

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL
BUDGET MEETING
April 7, 2014**

The meeting was called to order by the Warden at 8:39 p.m., in the Conference Room, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington, N.S., with the following members present:

- Lindsay (Eddie) Nickerson, Chair
- Jody Crook
- Shaun Hatfield
- Donna LeBlanc-Messenger

- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

Absent was member George El-Jakl who was called away on business earlier in the evening.

PURPOSE OF MEETING

The purpose of this meeting was for members to continue their review of budget priorities for the coming year.

FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Fire Service Coordinator and the three Deputy Chiefs were invited to join the meeting for the purpose of this discussion. A spreadsheet was circulated to all members together with individual fire department budgets. The spreadsheet included a summary of the five individual departmental budgets which were reviewed and compared to a similar budget for the previous year. The three fire departments in the Eastern District were totaled to show comparative totals for the Eastern District compared to the Central District and Western District. The estimated expenditures budgeted for the coming year is \$745,567.00 compared to a total of \$737,414.00 for the previous year. The revenues for the current year are estimated to be considerably less than the revenues for the previous year. As a result, the amount required to be raised through area rates across the Municipality is \$556,397.00. This compares to an amount of \$522,482.00 required from municipal sources in the previous year. Estimated area rates are 18.6 cents in District 1, Woods Harbour/Shag Harbour; 9.4 cents in the Central District, Island/Barrington Passage; and 15.5 cents in the Eastern District, Barrington/Port Clyde/Port LaTour.

Members then discussed various aspects of the budget and expenses that were contained therein.

It was also indicated to members that assessment increases from the previous year to this year were very minimal, and this is anticipated to remain the same in the next several years.

Fire Department members expressed concern that the general tax rate would be reduced proportionally as the funding for fire services will now come completely from area rates. The Fire Department members also expressed concern that this be communicated to taxpayers.

Having completed their discussion of the proposed budget for the coming year, members then retired from the meeting at approximately 9:30 p.m.

It was then suggested that a press release regarding Fire Services be provided for public information in the very near future. This will be done through the Municipal Office as soon as possible.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Members then discussed the need for a Community Development Officer or an Economic Development Officer.

There was some discussion as to the function of this position and contents of a job description for this position.

It was agreed that job descriptions from other municipal units would be obtained for similar positions, and that a proposed job description would be developed.

It was also agreed that the local Chamber of Commerce and tourism operators including local restaurant operators would be consulted requesting their ideas and comments in regards to such a position.

NEXT BUDGET MEETING

It was suggested that members review the request for grants from various organizations within the Municipality at the next budget meeting.

It was agreed by members that the next budget meeting would be held on Thursday, April 17, 2014, at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 10:08 p.m.

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting

On website April 8, 2014.