

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

January 31, 2005

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

- Sterling Belliveau, Chairman
 - Fred Bower
 - Louise Halliday
 - Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
 - Eddie Nickerson
 - Larry Stewart
 - Sean Strang
-
- Brian Holland, Clerk-Treasurer

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Community Health Centre.
- Cape Sable Wildlife Management Area.
- Laptop computers.
- Low Income Tax Exemptions.
- R.C.M.P.
- Nova Scotia Sport and Recreation.
- Legal Services.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by L. Halliday that the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by F. Bower and seconded by L. Stewart that the minutes of the last previous meeting held January 17, 2005 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF STRATEGIC PLAN

The remaining portion of the Strategic Plan that had not been previously discussed by the Committee was reviewed in detail. Contained in the Strategic Plan was the proposal for the use of the Old Court House. This is a property that is owned by the Municipality which is a heritage building that has limited use as a rental property.

Resolution COW050120

Moved by L. Halliday and seconded by D. LeBlanc-Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality discuss the future use of the Old Court House building with the executive of Cape Sable Historical Society.

Motion carried unanimously.

Protection Services

During the review of Protective Services there was some discussion regarding the response of the R.C.M.P. to a recent incident at Sevim Beach. No particular action was requested at this time. It was noted that at the present time one of the local R.C.M.P. officers is off on leave and as a result the Municipality has one less officer providing police services.

Resolution COW050121

Moved by L. Halliday and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality write a letter to the Department of Justice requesting to know why it is taking so long to replace the officer in the local detachment who is now off on leave. This matter has been brought to the attention of councillors by local constituents who are not satisfied with paying for police services which they feel they are not receiving.

Motion carried unanimously.

Transportation Services

In Transportation Services it was generally agreed by consensus of members that the provision for \$50,000 each year for the construction of sidewalks would be withdrawn from the plan so that the construction of sidewalks would be reviewed by the Planning Advisory Committee and further developed.

Environmental Services

The implementing of a tipping fee at the C & D Debris Landfill Site would be omitted as this is not going to be put in place by the Municipality. This fee would also be eliminated from the revenue section of the plan.

Having completed the Plan, there followed some discussion regarding the presentation of the Plan to the Chamber of Commerce. It was suggested that the Warden and Clerk-Treasurer present the Plan to the Chamber of Commerce at one of their regular meetings so that input and comments could be obtained from members.

Resolution COW050122

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by L. Halliday that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality present the Municipal Strategic or Business Plan to the Barrington & Area Chamber of Commerce at one of their regular monthly meetings.

Motion carried unanimously.

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT SYSTEM

Correspondence was received from Brian Crowell who is a property owner in the Port LaTour area. Mr. Crowell indicates that there are Performance Measurement Programs in place for municipal units in Ontario that may be applicable to municipal units in Nova Scotia as well. He suggested that such a Performance Measurement Program should be put in place for our Municipality.

The information that was available from various municipal units in Ontario in the Municipal Performance Measurement Program was circulated to members for their information and discussion.

Resolution COW050123

Moved by L. Halliday and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that Municipal Staff devise a Performance Measurement Program for the Municipality to be reviewed by Council.

Motion carried unanimously.

SOUTH WEST SHORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY PLANNING SESSION RESULTS

On December 4, 2004, the South West Shore Development Authority held a planning session to develop their annual business plan for the coming fiscal year. A copy of the results of this business plan was circulated to municipal units and provided to all councillors on January 19, 2005. The results of this plan were reviewed briefly.

Resolution COW050124

Moved by L. Halliday and seconded by L. Stewart that it be recommended to Council that the S.W.S.D.A. be requested to conduct their Annual Planning Session in the fall of 2005 in the Municipality of Barrington, not during the lobster season.

Motion carried unanimously.

BANFF MANAGEMENT COURSE

Information has been received and circulated to members on the Banff Management Course 2005. This course is held in March and October of 2005 and is for the education of municipal employees and municipal councillors.

At the present time no interest was expressed in attending this course.

