

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

December 5, 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:

- George El-Jakl, Chair
- Murray Atkinson
- Louise Halliday
- Shaun Hatfield
- Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
- Cecil O'Donnell
- Cathy Stoddard (7:05 p.m.)

- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Upper Clyde Road.
- Baccaro Lighthouse Road.
- South West Nova Biosphere Reserve.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by M. Atkinson and seconded by D. Messenger that the minutes of the last previous meeting held November 21, 2011 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

SPCA TABLED MOTION

At the committee meeting held September 19, 2011 the following motion was tabled until responses were received from correspondence to the Province and the main office of the Nova Scotia SPCA:

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality determine its ability to provide municipal property for an SPCA location.

Correspondence has subsequently been received from both the Province and the Nova Scotia SPCA which has been forwarded to the local animal care groups. As a result of this correspondence it is apparent that these groups should communicate directly with the Nova Scotia SPCA if they wish to establish a branch of that organization in Shelburne County.

It was agreed by the mover and seconder that the motion should now be withdrawn in light of the responses received from the Minister and from the Nova Scotia SPCA.

It was the consensus of members that the care of animals and the enforcement of animal welfare is a provincial responsibility which has been delegated to the Nova Scotia SPCA.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS REQUEST AT ARENA

Correspondence has been received from a local resident requesting the Municipality to determine if it is possible to provide more comfortable handicapped accessibility at the Arena. Correspondence was circulated to all members for their information and review.

Resolution COW111201

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by C. Stoddard that it be recommended to Council that Municipal employees investigate the ability of providing a heated area for handicapped patrons at the Arena.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution COW111202

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. Stoddard that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to Ms. Debbie Atkinson informing her of the action being taken by the Municipality in response to her request.

Motion carried unanimously.

FUNDING REQUEST RE: BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Correspondence has been received requesting the Municipality to provide a donation of \$500.00 for a Junior High Basketball Tournament to be held at the local High School. This request does not fit the Municipality's Activities Fund Policy which provides for contributions to provincial tournaments and higher.

Resolution COW111203

Moved by C. Stoddard and seconded by S. Hatfield that it be recommended to Council that the individual making this request be informed that it does not fit municipal policy, however, the Municipality will donate items for the Christmas basket which is being sold to raise funds for this event.

Motion carried unanimously.

COST-SHARED PAVING OF “J” CLASS SUBDIVISION STREETS 2012-13

Correspondence has been received from the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal requesting the Municipality to indicate what roads they wish to cost-share for paving in the coming fiscal year. The Municipality had previously submitted a letter requesting the paving of the lower portion of McGray Avenue. At the present time there are no other suggestions for additional paving of roads.

GAS TAX FUNDS

Correspondence has been received, by email, from Service Nova Scotia indicating that Gas Tax Funds must now be placed in a segregated interest bearing capital reserve account as required by the Municipal Funding Agreement. In order to do this a new account must be opened at the bank and the funds transferred from the Special Reserve Capital account to the new account.

Resolution COW111204

Moved by L. Halliday and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality open a separate account that is a segregated interest bearing capital reserve account for the Municipality in order to deposit our Gas Tax Funds in an account unique to those funds only and the Municipality's Gas Tax Funds be transferred into the new account.

Motion carried unanimously.

DOG BY-LAW

Correspondence has been received by email from Pet Projects requesting that the Municipality incorporate tethering provisions into its dog by-law. This information has been circulated to all members for their consideration.

It was the consensus of members that it is not practical for the Municipality to incorporate such measures into its by-law. It was suggested that this matter be included in the next Warden's Report including the humane provisions for tethering animals and encouraging individuals to report to the SPCA any observed abuse of animals.

Resolution COW111205

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that it be included in the next Warden's Report information regarding the proper care for animals during winter months and the proper tethering of animals, including the suggested length of a tether and the location of tethers in regards to obstruction of animals, and that information also be included in the Warden's Report concerning the proper care for pets especially during winter months.

Motion carried unanimously.

