

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

January 16, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Councillor Cecil O'Donnell, at 7:00 p.m., in the meeting room of the Port LaTour Volunteer Fire Department, in Port LaTour, N.S., with the following members present:

- Cecil O'Donnell
- Murray Atkinson
- George El-Jakl
- Louise Halliday
- Donna LeBlanc-Messenger

Absent was Councillor Shaun Hatfield who was away on vacation, and Councillor Cathy Stoddard due to illness.

- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

INTRODUCTIONS

Members introduced themselves to the public. There were five members of the public present at the meeting.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Upper Clyde Road.
- Lighthouse Road, Baccaro.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by M. Atkinson that the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by M. Atkinson and seconded by D. Messenger that minutes of the last previous meeting held January 3, 2012 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Chair then indicated to the public members present that the next portion of the meeting was devoted to consultation with the public members and asked if there were any matters that they wished to discuss.

The subject of access to Crow's Neck Beach was brought up to members for discussion. The public was informed that a letter had been sent to the Nova Scotia Nature Trust requesting them to upgrade their access to Crow's Neck Beach. The Nova Scotia Nature Trust purchased the property last August on which there is a driveway providing access to Crow's Neck Beach. This driveway is in a dilapidated state of repair. It is the only access to the beach on public property.

Municipal Staff will contact the Nova Scotia Nature Trust in order to get a response to the correspondence that has been sent to them.

The Chair then asked if there were any other matters to be brought forward by the public.

There being no response, the Chair then proceeded with the other items to be discussed at the meeting.

FIRE DEPARTMENT SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

Resolution COW120114

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by M. Atkinson that a letter be sent to the Fire Chief's Committee requesting a date for the Semi-Annual Meeting with Fire Departments.

Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE AND BOARD MEMBERS LIABILITY

Information was previously circulated to members regarding the liability of council members who sit on independent boards and committees. These members are subject to liability and are covered only by the insurance provided by those particular organizations.

It was suggested that copies of the insurance policies for Bay Side Home, Yarmouth Hospital Charitable Foundation, Roseway Hospital Charitable Foundation, Western Counties Regional Library and the Joint Police Advisory Board be provided at the next Committee of the Whole meeting so that members could further discuss their liability on these boards.

This matter will again be discussed at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

DRAFT MUNICIPAL FIRE INSPECTION POLICY

A draft policy respecting a system of municipal fire inspections has been prepared by Municipal Staff and circulated to members for their consideration. Service Nova Scotia has mandated municipalities to develop a system of municipal fire inspections which this policy addresses. There are currently 139 properties within the Municipality that have been inspected by the Municipal Fire Inspector. This system of municipal fire inspections formalizes the protocol for completing fire inspections within the Municipality and provides a systematic manner of having them done on a repeated basis.

Resolution COW120115

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by M. Atkinson that Council be given notice of the proposed policy respecting a system of Municipal fire inspections.

Motion carried unanimously.

MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER

It is proposed that the current Warden's Report being published periodically in the local newspaper be replaced with a newsletter that will be circulated to all residences in the Municipality on a periodic basis. The newsletter will be circulated to all residences so that it receives wider public circulation and better informs the public regarding municipal affairs. The newsletter will be circulated together with Recreation Department information. The Recreation Department currently circulates a two page newsletter to all residences approximately twice a year. This will be incorporated into the municipal newsletter reducing the overall cost to the Municipality. By replacing the Warden's Report with this newsletter, the cost will further be reduced so that the overall cost to the taxpayers for the proposed newsletter will be minimal.

Resolution COW120116

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality circulate a municipal newsletter to all residences in the Municipality twice during the next year on a trial basis, and that the public be asked to comment on whether or not they wish to receive the newsletter.

Motion carried unanimously.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Council has previously approved participating in an Economic Development Council for the region covering Yarmouth County, Shelburne County and the District of Clare. As a result it is now necessary for Council to appoint a business person to serve on the Economic Development Council. This group is asking that a business person be appointed from the Municipality by February 17, 2012. Concern was expressed by members that the business of the former Regional Development Authority has not yet been settled and there may be difficulty in getting a member as a result.

Resolution COW120117

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to the local Chamber of Commerce asking them to provide a name or names of business persons who may wish to serve on an Economic Development Council for the region.

Motion carried unanimously.

TAX WRITE-OFF

After much research and consultation with our Solicitor, it has been determined that the outstanding taxes on a property assessed to 3088837 Nova Scotia Limited are uncollectible as the property does not exist.

Resolution COW120118

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that the outstanding taxes and interest assessed on property #8022205, in the amount of approximately \$7,245.00, be written off as uncollectible.

Motion carried unanimously.

LITTER CLEAN-UP

Each year for the past several years the Municipality has been conducting a Community Litter Clean-up Program.

Resolution COW120119

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality include \$10,000 in its 2012-2013 budget for the Community Litter Clean-up Incentive Program, to local groups and individuals, to clean litter from the highways within the Municipality.

Motion carried unanimously.

SOU'WEST TRANSIT

Correspondence has been received from Sou'West Transit indicating that they wish to obtain the funds from the N.S. Trip Program being held by the Municipality. The Municipality currently holds \$6,806.00 in its reserve fund from a N.S. Trip Grant that was provided two years ago by the Province. The Sou'West Transit organization is requesting these funds be provided to them.

There was some question regarding funding of this group by other municipal units in the County.

Resolution COW120120

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by L. Halliday that this request be referred to Council for consideration at its next meeting after information is obtained on funding by the other municipal units in the County.

Motion carried unanimously.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

The Schedule of Fees was circulated to members for their information and review.

UPPER CLYDE ROAD

Resolution COW120121

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to the local Department of Transportation asking if they can paint a centre line on the road that has been chip sealed in Upper Clyde.

Motion carried unanimously.

LIGHTHOUSE ROAD, BACCARO

It was questioned whether a response has been received to the correspondence sent to the Department of Transportation regarding the completion of maintenance work on this road. To date, no response has been received.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 7:55 p.m.

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting

On website January 17, 2012.

