

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

October 4, 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, N.S., with the following members present:

- George El-Jakl, Chair
- Murray Atkinson
- Louise Halliday
- Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
- Cecil O'Donnell
- Cathy Stoddard

Absent was member Shaun Hatfield who is away on vacation.

- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Wood's Harbour Walking Trail.
- Department of Transportation.
- Herring Plant Workers.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by C. O'Donnell and M. Atkinson that the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by C. Stoddard and seconded by C. O'Donnell that the minutes of the last previous meeting held September 20, 2010 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

STRAY AND ABANDONED CATS

Minnie Atkinson appeared before the Committee for the purpose of discussing the disposition of stray and abandoned cats within the Municipality. Mrs. Atkinson reiterated that this is a significant problem. As a result of a request from the Committee, members were informed that signs should be placed at all wharfs in the Municipality, at the Stoney Island Beach Road and at the Blanche Road, indicating that it is illegal to leave unwanted cats in the area.

Members and Mrs. Atkinson were also informed of responses received from other municipal units regarding how they deal with stray and abandoned cats. In general, most municipal units refer these animals to the local SPCA offices and because they do this they are also experiencing similar difficulties as our municipality.

Pictures of stray cats at the Lower Wood's Harbour wharf and an elderly gentlemen's residence in Blanche were displayed for members information.

It was suggested by Mrs. Atkinson that an example be made of someone in the area who is abandoning cats by fining or penalizing them in some way.

Having completed their presentation Mrs. Atkinson and the other ladies accompanying her retired from the meeting.

2010 HALLOWEEN

Halloween this year falls on Sunday, October 31st. It has been suggested that the Municipality consider having Halloween celebrated on Saturday, October 30th, within the Municipality.

Resolution COW101001

Moved by M. Atkinson and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality recognize Saturday, October 30, 2010 as the day for observance of Halloween within the Municipality.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Municipality will advertise in the local newspaper, on the radio, and on its website to encourage citizens to observe Halloween on October 30th.

TRUDY AMIRAULT RETIREMENT

Trudy Amirault is the Executive Director of the Western Counties Regional Library. She will be retiring at the end of December.

Resolution COW101002

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by L. Halliday that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality provide a gift and a plaque of appreciation to Trudy Amirault on her retirement.

Motion carried unanimously.

BARRINGTON PASSAGE BUSINESS PARK

Councillors were provided with a draft of a brochure for the promotion of the Barrington Business Park. This brochure can be printed at a local printer at a cost of \$0.75 each.

It was suggested that members consider various ways of promoting the Business Park and promoting economic development in general within the Municipality.

Resolution COW101003

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by C. Stoddard that this matter be deferred to the next Committee of the Whole meeting for further discussion and consideration.

Motion carried unanimously.

TAX WRITE-OFFS

The following accounts were brought forward for consideration of the committee. These accounts all have remaining balances of business occupancy taxes which are deemed to be uncollectible, and therefore are recommended for write-off. The accounts are:

	<u>Balance</u>
- South Shore Guns and Gear Limited	\$257.65
- Cape Nova Fisheries Limited	\$15.49
- A & B Sports Inc.	\$29.70
- The Hair Emporium	\$3.84
- The Shoe Box Limited	\$152.42

These are all outstanding business occupancy taxes for businesses which are no longer in operation in the Municipality. It is proposed that these balances be written off as uncollectible.

Resolution COW101004

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that the above list of uncollectible business occupancy taxes be written off.

Motion carried unanimously.

PURCHASE OF FRELICK PROPERTY

Members were informed that an extension on the closing of the purchase of the Frelick property has been requested. This extension is requested from October 15th to October 31st in order to allow the Project Manager for the Cape Sable Island sewer to further discuss the use of the property with the Department of Environment. The Department of Environment will not provide confirmation that the property can be used for a sewage treatment plant site until it has significant design information. This design information can only be provided by the design engineers once they have been chosen by the Municipality and a design of the site has been done. This design will not be completed for several months.

Also, it is suggested that the C.S.I. Sewer Committee meet together with the councillors for the purpose of additional discussion of the purchase of this property.

Members were also informed that a lady who lives on the property adjacent to this property attended at the Municipal Office today and expressed opposition to the location of the sewage treatment plant in the neighborhood, especially on property next to her residence. She will be providing a letter expressing her concerns to Council in the very near future.

It was suggested that this matter be further discussed with the Municipal Solicitor.

Mr. Willard d'Eon, the Project Manager, will be visiting the property again tomorrow and at that time the scheduling of the C.S.I. Sewer Committee meeting will be discussed with him.

ARENA SERVICES TECHNICIAN

The incumbent Arena Services Technician has provided two weeks notice and has since returned his keys and will no longer be working at the Arena. As a result, a short term replacement has been arranged.

It is suggested that the Municipality now advertise for another Arena Services Technician, to work during the winter months only, to be laid off at the end of ice rental season in the spring. This employee will not be required to obtain refrigeration certification as we will continue the current mode of operation. As a result, it is necessary to now approve a new job description entitled *Arena Services Technician* for this position. The proposed job description has previously been circulated to all members for their review and approval.

Resolution COW101005

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by L. Halliday that it be recommended to Council that the Arena Services Technician job description be approved and that the Municipality advertise according to its policy for a new Arena Services Technician.

Motion carried unanimously.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Chair indicated that this matter had previously been discussed under the Barrington Passage Business Park and will again be discussed at the next Committee of the Whole meeting in two weeks time.

SCHEDULE OF FEES PAID

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

WOOD'S HARBOUR WALKING TRAIL

Information has been circulated to Marilyn Goreham regarding the Rural Community Development Program. The Municipality continues to seek funding for the completion of the Wood's Harbour sidewalk although the Municipality has committed funds for the completion of the sidewalk. As yet, additional funding from other sources has not been forthcoming.

Resolution COW101006

Moved by L. Halliday and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that Mrs. Goreham be notified that the Municipality continues to seek funding for the completion of the Wood's Harbour Sidewalk, although to date other sources of funding have not been found.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was also mentioned at this time that Smith's Lane in Lower Clark's Harbour requires grading.

Resolution COW101007

Moved by C. Stoddard and seconded by C. O'Donnell that it be recommended to Council that Municipal Staff contact the Department of Transportation and request the grading of Smith's Lane in Lower Clark's Harbour.

Motion carried unanimously.

HERRING PLANT WORKERS

On Saturday, October 2nd, the Provincial Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture, the Honourable Sterling Belliveau, met with mayors and wardens of Shelburne and Yarmouth counties to discuss the number of hours that herring plant workers have been working this fall. It has become apparent that these herring plant workers are not going to receive enough insurable earnings to qualify for employment insurance benefits. As a result, Minister Belliveau proposed that these employees be employed on municipal projects or by local not-for-profit organizations for enough additional weeks to gain insurable hours that would allow them to qualify for employment insurance benefits. It was indicated by the Warden that it is stated that this would not cost the municipalities anything and that the Province would pay whatever costs required to have this done.

There then followed much discussion regarding the implications of this process and how it would affect not only herring plant workers but other workers in the area.

Members concluded that the Warden should obtain additional information from the Minister before they can make any definitive decision in this matter.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 8:35 p.m.

_____ Chair

_____ Secretary for the Meeting

On website October 5, 2010.