MUNICIPAL PLEBISCITES

Several questions were asked regarding a possible plebiscite to be contained in the next municipal election. The following information was provided in response to these questions:

1. Regardless of the results of a plebiscite Council still makes any decision concerning the matter under consideration.
2. Costs of a plebiscite are minimal if held during a regular municipal election. There will be a cost for additional ballots, but costs for election personnel and polling stations have already been incurred.
- _____ 3. Costs of electing a Mayor at large in a special election are significant and it is estimated the cost of such an election would be in the range of \$12,000.00.

There was some question regarding whether or not the Municipality could have an election for a mayor sometime in the period immediately following the next municipal election. The Municipal Solicitor will be consulted regarding this question. There was also some concern regarding the difference between a mayor and warden and what information would be provided to the public.

RECREATION POLICIES

Information was provided by the Recreation Director regarding the recreation policies and rental agreements used by other municipalities in the area. This information was obtained from the Municipality of Argyle, the Municipality of Yarmouth, Municipality of Shelburne, Region of Queens, Municipality of Lunenburg and Municipality of Digby. Only one department had any policy regarding rental of facilities which was in Yarmouth. This information was circulated to members prior to the meeting.

Members wish to further digest this information and discuss it again at a committee meeting in late January.

MOTOR VEHICLE ACT RE: CROSSWALKS

Members were informed that the Motor Vehicle Act requires that where pedestrian movements are not controlled by traffic signals the driver of a vehicle shall yield the right of way to a pedestrian lawfully within a crosswalk or stopped facing a crosswalk. The Motor Vehicle Act does not require vehicles to stop at every crosswalk when pedestrians are not present.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REGISTRATIONS

Under Policy No. 54, fire departments are required to provide a variety of information to the Municipality each year. Registration forms are circulated to the fire departments each year and they are required to return them to the Municipal Office no later than April 1st. There has been much delay in obtaining the information from the fire departments this year. All the information has now been obtained from the fire departments except the budget from the Port Clyde Volunteer Fire Department. Council is now being requested to pass a motion to authorize the Clerk to sign the registration forms for the fire departments.

Resolution COW111206

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by S. Hatfield that it be recommended to Council that the Clerk be authorized by Council to sign the registration forms for the fire departments.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was the consensus of members that Councillor O'Donnell contact the Chief of the Port Clyde Volunteer Fire Department to obtain a budget from him for that department for the current year.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Members were informed by memo that a committee meeting is scheduled to be held on December 19th, which is the Monday before Christmas. The subsequent committee meeting after that will be scheduled for January 3, 2012 since January 2nd will be a holiday.

There are two committee meetings scheduled between council meetings. It was agreed by members that the December 19th committee meeting will be cancelled.

HIRING COMMITTEE

Members were informed there will be a Hiring Committee Meeting for the purpose of interviewing two applicants for the position of Municipal Physical Activity Leader. A Hiring Committee Meeting is scheduled for 1:15 p.m., Wednesday, December 14, 2011.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

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

UPPER CLYDE ROAD

Members were informed that there are three holes in the chip seal on the Upper Clyde Road just over the hill past the former Manor Inn.

Resolution COW111207

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that correspondence be sent to the Department of Transportation asking them to patch and repair the holes in the chip seal on the Upper Clyde Road.

Motion carried unanimously.

BACCARO LIGHTHOUSE ROAD

Members were informed that rock has been located on the Baccaro Lighthouse Road, however, there has been no evident repair done to the road itself.

Resolution COW111208

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Minister of Transportation, or the Deputy Minister of Transportation, and our local MLA, be asked to inspect the Baccaro Lighthouse Road and other roads in the Municipality to determine the need for repair of these roads.

Motion carried unanimously.

SOUTH WEST NOVA BIOSPHERE RESERVE ASSOCIATION

Correspondence has been received from the South West Nova Biosphere Reserve Association thanking the Municipality for their support in the past and that they will also be seeking support and partnership in realizing the newly updated vision and mission of the association.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned by mutual consent of members at 9:10 p.m.

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting

On website December 6, 2011.