

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

January 3, 2012

The meeting was called to order by the Deputy Warden at 6:30 p.m., in the Conference Room, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington, N.S., with the following members present:

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

Warden El-Jakl was absent on vacation.

- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

CLOSED SESSION

Members entered into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing legal issues in relation to the former B.M.H.S. property and the rental of municipal property to Dr. Kim Mailman.

Conflict of Interest

Deputy Warden Messenger declared conflict of interest as her husband has been contracted by Dr. Mailman. She then vacated her place at the table and left the meeting room.

Moved by C. Stoddard and seconded by M. Atkinson that Cecil O'Donnell be nominated chair of the meeting.

Councillor O'Donnell declined.

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by S. Hatfield that Cathy Stoddard be nominated Chair of the meeting.

Councillor Stoddard accepted the nomination.

Having asked three times and heard no further nominations, the Clerk declared Councillor Stoddard elected as Chair of the meeting by acclamation.

There then followed discussion of the previously mentioned two matters.

Having completed their discussion in Closed Session, members then returned to Open Session at 7:00 p.m.

Deputy Warden Messenger then resumed the Chair.

REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION

Former B.M.H.S. Property

Resolution COW120101

Moved by C. Stoddard and seconded by C. O'Donnell that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality instruct the Municipal Solicitor, Mr. Kevin MacDonald, to submit a defense to the legal action that has been commenced relating to the former B.M.H.S. property, and also submit a cross claim to the Tri-County Regional School Board.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Committee and Board Memberships.
- North East Point Look-Off.
- Fireworks at North East Point.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by M. Atkinson and seconded by C. Stoddard that the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by C. Stoddard that the minutes of the last previous meeting held December 5, 2011 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

BARRINGTON REGIONAL CURLING CLUB MONTHLY REPORT

Mr. Elwin Smith, President of the Barrington Regional Curling Club, appeared before the meeting for the purpose of bringing members up to date. Mr. Smith informed members that membership of the Club is down again this year. They have done a preliminary projection of their financing and this projection indicates that they expect to be financially sound to the end of the season although it will be "very tight".

He also indicated there are two particular items they would like to address in the very near future. The first item is that their stones are wearing. Stones periodically need to be re-ground as the surface wears over time. This will need to be done sometime in the next year or two. The second item Mr. Smith brought to the members' attention is that members would like to have heat in the ice shed. It is estimated this would cost \$4,000 to \$5,000 and would be a much desired item for the older members of the Club. The Club is considering "streamlining" their membership fees next year. They are also considering having a new league start during the first week of January to accommodate members who cannot play earlier in the year. The meeting was informed by Mr. Smith that the Club will be hosting a provincial mixed tournament in March. Although this will not be a significant fundraiser, it will provide significant promotion and advertisement for the Curling Club.

Members were also informed that a cookbook fundraiser has been commenced and it is hoped that this will be an ongoing source of funds.

Mr. Smith indicated that the compressor had been shutting down and in order to resolve this matter, members of the Club had replaced two oil sensors. These oil sensors cost approximately \$400 each and the Club had paid for the first one that was installed. Mr. Smith is asking Council if the Municipality would pay for the other. The agreement with the Curling Club will be searched in order to determine who is responsible for the cost of the oil sensor.

Mr. Smith then retired from the meeting at approximately 7:25 p.m.

MEETING CHAIRS SCHEDULE

Resolution COW120102

Moved by C. Stoddard and seconded by S. Hatfield that the committee continue to alternate meeting chairs one meeting each month during the coming year.

Motion carried unanimously.

RENTAL RATE AT ARENA

It is proposed to add a rental rate at the Arena for transient vendors and traders. The proposed rental rate would be \$5,000 per event.

There then followed some discussion regarding the pros and cons of regulating business rentals at the Arena and on municipal property.

It was suggested that Council approve any rental of the entire Arena for any significant event being held at the Arena on an individual basis.

Resolution COW120103

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. Stoddard that it be recommended to Council that the Municipal Policy be amended so that Council consider any request for rental of the entire Arena for any significant event on an individual basis providing this resolution is legally acceptable on the advice of the Municipal Solicitor.

Motion carried unanimously.

PROPOSED POLICY AMENDMENTS

Article 25.01 - Personnel Policy Re: Occasion Fund

It is proposed that the Personnel Policy be amended by deducting \$1.00 per pay from each employee as a contribution to the employees' Occasion Fund. This matter has been submitted to the employees and the majority are in agreement for the reduction of \$1.00 per pay for this purpose.

Resolution COW120104

Moved by L. Halliday and seconded by C. Stoddard that the Municipality accept the proposed amendment to Article 25.01 of the Personnel Policy, and that notice be given to Council of the proposed amendment to the Personnel Policy.

Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel Policy Proposed Amendment to Article 8-A

It is proposed that Paragraph 8-A.01 of the Personnel Policy be amended to strike out the words: "Council Policy No. 20 dealing with Recreation Department Summer Staff", and replace it with "Council Policy No. 39 Hiring Policy". This is proposed because Policy No. 20 has been repealed and Policy No. 39 now covers the hiring of employees.

Policy No. 8- Recreation Committee Orientation Policy; Policy No. 9 – Financial Reports Policy; Policy No. 10 – Policy Governing use of Announcement Banner; Policy No. 13 – Fri-Y Program Guidelines

It is also proposed that Policy No. 8, "Recreation Committee Orientation Policy" be repealed; Policy No. 9 – Financial Reports Policy be repealed; Policy No. 10 "Policy Governing use of Announcement Banner" be repealed, and Policy No. 13 "Fri-Y Program Guidelines" be repealed.

