

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL
BUDGET MEETING**

May 15, 2014

The meeting was called to order by the Deputy Warden at 7:05 p.m., in the meeting room at the Visitor Information Centre, in Barrington, N.S., with the following members present:

- Lindsay (Eddie) Nickerson, Chair (7:15 p.m.)
- Jody Crook
- George El-Jakl
- Shaun Hatfield
- Donna LeBlanc-Messenger

- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

Fire Services

David Kendrick, Fire Services Coordinator, reviewed the proposed expenditures for his office and also some general expenditures to be incurred for the Deputy Fire Chiefs in the coming year. There are some extra costs relative to the Deputy Fire Chiefs this year as they are just being put in place at the present time.

Members discussed the proposed expenditures submitted by the Fire Services Coordinator.

Having completed his presentation of his budget, the Fire Services Coordinator retired from the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Recreation

Anna Kenney, the Municipality's Recreation Director, reviewed the proposed revenues and expenditures related to the provision of recreation services in the Municipality. These included a new seniors' exercise program that has begun at the Sherose Island Recreation Centre.

The estimated costs of the Lobster Festival were reduced as the advertising costs which are shared by all municipal units in the County have been recorded as transient expenditures rather than Lobster Festival expenditures this year.

The new program equipment expenditures include the cost of the Municipality purchasing a sledge through the Recreation Department which will be used at the Barrington Municipal Arena. Purchasing this sledge will provide the Municipality with two of these devices. The second sledge is being purchased through a grant program from the Department of Health and Wellness.

The outdoor recreation expenditures includes an estimated \$1,700.00 for a skateboard ramp. The Recreation Director will ensure that all liability and insurance issues related to the use of a skateboard ramp owned by the Municipality are addressed adequately.

The Recreation Director indicated that there are 10-15 people currently subscribing to the seniors' exercise program at the Recreation Centre. This program is being conducted by Cindy Robicheau.

There then followed some discussion of the travel costs of the Municipal Physical Activity Leader. There was some discussion regarding the conference attended in New Brunswick.

It was indicated that a new accessibility ramp will be added and a new front door will be added to the Recreation Centre at Sherose Island. It was suggested that the Recreation Director make application for an accessibility grant for the ramp to be installed at this location. Service Nova Scotia provides accessibility grants that will cover two-thirds of the cost of accessibility ramps to a maximum of \$10,000.00.

It was agreed that the maintenance costs at the Woods Harbour Ball Field would be reduced to \$1,000.00 as this ball field is no longer being used by local teams. The field will be maintained to a minimum standard.

The Barrington municipal pool will see very few changes in its operation, however, it is necessary to replace the liner. The timing on replacing this liner may affect the dates that the pool is operated during this summer. Once the old liner is removed the cement floor under it will have to be re-evaluated. It may be necessary to have this floor partially or fully replaced. The amount of repair required to the floor will not be known until the liner has been removed. It was agreed that the repairs at the Barrington municipal pool could be used to an amount of \$3,000.00.

A proposal for upgrading the Sherose Nature Trail has been received from the Municipal Physical Activity Leader. This proposal will cost a total of \$6,750.00. Of this amount, the Municipality is being asked to provide \$3,125.00. The remainder of the cost will be sourced from grants from the Department of Health and Wellness in the amount of \$3,125.00 and \$500.00. It was agreed by members that a provision of \$4,000.00 from municipal funds should be included in the budget for this purpose.

Having completed her presentation and discussion of the Recreation Budget, the Recreation Director retired from the meeting at approximately 8:45 p.m.

Property Services

The Property Services Manager provided written estimates of the cost of various Property Services expenditures expected during the coming year.

It was indicated that the repairs and maintenance expenses for the coming year at the Administrative Centre will be less than they had been in the previous year. It is proposed that the inside walls of the Learning Centre will be painted some time during the coming year, and the cost of doing so has been included in the proposed expenditures.

It was also indicated that the CED Centre will be in need of repair, especially the roof at the CED/Library Centre which will be in need of major repairs in the next few years.

Expenditures related to the trucks have included replacement and repairs to the front end of the Dodge vehicles during the previous year. It is not anticipated that these repairs will be required again this year.

At the Landfill salaries have been reduced considerably as the number of employees there has been reduced from three to two. It is also recommended that the Municipality reduce the number of hours the Landfill is open so that the Landfill is open from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon on Saturdays and closed Saturday afternoons. It is also suggested that effective December 1st of each year the Landfill be closed on Mondays until March 31st of the following year. During the winter months the Landfill is much less busy than it is during the summer, and therefore it is not necessary to have it open 5 ½ days per week.

The sewer expenditures were then reviewed. It was noted that there is a small surplus in the Woods Harbour sewer and a small deficit in the Barrington sewer systems.

A list of capital expenditures was also reviewed by the Property Services Manager. These expenses include energy efficiency expenditures for the purpose of reducing the amount of fuel used by the Municipality, and oil and electricity used by the Municipality.

Having completed his discussion of his budget, the Property Services Manager then retired from the meeting at approximately 10:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

It was agreed by consensus of members that the next meeting to further discuss the budget would be held on Tuesday, May 27, 2014, at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 10:14 p.m.

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting

On website May 20, 2014.