

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL  
BUDGET MEETING**

**May 21, 2015**

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, 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
- Shaun Hatfield
- Donna LeBlanc-Messenger

Councillor El-Jakl was absent as he is away on vacation.

- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following item was added to the agenda:

- Hiring Committee Meeting.

2015-2016 BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

Managers of the various municipal departments appeared before the meeting in order to present their proposed budgets for the coming year.

Building Inspection

The Municipality's Building Inspector, David Andrews, appeared before the meeting and presented his proposed budget for the coming year. Written copies were circulated to all members for their information and review. There is very little change in the total amount of the budget for the coming year. Included in the budget is the purchase of a new GPS unit which has already been bought. This was purchased through a local supplier and has been working very well to date. A new printer will need to be purchased for the office. It was suggested that the Building Inspector's phone be enabled for texting. There were no other amendments considered for the budget and the Building Inspector completed his presentation at 7:17 p.m.

Fire Services

The Fire Services Coordinator, David Kendrick, appeared before the meeting for the purpose of presenting the budget for his services. Mr. Kendrick reviewed his budget in detail indicating why various expenses were increasing or decreasing. There was a provision added to the budget for engineering costs for a new paging system for the fire departments. It is proposed that a VHF Repeater System be installed on local towers owned by various businesses in the area. The estimated cost of having an engineering study done for this purpose would be in the range of \$8,000.00. There would also be additional costs to complete the paging system. These costs need to be confirmed and possible funding sought for this proposal. There are areas within the Municipality where communications are sporadic at best at the present time. It was indicated that there may be additional equipment costs and it was uncertain whether or not there would be tower rental costs.

More information will be gathered and provided in order to determine the amounts that should be included in the budget.

It was the consensus of committee members that these costs should be assigned to the departments on the basis of equal amounts to each department.

Having completed his presentation, Mr. Kendrick retired from the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

#### Tourism and Community Development

Suzy Atwood, the current Tourism Officer, presented a written budget to all members for their information and review. There was no comparable budget for the previous year for this department. The cost of the Nova Star ad for 2015 has been included in this year's budget. A variety of projects were included in the budget, including a *Hole in the Head* sign project, a *Big Chair* project and various others. The marketing project that was included will be a "selfie" guided tour of the Municipality. No amounts were included in this budget for contributions to South Shore Tourism, to the Shelburne County Tourism Association, to Tourism Nova Scotia or novascotia.com.

It was suggested that local businesses be consulted for funding for the *Big Chair* project.

It was also suggested that a large lobster pot be constructed to act as a venue for a farmer's market location in the future.

Having completed her discussion of the budget, Ms. Atwood retired from the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

#### Recreation Department

The Recreation Director, Anna Kenney, circulated copies of her proposed budget for the coming year. These included both revenues and expenses for various recreation programs for the Municipality.

It was noted that a wheelchair ramp is included in the Recreation Centre costs. An ACCESS-ability Grant from the Province will be applied for to assist in the funding for the cost of this ramp.

It was also indicated "chip timing" will be used at the Nova Scotia Marathon this year. It is hoped that by providing better T-shirts and better medals that additional runners will be attracted for this event.

The MPAL costs were also reviewed by members. There was much discussion regarding the proposed increase in the MPAL's salary. How the proposed increase was calculated was discussed by members.

Having completed her presentation, the Recreation Director retired from the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

#### Property Services

The Property Services Manager, Cameron Whiteway, appeared before the meeting and circulated copies of the proposed budget for the coming year. He indicated that trucking costs for salting have increased significantly over the last year and that the use of salt also increased during the previous year.

During discussion it was stated that the cost of operating  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton trucks was very high compared to the cost of using  $\frac{1}{2}$  ton trucks. It is believed that  $\frac{1}{2}$  ton trucks will serve the purpose for the Municipality and in future years the  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton trucks will be phased out in favor of  $\frac{1}{2}$  tons.

Members were informed that 19 loads of waste have been shipped to Queens as a result of the spring clean-up. This is a significant cost to the municipal waste collection program.

Capital expenditures were also reviewed and explained by the Property Services Manager.

Having completed his presentation and discussion, the Property Services Manager retired from the meeting at 9:37 p.m.

### C.S.I. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

#### Conflict of Interest

Deputy Warden Messenger declared conflict of interest as her husband is a local contractor who does work for one of the proponents wishing to purchase this property. The Deputy Warden having declared conflict of interest vacated the meeting room.

Committee members then discussed the pros and cons of the various proposals that have been received.

#### Resolution COW150512

**Moved** by S. Hatfield and seconded by J. Crook that it be recommended to Council that a public hearing, as required by policy, be held at the next regularly scheduled Council meeting on June 22, 2015, at which time the Brannen proposal will be presented to the public for their comment.

#### AFFIRMATIVE

Jody Crook  
Shaun Hatfield

#### NEGATIVE

Eddie Nickerson

Motion carried.

### HIRING COMMITTEE

It was suggested the applicant for the Arena Manager position be interviewed before the scheduled budget meeting on either Tuesday or Thursday night next week.

### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 10:21 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary for the Meeting

**On website May 22, 2015.**

