

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

January 13, 2014

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

- Lindsay (Eddie) Nickerson
- Jody Crook
- George El-Jakl
- Shaun Hatfield
- Donna LeBlanc-Messenger

- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

Although a Closed Session of Committee of the Whole was scheduled to precede this meeting, it was agreed by consensus of members that the Closed Session would be held after the public meeting.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Woodland Multi Use Trail Association Request for Letter of Support.
- Parking at the Funeral Home.
- Illegal Dumping.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by J. Crook and seconded by G. El-Jakl that minutes of the meeting held December 16, 2013 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

FIRE SERVICES

Quarterly Report

The Fire Services Coordinator appeared before the meeting for the purpose of providing his Quarterly Report for the three months ended December 31, 2013. The Coordinator provided a written report which he reviewed for councillors. He indicated that the fire departments were looking into an automatic dispatch system using communication's boxes that would be placed on Eastlink towers in the community. Further information will be obtained before proceeding with this method of dispatch.

Members then proceeded to discuss the proposed changes for Fire Services in the Municipality. Members discussed the proposed Organization Chart of the Barrington Municipal Fire Service. There was some question as to whether the present Coordinator would become the Fire Chief in this organization, or whether the Fire Chief would be a separate individual appointed or elected on a volunteer basis. The Fire Services Coordinator suggested that the next Coordinator would also be the Chief. In the interim, the Fire Chief would be chosen as a volunteer.

There then followed some discussion of the decision recently made by the Fire Services Advisory Committee concerning the purchase of a compressor and air packs for the Fire Services.

It was the consensus of members that the Fire Services Advisory Committee will be asked to recommend whether or not the Fire Chief should be a fulltime employee or a volunteer.

There was some question as to where the Fire Services Coordinator and the Fire Services Advisory Committee fits into the Organization Chart. Various scenarios were suggested.

The Chair of the meeting then recessed this discussion in order to provide time for discussion of heating at the Old Court House as scheduled on the agenda.

OLD COURT HOUSE HEATING

Brenda Maxwell, Manager of the Cape Sable Historical Society, appeared before the meeting for the purpose of discussing the heating of the Old Court House building. She indicated that the building was required to be heated in order to maintain the condition of the artifacts within the building, and more so to maintain the condition of the building itself. She stated that the front two offices on the right are cold and that dampness seems to be "setting in". There is a rotten beam which needs to be replaced to the right of the front door. She suggested that if the upstairs were heated it could be used for craft shows and displays and possibly be used by the Emergency Management Organization. It was indicated that the building is used two times per week for the winter months beginning in October and extending until the first of May. During the summer months the building is used seven (7) days a week.

The sentiment was expressed that the Municipality does not want to spend money on heating this building if it is not up to an adequate standard. It was suggested that artifacts could be moved to another location during the winter months.

Mrs. Maxwell indicated that there are a multitude of artifacts and that a vault would be needed to protect them from theft and fire, and it would take several days to move them. She indicated there are still old radiators and piping in the building which had been filled with antifreeze. She believes these are still usable and could be used if a new furnace were installed.

It was suggested that the building needs insulation and other work in order to make it "more heatable". Information had previously been provided regarding grants that may be obtained. There were some limitations on these grants and a qualification for the grant required that the Municipality provide 50% funding. It was estimated by a member that the building would require \$300,000 to \$400,000 investment in order to refurbish it. The issue with the building is retention of heat, not the supply of heat. It was suggested that insulation could be provided in the office space only in order to accommodate the workers for the Society. Mrs. Maxwell will check on the possibility of grants and forward the information to the Municipality.

Having completed her discussion of the matter, Mrs. Maxwell retired from the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

FIRE SERVICES CONTINUED

Members then continued to discuss the changes proposed for Fire Services in the Municipality. This discussion centered around the Fire Services Advisory Committee and Coordinator. These positions need to be more clearly defined within the Organization Chart. It was the consensus of members that the Committee be asked where these two positions fit in the Fire Services Organization Chart.

Members then discussed the Area Fire Rates and the funding of Fire Services. It was suggested that there be three separate Area Fire Rates put in place; one in the Woods Harbour/Shag Harbour area, one in Island/Barrington Passage area, and one in the Barrington/Port Clyde/Port LaTour area. The five fire departments that are currently in place would stay registered and budgets would be prepared separately for each of them, at least for the next two years.

Members then continued discussion of the air compressor purchase which had been proposed. The Woods Harbour Shag Harbour Fire Department has a concern with this purchase. They indicate that the Area Rate in the Woods Harbour Shag Harbour area is already more than the other Area Rates and this would increase it even further. They would prefer one uniform Area Rate across the Municipality as recommended in the Fire Services Study.

It was suggested that the departments are picking things that they wish to do out of the Study and ignoring other parts which they do not wish to do.

It was suggested to members that Policy No. 18 needs to be repealed and a draft by-law or policy needs to be put in place by April 1st to provide funding for the coming year.

It was suggested that draft scenarios be developed for consideration at the next meeting of the Committee. These draft scenarios would include three area fire rates as previously indicated, using the previous years' budget estimates, and the current years' estimated assessments.

It was also the consensus of members that a letter be sent to each fire department and the Fire Services Advisory Committee indicating the method of funding and the overall Area Rates that are anticipated to be put in effect.

More discussion of the use of air packs and when they would be used followed.

Members also discussed briefly the accounting for fire departments. It was the consensus of members that the accounting for fire departments would all be done through the Municipality so that all the bills would come through the Fire Services Coordinator to the Municipality and be paid for through the Municipality.

It was also agreed that correspondence be sent to the Fire Service Advisory Committee and the individual Departments indicating the system of accounting for fire services in future, the method of budgeting, and the funding that would be put in place through Area Rates.

