that Municipal Staff prepare an interpretive plaque or sign similar to those used in other areas of the Municipality to be installed at the North East Point Beach area for the consideration of the Committee.

Motion carried unanimously.

TELEVISED MEETINGS

An unsolicited proposal has been received from Mr. Rick Davis concerning the televising of municipal council meetings.

It was suggested by Mr. Davis that this could be done at a minimum cost by taping the meetings and putting them on the Municipal website.

Some discussion followed regarding putting a counter on the website in order to determine how many views there were of council meetings and also attaching these recordings of the meetings on the website.

Resolution COW100818

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by S. Hatfield that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality engage Mr. Rick Davis for the purpose of taping and streaming one Council meeting per month for a nine month trial period, and reallocate funds in the budget allocated from economic development expenditures for this purpose.

AFFIRMATIVE

George El-Jakl
Shaun Hatfield
Cecil O'Donnell
Cathy Stoddard

NEGATIVE

Murray Atkinson
Louise Halliday
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger

Motion carried.

There then followed much discussion regarding the use of funds for this purpose.

Resolution COW100819

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by G. El-Jakl that the previous motion be rescinded and that Municipal Staff get information for funding this initiative for a nine month trial period.

AFFIRMATIVE

George El-Jakl
Shaun Hatfield
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
Cecil O'Donnell
Cathy Stoddard

NEGATIVE

Murray Atkinson
Louise Halliday

Motion carried.

TEAM DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

Correspondence has been received from the Municipality of the District of Shelburne for a Team Development Workshop for councillors. A Team Development Workshop for councillors may be held in the fall in Shelburne County if enough members are interested in attending.

Resolution COW100820

Moved by L. Halliday and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality of Shelburne be informed that there is no interest at the current time in attending the suggested workshop.

Motion carried unanimously.

COMPLAINT RE: USE OF JAKE BRAKES IN BARRINGTON PASSAGE

Correspondence has been received from a resident complaining about the use of “jake brakes” in the Barrington Passage area.

Members then discussed this complaint and also were provided with some pertinent information from Section 181 of the Motor Vehicle Act and also with information regarding use of “jake brakes” in HRM.

Resolution COW100821

Moved by L. Halliday and seconded by S. Hatfield that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to Mr. John Leach providing information and an explanation of the section of the Motor Vehicle Act that is pertinent to his request, and also that the Municipality send a letter to the Department of Transportation requesting that they place “no engine braking” signs in the vicinity of Mr. Leach’s residence in Barrington Passage.

Motion carried unanimously.

TRIAL PERIOD RE: CLOSED SESSIONS

The trial period for holding closed sessions at the beginning of meetings rather than at the end has now come to an end.

Resolution COW100822

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by S. Hatfield that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality continue to schedule closed sessions of meetings at 6:30 p.m. for whatever the required length of time at the beginning of council and committee meetings.

Motion carried unanimously.

DEFERRED COUNCIL MOTION RE: C.S.I. SCHOOL

A motion regarding the Tri-County Regional School Board’s decision of which school is to be closed on Cape Sable Island was deferred to the Committee of the Whole by members for further discussion, and in order to give them time to read the Impact Assessment Study provided by the School Board.

It was the general consensus of members that the purchase of additional land by the Town does not make the Town site preferable to the Centreville site for a school on Cape Sable Island.

Resolution COW100823

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by L. Halliday that having reached the hour of 10:00 p.m. members continue with the meeting this evening until the business of the meeting is completed.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was suggested that Council should discuss the future of schools on Cape Sable Island with the Minister of Education.

Resolution COW100824

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that our MLA be contacted and be requested to set up a meeting with the Minister of Education for the purpose of discussing the future of the schools on Cape Sable Island.

Motion carried unanimously.

SEAL ISLAND LIGHT MUSUEM

Members then discussed the request from the Seal Island Light Museum for funding for a walkway at the site.

Resolution COW100825

Moved by L. Halliday and seconded by C. O'Donnell that it be recommended to Council that an additional \$500.00 be provided to the Seal Island Light Museum for the purpose of constructing an exterior walkway to the museum site from the Contingency funds provided for municipal grants in the current fiscal year's budget.

Motion carried unanimously.

OFFICE AIR CONDITIONING

Resolution COW100826

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by L. Halliday that it be recommended to Council that Municipal Staff determine the cost of additional air conditioning being provided to those municipal offices that currently do not have it.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Having completed the business of the meeting, the meeting was adjourned by mutual consent at 10:22 p.m.

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting

On website August 20, 2010.