

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

January 4, 2011

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, at 7:00 p.m., in the Conference Room, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington, N.S., with the following members present:

- Deputy Warden Donna LeBlanc-Messenger, Chair
- Murray Atkinson
- Louise Halliday
- Shaun Hatfield
- Cecil O'Donnell
- Cathy Stoddard

Absent was Warden George El-Jakl who is on vacation.

- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following item was added to the agenda:

- Clyde River Bridge.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. Stoddard that minutes of the last previous meeting held December 6, 2010 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION RE: STORM DAMAGE TO LOBSTER POTS

Mr. Tony Cunningham had requested the opportunity to make a presentation to Council regarding the damage to lobster pots suffered by local fishermen in the storm which occurred shortly before Christmas.

Mr. Cunningham did not appear before the meeting this evening and therefore no presentation was made.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Members were brought up to date on a meeting that had been held by the Nova Scotia Department of Economic Development and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency at the Barrington Municipal Office on December 17, 2010. The purpose of this meeting was for representatives of the federal and provincial governments to speak with CAOs and Clerk-Treasurers of the municipalities in Yarmouth and Shelburne Counties and the District of Clare to discuss a new economic development body to service this area. Various alternatives were discussed and subsequent steps were also noted by those present. Members were informed that additional meetings will be scheduled to pursue this matter further in the near future.

REGION 6 SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

The Region 6 Solid Waste Management Budget for the fiscal year 2011/2012 was approved at a meeting of that committee on December 3, 2010. The budget has now been received at the Municipal Office and has been circulated to members for their consideration. The total budget for Region 6 is \$175,659.00. This is a 2.7% decrease from the previous year. The decrease is the result of less expensive regional programs anticipated for the coming year. The budget was briefly reviewed for members information.

Resolution COW110101

Moved by C. Stoddard and seconded by M. Atkinson that the Region 6 Solid Waste Management Committee Budget for the fiscal year 2011/2012 be recommended to Council for approval.

Motion carried unanimously.

CLIMATE DATA PROJECT

At a previous Council meeting, Council had approved to invest \$775.00 per year for three (3) years in this project. The Climate Data Project is located in Nova Scotias' Southern Economic Region which is comprised of five of the provinces' eighteen counties; Shelburne, Yarmouth, Digby, Queens and Lunenburg.

The information being collected is not currently available from other sources. Data will relate to agricultural suitability, track rapid climate change, frost free periods, looking at micro climates from the coast moving inland at seven precise intervals from Meteghan to Chester. These seven strings of data loggers will be placed in the following areas as identified by industry: Meteghan, Yarmouth, Barrington, Shelburne, Queens, Bridgewater and Chester. Specific locations for the loggers will be determined once funding for the project has been secured.

The project ties in with the Strategic Planning for the region wherein the need for diversification of industry and where agricultural development has been identified as potential for future growth opportunities. The project will receive ongoing guidance and support from industry experts and the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture.

The local CBDC has submitted the required application to the Nova Scotia Department of Economic and Rural Development and to the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. The investment by the seven (7) municipal units involved is now anticipated to be \$31,500.00 over three years. This is an investment of \$1,500.00 per year by each municipal unit for three years. The commitment from the Municipality of Barrington therefore will be increased from \$775.00 per year to \$1,500.00 per year.

Resolution COW110102

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. O'Donnell that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality provide the financial support required for the Climate Data Project in the amount of \$1,500.00 per year, for the next three years, beginning April 1, 2011.

AFFIRMATIVE

Murray Atkinson
Shaun Hatfield
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
Cecil O'Donnell
Cathy Stoddard

NEGATIVE

Louise Halliday

Motion carried.

JANUARY 17TH COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

The Committee of the Whole Meeting scheduled for January 17, 2011 will be held at the Stoney Island Community Hall. It is suggested therefore that Councillor Hatfield, who is the councillor for that district, chair the meeting that evening.

Members agreed by consensus that Councillor Hatfield would chair that meeting.

C.S.I. SEWER PROJECT

This matter has been referred to the Committee by Council for further consideration. At the present time the sewage treatment system being considered is one that would either be a sand filter system or a textile filter system. There is some question among members as to how many residents would be served by such a system. It is questioned whether or not Council supports this type of a sewer service for the areas that have been identified as needing sewer services. It is also questioned whether or not these systems can be expanded to serve other areas of Cape Sable Island.

Resolution COW110103

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by M. Atkinson that the following questions be forwarded to the Project Managers and answers be obtained and circulated to members by January 17th, if at all possible. The questions to be related are:

1. How many homes may be serviced by the proposed sewer systems and what extent will be the coverage provided by these sewer systems?
2. What will be the capital cost of these systems?
3. What use will be made of currently installed septic tanks and will it be necessary to have solids pumped from these tanks on a periodic basis?

Motion carried unanimously.

BIOSOLIDS

This matter was referred to the Committee by Council for further consideration.

After a brief discussion it was concluded that there is no further action required in this matter.

ADDITIONAL SIGNS IN THE MUNICIPALITY

Members were informed that there had recently been a newspaper article indicating that ACOA and the Province had both provided funds for tourism related signage in Pictou County. The press release indicated that \$28,500.00 had been provided to the DeCoste Centre to update the facility's website, implement a theatre management system, purchase an electronic sign and print tickets in house. \$24,500.00 had also been provided to the Pictou Regional Development Agency to develop a signage and "way finding" plan for the Northumberland Shore in cooperation with other economic development groups in the area.

There then followed much discussion regarding ACOA grants for signs in our area and for the development of tourism through the Municipality as well as through the Shelburne County Tourism Development Committee.

