

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Barrington Municipal Council held in the Council Chambers, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington, N.S., on Monday, January 24, 2011.

The meeting was called to order by the Warden at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk reported that all councillors representing all districts of the Municipality were present:

- Warden George El-Jakl
- Deputy Warden Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
- Councillor Murray Atkinson
- Councillor Louise Halliday
- Councillor Shaun Hatfield
- Councillor Cecil O'Donnell
- Councillor Cathy Stoddard

- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk
- Lesa Rossetti, Deputy Clerk

CLOSED SESSION OF COUNCIL

At 6:00 p.m. a Closed Session of Council was held, by the Warden and members of Council only, to deal with the Organizational Study.

At 6:30 p.m. the Clerk-Treasurer and Deputy Clerk attended the Closed Session to deal with a personnel matter.

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Councillor Atkinson informed members that he will declaring conflict of interest when dealing with the "38th Left Handers World Curling Championship".

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by M. Atkinson and seconded by D. Messenger that the minutes of the regular meeting of Council held January 10, 2011 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Potential Education Budget Cuts

In advance to the meeting each member was provided with a copy of a letter received from the Minister of Education, Marilyn More. The letter advised that earlier this year the government asked all government departments and agencies to prepare spending scenerio reductions of either 5% or 10% over the next three years.

The Department of Education's budget is the second largest budgetary item of government and has not been exempt from this exercise. The majority of the Department of Education's budget is, in fact, flow through funding to other entities with the largest portion flowing to school boards. Boards have prepared a preliminary analysis of the impact of spending scenario reductions over a three year period which will be used in budgetary discussions as they prepare for the 2011/2012 fiscal year.

In closing, the Minister advised that she is confident that the government will take a balanced approach to re-establishing a fiscal framework that is sustainable for the province and that the student's educational opportunities will be at the forefront of their decision making.

Biosolids

In advance to the meeting each member was provided with a copy of a letter received from the Minister of Environment, the Honourable Sterling Belliveau, regarding the use of biosolids. The Minister advised that a variety of biosolids management options are being used by municipalities. There are several municipalities and private lagoon operators that have viewed demonstrations of the ABCO Industry system. This technology allows for the solids to be de-watered and the liquid to be returned to the septic tank or lagoon. The solids can then be processed for land application or for energy production. The Minister further advised that energy production from biosolids is being explored by N-Viro Systems Canada using alkaline stabilized biosolids.

The Clerk also informed members that information has been received from N-Viro Systems Canada regarding the use of biosolids and have asked for an opportunity to address Council.

Resolution C110127

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by D. Messenger that N-Viro Systems Canada be invited to attend an upcoming Council meeting to explain the science behind the beneficial use of biosolids.

Motion carried unanimously.

Crow Neck Beach

As a result of our letter to the Minister of Environment reminding him of the request of local residents for the Province to provide access to Crow Neck Beach located in East Baccaro, correspondence has now been received from the Department of Natural Resources. The letter advised that the Department is conducting a preliminary review of the property at Crow Neck Beach in East Baccaro to see if it fits into one or more departmental land purchase priorities. If it is supported by the review, it will be added to the list of properties the Department is interested in purchasing. As funding becomes available, the Department chooses properties from the list.

Resolution C110128

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by D. Messenger that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Natural Resources asking whether public access to the beach would be granted if the property was purchased by the province.

Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Capped Assessment Program

In advance to the meeting members were provided with a copy of a letter addressed to the Minister of Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations, from the Nova Scotia Association of Realtors, regarding the Capped Assessment Program. In closing, the NSAR is requesting the provincial government to consider an overhaul of the tax system to make it equitable. They further asked that this be done with the input of not only the public, but with chief stakeholders who have a vested interest in the provincial economy and quality of life, including their association.

Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation's Annual Report

It was reported that a copy of the 2009/2010 Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation's Annual Report has been received. Councillors wishing to view the report may do so by contacting the Municipal Office.

Crown Land

Correspondence has been received from the Department of Natural Resources regarding changes in the calculation of crown land. The original data collection for crown land area was done manually using the hard copy mapping processes. The Department has completed a detailed geographic information system review in 2009. The DNR paper records of crown land in the Municipality of Barrington showed 81,062 acres. The DNR GIS records of crown land showed 65,455 acres, a difference of 15,607 acres. Since Grant in Lieu of taxes are paid based on acreage this will result in \$6,243.00 being lost from the Grant in Lieu payment.