NON-OWNED AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

It was brought to the attention of Municipal Staff, by Councillor Messenger, that the insurance on councillor's vehicles when traveling on municipal business is provided by their own private insurance. The non-owned automobile insurance that is provided by the Municipality is in addition to the private insurance owned and put in force by councillors on their vehicles. The non-owned automobile insurance provides a liability protection against claims arising out of accidents involving vehicles not owned by the Municipality, but being operated on their behalf. The limit of this insurance is \$6 Million. This coverage applies when contractually assumed by the Municipality and is only in excess of the insurance on the automobile driven by such persons, and in no event less than the legal minimum limit of \$200,000, and is subject to the policy limit of the Municipality's non-owned automobile policy.

Councillors are advised to inform their insurance company that they are municipal councillors and occasionally use their vehicles for municipal purposes.

This matter will be further discussed by Committee should it be necessary to determine whether or not some reimbursement is required as a result of increased insurance premiums.

NORTH SEA DELEGATION MEETING

This matter was referred to the Committee by Council for further discussion. It was proposed at Council that a delegation from the North Sea be requested to come to the Municipality. There was some confusion regarding who would pay for this delegation. It is suggested that the delegation would be able to provide information which would help councillors make decisions regarding the development of the oil and gas industry on the offshore of Nova Scotia, and the local economic involvement in that industry.

It is the intention of the proponents of the motion that the provincial government would pay for this delegation to come to our area to explain the development of the oil and gas industry in the North Sea.

This matter will again be brought up at Council for further discussion.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

The schedule of fees for the month of January was circulated to members for their information.

SCHNEIDER POWER INC.

Schneider Power Inc. is an electric power company that is engaged in the development of renewable electric power plants in various locations in Canada. Proponents of the company have requested, by email, an opportunity to speak with Municipal Council.

Resolution COW050125

Moved by F. Bower and seconded by L. Stewart that representatives of Schneider Power Inc. be invited to appear before the Committee of the Whole for the purpose of discussing wind power development.

Motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

Committee entered into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing the contractual agreement between the Municipality and Dr. W. Hunter Blair.

Having completed their discussion of this matter, the Committee then returned to Open Session.

C.S.I. WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

It is suggested that the establishment of a Wildlife Management Area on Cape Sable Island will affect residents of the area and especially local hunters on the Island.

There was some discussion and question regarding what is a Wildlife Management Area, and what area is being covered on Cape Sable Island.

Resolution COW050126

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by F. Bower that it be recommended to Council that representatives from the Department of Natural Resources be requested to attend a Committee of the Whole meeting in order to discuss the establishment of a Wildlife Management Area on Cape Sable Island.

Motion carried unanimously.

LAPTOP COMPUTERS

There was some discussion among members regarding the provision of laptop computers to municipal councillors.

It was generally agreed that more information is required concerning this matter to determine the viability and cost effectiveness for providing laptop computers to councillors.

LOW INCOME PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

The draft proposal contained an error in the income amount provided for qualification for this exemption. This amount will be revised to the proper suggested change for the current year prior to consideration at Council.

NOVA SCOTIA RECREATION SEMINAR

Information has been received from the Nova Scotia Department of Sport and Recreation informing the Municipality that there will be a Municipal Seminar on recreation to be held on April 15th and 16th, in Halifax.

Resolution COW050127

Moved by F. Bower and seconded by L. Stewart that it be recommended to Council that municipal councillors who wish to attend the Nova Scotia Sport and Recreation Municipal Seminar on April 15th and 16th, in Halifax, be authorized to attend and have their expenses reimbursed by the Municipality.

Motion carried unanimously.

LEGAL SERVICES

As requested by Council, a proposal has been received from the Municipal Solicitor for the continued provision of municipal services to the Municipality.

There then followed some discussion regarding the desirability of continuing with the current Municipal Solicitor who has much experience over municipal business.

Resolution COW050128

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that the Municipal Purchasing Policy be waived and that the proposal received from the current Municipal Solicitor be accepted as this action is in the best interest of the Municipality.

AFFIRMATIVE

Sterling Belliveau

Louise Halliday

Donna LeBlanc-Messenger

Eddie Nickerson

Larry Stewart

Sean Strang

NEGATIVE

Fred Bower

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 10:54 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary for the Meeting

Copied for Councillors on February 2, 2005 by Sharon Brannen.