Members were then advised that a request had been received from Arthur Smith, by telephone. Mr. Smith is asking the Municipality to have the fire departments purchase fuel from the various service stations within the Municipality on a rotating basis. There was some question as to how practical this would be.

It was the consensus of members that this request be forwarded to the Fire Services Advisory Committee for their advice.

Members were also informed that the turnout gear that had been previously damaged in a fire was now being covered by the insurance company.

Having completed their discussion of the Fire Services, David Kendrick retired from the meeting at 9:26 p.m.

WOODLAND MULTI-USE TRAIL ASSOCIATION REQUEST

Councillor Hatfield vacated the meeting briefly in order to make a personal phone call.

Members were informed that a request has been received from the Woodland Multi-Use Trail Association for a letter of support for their next project. The next project they wish to undertake is completing the trail from the end of the Barrington Bay Trail in Barrington Passage to the junction of Clement's Pond and Highway #103. This will connect the trails in the western and eastern ends of the Municipality and complete the trails throughout the Municipality. Applications are being submitted in the very near future for funding of this project. It is anticipated the project will be done during the summer of 2014.

Resolution COW140101

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by J. Crook that it be recommended to Council that a letter of support be provided to the Woodland Multi-Use Trail Association for inclusion in funding applications for the next phase of the multi-purpose trail within the Municipality of Barrington from Clements Pond to Barrington Passage.

Motion carried unanimously.

CLIMATE DATA PROJECT

Councillor Hatfield returned to the meeting at this time.

The Shelburne County Community Development Centre has sent correspondence indicating that they wish to continue the Climate Data Project for another two and one half years. Funding applications are being forwarded to the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and to the Provincial Government to obtain funds for this purpose. The Municipality is being requested to invest \$7,500 over the next two and one half years. This would be \$3,000 per year for the next two years and then \$1,500 for the final half year.

Resolution COW140102

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by S. Hatfield that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality support the Climate Data Project as requested and provide funding in the amount of \$7,500 in its budget for the next two and one half years.

Motion carried unanimously.

MINISTER'S TOUR

The new Minister for Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, Mr. Mark Furey, will visit the Municipality at 3:30 p.m., on January 27, 2014. The Minister will discuss municipal matters with Council at that time. The following items were suggested for discussion:

1. Use and funding of the Cape Sable Island Elementary School.
2. Provision of dialysis for residents.
3. Electrical generation at the Cape Sable Island Causeway.
4. Funding of a Collaborative Medical Clinic.
5. Cranberry Farming.
6. Community (Seniors) Hall in eastern portion of the Municipality.
7. Renovation of heritage properties.
8. Oil and natural gas exploration offshore.
9. D.O.T. road repairs.
10. Amalgamation sustainable criteria and rational for stipends.
11. Mandatory civic addressing.
12. Emergency Services Funding.

JANITORIAL SERVICES

Janitorial services have been provided on a contract basis since the illness of our previous janitor. It is now incumbent on Council to make a decision whether or not to hire a new janitor or to contract out janitorial services.

Resolution COW140103

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by J. Crook that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality tender the required janitorial services for the Municipality.

AFFIRMATIVE

Jody Crook
George El-Jakl
Shaun Hatfield
Eddie Nickerson

NEGATIVE

Donna LeBlanc-Messenger

Motion carried.

CONTINUATION OF MEETING

Having reached the hour of 10:00 p.m., members agreed by consensus that the meeting would continue until all matters have been dealt with.

NHL LEGENDS GAME

The information was provided to members concerning the proposed NHL Legends Game to be held in October of 2014.

Members requested that a recommendation be obtained from the Arena Manager concerning this event. Once this recommendation is obtained, the Committee will further consider the matter.

SCHOOL REVIEW CONSULTATION

Information regarding the School Review Consultation by the Province was previously circulated to members for their information. The next consultation session in this process is being held in Yarmouth tomorrow from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Resolution COW140104

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by J. Crook that the Municipality pay mileage and expenses of any councillors wishing to attend.

Motion carried unanimously.

CANADA POST FIVE-POINT ACTION PLAN

Information received at the Municipal Office was circulated to members explaining the Five-Point Action Plan of Canada Post. This Action Plan is necessary for Canada Post to improve its financial results which are at the present time unsatisfactory.

SIDEWALK BENCHES IN WOODS HARBOUR

This matter will be deferred to the next meeting of Council so that explanatory pictures may be shown at that time.

J-CLASS ROADS

It is necessary for the Municipality to submit any further J-class roads for which cost shared paving may be put in place. At the present time there is no further interest in paving additional roads.

Resolution COW140105

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by G. El-Jakl that the local Supervisor for the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal be invited to attend a Committee of the Whole meeting for the purpose of discussing road maintenance issues.

Motion carried unanimously.

BATEMAN ROAD

A member indicated that there had been an issue with the length of time it took to have snow plowed after the most recent snow storms at Bateman Road.

Resolution COW140106

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal concerning resurfacing and grading of Bateman Road, and plowing of it in a more timely manner after snow storms.

Motion carried unanimously.

PARKING AT THE FUNERAL HOME

There is much congestion in the area around the Funeral Home at the end of funerals that are held there. This congestion creates concerns for drivers in the area as there is much traffic going by on Highway #3.

It was the consensus of members that the Funeral Home should be contacted directly and bring this matter to their attention.

ILLEGAL DUMPING

It was suggested that cameras could be placed at various locations throughout the Municipality to help deter illegal dumping in various areas where it seems to occur on a regular basis.

More information will be obtained on the cost of placing such cameras, their effectiveness and potential locations, and brought back to the Committee for further consideration.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 10:50 p.m.

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting

On website January 14, 2014.