Yarmouth/Maine Ferry Economic Impact

Correspondence has been received from Jerry Locke, Director, Community and Economic Development, Town of Shelburne, regarding the Yarmouth/Maine International Ferry. Mr. Locke advised that the Shelburne Chamber of Commerce, with funding partners from Yarmouth and Barrington Chamber of Commerce, commissioned the Yarmouth/Maine Ferry Economic Impact Study. The study asked if the \$6,000,000 invested in the ferry was a good investment for the Province of Nova Scotia. The study shows the investment in the Yarmouth/Maine Ferry would have produced the 4.25% rate of return required by the Province for investment, paid back the \$6,000,000 investment and generated an additional \$9,000,000 in returns.

Mr. Locke advised that the Chamber of Commerce has been requested to make a presentation to the Standing Committee on Economic Development for the Province of Nova Scotia on February 8, 2011. The Chamber would like to have a letter of support from the Municipality of Barrington to be presented to the Standing Committee on February 8th. Mr. Locke is requesting that the letter of support be emailed to him and copied to the Honourable Percy Paris, Minister of Economic & Rural Development.

Resolution C110129

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by M. Atkinson that a letter of support for the re-establishment of the Yarmouth/Maine ferry service be provided to the Town of Shelburne, and that the letter be customized to the Municipality of Barrington.

Motion carried unanimously.

Request from Shag Harbour/Bear Point Volunteer Fire Department

Correspondence has been received from Mr. Jason Shand, Deputy Chief and Treasurer for the Shag Harbour/Bear Point Volunteer Fire Department. The letter advised that the Department has been approved to receive up to \$10,563.00 from the Emergency Service Provider Fund toward the purchase of equipment. This amount represents 50% of the total cost of the equipment, leaving the Department responsible for the remainder. The Department is requesting a loan from the Municipality for up to \$10,000.00 to be paid back by the Department over a period of 30 months. They are also requesting an additional \$5,000 loan from the Municipality to cover the rest of the costs until the equipment has been paid for and the ESPF has reimbursed them with the remaining funds.

Resolution C110130

Moved by L. Halliday and seconded by M. Atkinson that the request from the Shag Harbour/Bear Point Volunteer Fire Department be referred to the January 31, 2011 Committee of the Whole Council meeting when members will meet with fire department representatives.

Motion carried unanimously.

Repairs to Oak Park Road

A copy of a letter has been received from the Municipality of Argyle addressed to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal regarding repairs to the old Oak Park Road.

Resolution C110131

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by D. Messenger that the letter received from the Municipality of Argyle be referred to the February 1, 2011 Committee of the Whole Council Meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

Tri-County Regional Science & Technology Expo

The Tri-County Regional Science & Technology Expo will be held this year on March 30, 2011 at the Nova Scotia Community College, Burrige Campus, in Yarmouth. They are requesting a donation towards the event.

Resolution C110132

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by C. Stoddard that the Tri-County Regional Science & Technology Expo be provided with a couple of t-shirts/sweatshirts containing the municipal logo and expenses be paid for any councillor wishing to attend.

Motion carried unanimously.

Senior Safety Grant 2011-2012

Correspondence has been received from the Department of Seniors advising that the Shelburne County Senior Safety Society has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$20,000 to support a Senior Safety Program in Shelburne County.

REPORT OF COUNCILLORS

Councillor Cecil O'Donnell

Councillor O'Donnell gave a brief report on his activities since the last meeting of Council.

Councillor Louise Halliday

Councillor Halliday gave a brief report on her activities since the last meeting of Council.

Deputy Warden Donna LeBlanc-Messenger

Deputy Warden Donna LeBlanc-Messenger gave a brief report on her activities since the last meeting of Council.

Deputy Warden Messenger also provided a brief report on the Community Health Care Advisory Committee meeting held January 18, 2011.

Resolution C110133

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by L. Halliday that a letter be forwarded to health care professionals in the Municipality asking for their ideas to better health care in our community, and that all health care professionals be advised of our meetings and indicate that their attendance is welcome.

Motion carried unanimously.

Councillor Murray Atkinson

Councillor Atkinson gave a brief report on his activities since the last meeting of Council.