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality apply to ACOA for funding for signage near the current Visitor Information Centre location.

AFFIRMATIVE

Shaun Hatfield
Cecil O'Donnell

NEGATIVE

Murray Atkinson
Louise Halliday
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
Cathy Stoddard

Motion defeated.

Resolution COW110104

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality contact the Shelburne County Tourism Development Committee regarding the funding that has been obtained by the Pictou tourism groups, and that the Shelburne County Tourism Development Committee apply for funding from those sources.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution COW110105

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to the Board of Directors of Bay Side Home requesting that they consider placing signs at either end of Brass Hill notifying travellers of the direction to Bay Side Home.

Motion carried unanimously.

MUNICIPAL PHYSICAL ACTIVITY LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Funding of this program must be considered in the immediate future as an application for funding must be made to the Province prior to the normal time for the municipal budget considerations. Correspondence has already been sent to the Town of Clark's Harbour requesting their participation in this program.

Resolution COW110106

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. O'Donnell that further consideration of funding this program be deferred until the next committee meeting, at which time it is anticipated a response from the Town will have been received.

Motion carried unanimously.

DRAFT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT POLICY

The draft policy has been forwarded to the Municipal Solicitor for his comments. Our Solicitor has indicated that the policy wording is acceptable but that everyone should be clear that it is strictly limited as set out in Section 2 of the policy. Section 2 of the policy states: “that the purpose of this policy is to promote the Municipality or any part of the Municipality and the surrounding areas as a location for institutions, industries and businesses.

This policy has been drafted as a result of a requirement of the Ombudsman’s Office.

The proposed policy was discussed as to its content and intent.

Resolution COW110107

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by M. Atkinson that paragraph 8 be amended to change the wording of: “confirming the grant is being used for the purpose for which it was approved” to “confirming the grant was being used for the purpose for which it was approved”.

Motion carried unanimously.

The amended policy will now be brought forward to Council so that Council can be given notice of consideration.

MEETING WITH MLA RE: EDUCATION BUDGET CUTBACKS

Resolution COW110108

Moved by L. Halliday and seconded by C. Stoddard that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality invite our MLA to a meeting of either Council or Committee to discuss proposed education department budget cuts and other matters such as the storm damages to lobster pots.

Motion carried unanimously.

TAX REVENUE ALLOCATION: PUBLIC INFORMATION
TAX RATE VS. TAX ASSESSMENT: PUBLIC INFORMATION
PROVINCIAL TAX COLLECTION ENCROACHMENT

These were all discussed together as one matter.

Members indicated that residents frequently complain that they do not know what they get for their taxes.

It was suggested that a pie chart be placed on municipal tax bills or on a separate form to be delivered with tax bills indicating what municipal taxes are used for.

Resolution COW110109

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. O'Donnell that it be recommended to Council that a pie chart be placed on municipal tax bills indicating what municipal taxes are being used for during the fiscal year.

AFFIRMATIVE

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

NEGATIVE

Murray Atkinson
Louise Halliday

Motion carried.

Resolution COW110110

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. O'Donnell that it be recommended to Council that an explanation of the differences between the tax rate and tax assessment be placed on the municipal website in a section titled *Frequently asked Questions*.

Motion carried unanimously.

There then followed some discussion regarding provincial tax collection encroachment. The discussion centered around the municipalities collecting education taxes for the provincial government. This matter has been addressed with the province on numerous occasions by the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities. There has been no satisfactory response from the province in this matter.

Resolution COW110111

Moved by L. Halliday and seconded by S. Hatfield that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities asking them to again address the matter of the collection of taxes for the payment of education expenditures for the Province of Nova Scotia.

Motion carried unanimously.

FCM CONFERENCE BOOTH

This matter has been referred to the Committee by Council for further discussion. The basic fee for a booth at the FCM Conference is \$2,700.00. There will be additional fees required in order to put materials in the booth and have individuals attend at the booth during the conference.

Resolution COW110112

Moved by C. Stoddard and seconded by S. Hatfield that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality ask the Shelburne County Tourism Development Committee to have the Tourism Coordinator set up and attend at a booth for the Municipality of Barrington at municipal expense during the FCM Conference in June 2011.

AFFIRMATIVE

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

NEGATIVE

Murray Atkinson
Louise Halliday

Motion carried.

ARENA CANCELLATION POLICY

Information has been circulated to members regarding the number of hours being cancelled at the Arena by minor hockey during recent months.

Resolution COW110113

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that the Arena Cancellation Policy be amended to provide for a 72 hour notification.

Motion carried unanimously.

This amendment to the policy will be drafted and brought forward for notice of consideration at a subsequent council meeting.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

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

CROWN PROSECUTION SERVICES

A copy of correspondence from the Municipality of Shelburne to the Nova Scotia Minister of Justice regarding the Shelburne Town Prosecution Services was circulated to members for their information. This letter was sent to the Minister on December 21, 2010 to reiterate the position of the Municipality that removal of these services is not satisfactory.

CLYDE RIVER BRIDGE

The bridge over the Clyde River has been restricted to one lane traffic for a period of at least a month. At the present time there has been no public information provided by the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation regarding the requirement for this restriction and any corrective action being taken.

Resolution COW110114

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to the Nova Scotia Minister of Transportation and to the local office of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal asking the Department to make a public statement indicating what is wrong with the Clyde River Bridge, whether or not it can be fixed, and if it can be fixed, when will it be fixed.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 9:20 p.m.

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting

On website January 5, 2011.