Resolution COW120105

Moved by L. Halliday and seconded by M. Atkinson that notice be given to Council that Policies 8, 9, 10 and 13 are to be repealed.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution COW120106

Moved by C. Stoddard and seconded by C. O'Donnell that it be recommended to Council that notice be given that paragraph 8-A.01 will be amended to make it consistent with Policy 39 – Hiring Policy.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution COW120107

Moved by C. Stoddard and seconded by C. O'Donnell that it be recommended to Council that notice be given that the Personnel Policy in paragraph 8-B.01 will be amended. The amendment to this paragraph will be to add the sentence: "The Municipality may advertise both internally and externally at the same time if deemed necessary to expedite the hiring process." This paragraph is being added to make the Personnel Policy consistent with the Hiring Policy and to update it to the current practice which is being followed by Council.

Motion carried unanimously.

TELEVISED COUNCIL MEETINGS

It was suggested that the Municipality again look into televising council meetings on Eastlink Cable, if possible. Municipal Staff will research the cost of doing so and the procedures necessary in order to have it done.

MAYOR/WARDEN PLEBISCITE

Responses to questions of councillors regarding this matter have been previously circulated to them by email. The main concern was whether or not Council can elect a mayor shortly after holding a plebiscite. If approved by Council, a mayor would be elected at the next regular election scheduled after the plebiscite.

Members then discussed information that was circulated to them concerning a plebiscite that was held in the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg. The County of Lunenburg previously held a plebiscite and circulated information in their newsletter regarding the plebiscite that was held for the election of a mayor or warden.

Resolution COW120108

Moved by L. Halliday and seconded by S. Hatfield that it be recommended to Council that:

1. A plebiscite be held during the coming election asking the electorate if they preferred to elect a mayor or warden.
2. That information regarding the differences between a mayor and a warden be circulated to the general public by the Municipality with information similar to that circulated by the District of Lunenburg.
3. That this be done in a timely fashion prior to the 2012 municipal election.
4. Include information that the ultimate decision still remains with Council.
5. An election of a mayor would not take place until the subsequent municipal election in 2016.

Motion carried unanimously.

ELECTRONIC VOTING

Information that was previously obtained prior to the 2008 election was circulated to members. This information indicated the approximate cost of adding the electronic voting as an alternative means of electing Council. The cost of electronic voting for a small municipality like ours is considerable. There is potential that providing electronic voting could increase the turnout although there is no guarantee of this result.

At the present time no further action was indicated for this matter.

PARKING ALONG HIGHWAY 330

It is apparent from comments of the public received by councillors that vehicles, especially transport trucks, are parking along Highway #330 near the Superstore. These vehicles parking in this location are causing difficulty for vehicles entering or leaving the Superstore parking lot.

Resolution COW120109

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that correspondence be sent to the local RCMP Detachment asking them to monitor the area along Highway #330 near the Superstore parking lot and enforce the no parking zones which have signs posted.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution COW120110

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. O'Donnell that it be recommended to Council that a letter of thanks be sent to the Department of Transportation for placing the "no parking" signs along Highway #330 adjacent to the Superstore parking lot, and indicating to them the lack of effectiveness of these signs, and asking if there is additional means that may be employed in this area that would prevent parking by tractor trailers along this side of the road.

Motion carried unanimously.

DRAFT COASTAL STRATEGY

Information from the Senior Planner was circulated to members prior to the meeting. This information is his response to the draft Coastal Strategy on behalf of the Municipality. This information is provided to members for their review and comment. There were no further comments provided by members.

FIRE SERVICES COORDINATOR

Resolution COW120111

Moved by M. Atkinson and seconded by S. Hatfield that it be recommended to Council that the Fire Services Coordinator position again be referred to the Hiring Committee for further action.

Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNITY GRANT REQUEST

A Community Grant Request has been received from the Shag Harbour Community Hall. The Community Hall is requesting funding for the purpose of painting the exterior of the Community Centre which was formerly known as the Guiding Star Temperance Hall.

Resolution COW120112

Moved by L. Halliday and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that a Community Grant of \$900.00 be provided from the District 2 Community Grants Fund to the Shag Harbour Community Hall for the purpose of painting the exterior of their building.

Motion carried unanimously.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

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

COMMITTEE AND BOARD MEMBERSHIPS

It was brought to the attention of members that councillors who serve on various committees and boards that are not committees of Council are subject to the liabilities attached to these organizations. It is suggested that municipal councillors only participate in committees of Council to limit their individual liabilities and to ensure that they are adequately covered by the Municipality's insurance.

Members agreed to add this item to a future meeting agenda for further discussion.

NORTH EAST POINT LOOK-OFF

It was brought to the attention of members again that there is no access to the beach from the look-off that was constructed this summer at the North East Point Beach.

It was suggested that the Department of Natural Resources be approached regarding an egress from the North East Point Look-off to the beach area for purposes of maintaining the safety of patrons to this site.

Resolution COW120113

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that the Department of Natural Resources be contacted in an effort to provide a safe secondary egress from the North East Point Look-off in order to maintain the safety of the handicapped individuals who may be accessing this area.

Motion carried unanimously.

FIRE WORKS AT NORTH EAST POINT BEACH

Members were informed that as a result of the fireworks held the first week of December at the North East Point Beach there was some debris from the fireworks that was blown in the direction of the houses in the McGray Avenue area. This matter will be addressed with the Barrington Volunteer Fire Department who conducted the fireworks display so that steps will be taken to prevent this occurring again in the future.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 9:07 p.m.

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting

On website January 5, 2012.