Councillor Shaun Hatfield

Councillor Hatfield gave a brief report on his activities since the last meeting of Council.

Councillor Cathy Stoddard

Councillor Stoddard gave a brief report on her activities since the last meeting of Council.

MOTION AS A RESULT OF CLOSED SESSION OF COUNCIL

Yearly Increment

Resolution C110134

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by D. Messenger that Shelly Blinkhorn, Arena Manager, be granted her yearly increment.

Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Councillor Cathy Stoddard reported on committee recommendations.

Region 6 Solid Waste Management

Resolution C110135

Moved by M. Atkinson and seconded by C. O'Donnell that Region 6 Solid Waste Management Committee Budget for the fiscal year 2011/2012 be approved.

Motion carried unanimously.

Community Litter Clean-up

Resolution C110136

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by C. O'Donnell that a contest be initiated in the local elementary schools for the Community Litter Clean-up Program to increase the education level of students in regards to littering in the community.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution C110137

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by C. O'Donnell that recognition in the form of a poster be presented to the local Tim Horton's franchise in recognition of their continued support of the Community Litter Clean-up Program.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution C110138

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by M. Atkinson that \$10,000 be included in the Municipal Budget for the purpose of the 2011 Community Litter Clean-up Program.

Motion carried unanimously.

Community Grant Request

Resolution C110139

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by M. Atkinson that a Community Grant of \$500.00 be provided from the District 3 Community Grants Fund to the Barrington Minor Ball for the purpose of erecting seats at the Barrington Ballfield.

Motion carried unanimously.

Seal Island Lighthouse Museum Repairs

Resolution C110140

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by D. Messenger that the Municipality request a grant of \$80,000 from the Province of Nova Scotia for the purpose of repairing the Seal Island light.

Motion carried unanimously.

REPORT OF WARDEN

The Warden gave a brief report on his activities since the last meeting of Council.

REPORT OF CLERK-TREASURER

The Clerk-Treasurer gave a report on his activities during the month of December.

NEW BUSINESS

Sign Request

Lloyd d'Eon of Vernon d'Eon's Lobster Plugs has advised that they are moving their business to the old gym at the former BMHS building in Barrington Passage and is requesting permission to place a sign in front of the soccer field on municipal property.

Resolution C110141

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by D. Messenger that the request received from Lloyd d'Eon of Vernon d'Eon Lobster Plugs be referred to the Committee of the Whole for further discussion and that the Municipal Clerk contact the soccer association regarding a sign being placed in this area.

Motion carried unanimously.

Notice of Consideration - New Economic Development Grant Policy

Notice was given that consideration of the New Economic Development Grant Policy will take place at the next meeting of Council.

Members were provided with a copy of the new policy in advance to the meeting.

38th Left Handers' World Curling Championship

Conflict of Interest

Councillor Murray Atkinson declared conflict of interest, vacated his seat and proceeded to the spectator area. Councillor Atkinson is a member of the team that will be competing in the 38th Left Handers World Curling Championship.

Correspondence has been received from the Barrington Regional Curling Club advising that a team from the Barrington Regional Curling Club has been accepted to compete in the 38th Left Handers World Curling Championship. The letter advised that the team would be willing to take literature, maps and other promotional materials for distribution at this event, and has asked that they be considered for any financial support programs the Municipality may have.

A copy of the Activities Funds Policy was provided to Mr. Robert Cushing and an application has been received. A financial statement was not provided with the application. Mr. Cushing has advised that as a team they are associated with, and are members of, the Barrington Regional Curling Club, but are neither supported financially by the Club, nor are representing it. He further advised that they are individually responsible for all expenses.

Resolution C110142

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded S. Hatfield that the letter received from Mr. Robert Cushing regarding the 38th Left Handers World Curling Championship be referred to the Committee of the Whole for further discussion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Extension of Skills Development Program

The Seniors Safety Coordinator has advised that application can be made to the provincial government to have the Skills Development Program extended to March 31, 2011. The program is scheduled to terminate February 26, 2011 with \$3,000.00 remaining in the budget.

Resolution C110143

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by M. Atkinson that the Seniors Safety Coordinator be requested to make application to Employment Nova Scotia to extend the Skills Development Program to March 31, 2011.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by C. O'Donnell that the meeting adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Warden

Clerk

Secretary for the Meeting

On website January 26, 2011.