

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

March 21, 2005

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

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

### ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Sea Cadet Request.
- Spring Clean-up.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Moved** by S. Strang and seconded by L. Stewart that the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Moved** by S. Strang and seconded by D. Messenger that the minutes of the last previous meeting held March 7, 2005 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

### R.C.M.P. INTERVIEW

Sergeant Surette, Cpl. LeCroix and Staff Sgt. Wayne Jacquard appeared before Council for the purpose of discussing the Roles and Responsibilities Document previously presented for Council's review, and for the purpose of providing the report of R.C.M.P. activities in the Municipality for the previous year.

Sgt. Surette indicated on Page 6 of Appendix "A" of the Roles and Responsibilities Document that there had been an amendment made. The amendment was made to reflect the desired locations for high visibility patrols. Council may indicate at different times during the year areas in which they wish to have these patrols made. The R.C.M.P. will make their best efforts to provide these patrols as requested.

Sgt Surette then reviewed the report for R.C.M.P. activities during the previous year. He noted, in particular, that page 5 contained an Organization Chart for the local detachment. He indicated that Trudy Scott has been working for the R.C.M.P. Detachment for twenty-six years and will be retiring this spring. As of April 1, 2004 Darlene Ross had stopped working at the R.C.M.P. Detachment.

Sgt. Surette was questioned regarding the medical leave of Constable Redding. Constable Redding continues to be on medical leave and it is the policy of the R.C.M.P. not to replace officers who are on medical leave.

There then followed some discussion regarding the number of auxiliary officers and the use of auxiliary officers as well as the concern for procedures required under the Youth Criminal Justice Act.

Sgt. Surette agreed to appear at the March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting of Council to present the Annual Report publicly.

Having completed their presentation to the Committee of the Whole, the members of the R.C.M.P. retired from the meeting at approximately 7:35 p.m.

#### OAK PARK SEWER PROJECT

Information which has been received from Horner Associates was previously circulated to members. The estimates received from Horner Associates indicated that the construction of a sewer on the Oak Park Road, from Route 3 to the location of the new High School, for full servicing, would cost in the range of \$786,000.00. There would be engineering costs in addition to this and also the possible cost of blasting rock is not included in the estimates.

#### Resolution COW050321

**Moved** by E. Nickerson and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Warden contact our MLA and any ministers of the province necessary to pursue funding from the province for this project, and that the Municipality pay any costs incurred by the Warden in this endeavor.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE STAFFING

A proposal for Visitor Information Centre staffing had been previously circulated to councillors. According to this proposal the Visitor Information Centre Manager will become a full-time permanent employee of the Municipality and will qualify for group insurance and pension plan benefits. It is anticipated that there will be five (5) staff members at the Visitor Information Centre during the coming season. This will be reduced during the "shoulder season" to three (3) people, and then to two (2) people during the winter months. Funding will be obtained from the South Shore Tourism Association, the Barrington & Area Chamber of Commerce and from Human Resources Canada, in order to fund these positions.

Resolution COW050322

**Moved** by E. Nickerson and seconded S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality accept the staffing plan for the Visitor Information Centre as presented by the Manager, providing the Manager is agreeable to taking her vacation period outside of the main tourist season.

Motion carried unanimously.

DEBENTURE FUNDING AND BALLOON PAYMENT

The Nova Scotia Municipal Finance Corporation wishes to know if the Municipality is going to take advantage of their debenture issues during the 2005 fiscal year. The Municipality has until April 8th to respond to this request. At the present time there is no intention of doing any new debenture financing during the 2005 Spring Issue, and it is unlikely we will be prepared to do any during the Fall Issue.

The only change contemplated in debenture financing during the year is that the Barrington Regional Curling Club debenture is coming up for renewal. The renewal on the debenture is \$550,306.00. It is suggested that in order to reduce the interest cost to the Municipality and to the Curling Club, and in order to reduce the total outstanding debt of the Municipality through debentures, that the Municipality repay \$250,000.00 of this debenture on November 9, 2005 from reserves. This would leave a debenture debt of \$300,000.00. This debenture could be refinanced for a period of eleven (11) years with the principal repayment being \$28,000.00 per year. The Curling Club is currently paying the Municipality \$28,000.00 per year as its payment on the debenture.

Resolution COW050323

**Moved** by L. Halliday and seconded by D. Messenger that further consideration of debenture payments be deferred until after interviews with the Barrington Area Search & Rescue Group.

Motion carried unanimously.

BARRINGTON AREA SEARCH & RESCUE INTERVIEW

At 8:00 p.m. members of the Barrington Area Ground Search & Rescue Group attended the meeting for the purpose of discussing their proposal for operating funds for the coming year, and the use of the building in which they are currently situated.

In attendance, on behalf of the group were: Michael Hopkins, Don Bower, Harold Brannen, David and Sunday Nickerson and Dick D'Entremont.

The Committee then discussed operational and capital funding with the Ground Search & Rescue members. The Search and Rescue Group is interested in owning the building in which they are now situated, however, they wish to concentrate their efforts on searching, not on infrastructure and not on fundraising. There are two aspects of funding that are required to be addressed; one is the continued operating funding of the group and the second is the cost of the building in which they are located.

It was suggested to the group that they speak to the South West Shore Development Authority regarding financing and that they make a proposal to Team Shelburne regarding the purchase of the building so that they would have permanent quarters. It was suggested they make this presentation to Team Shelburne in order to be able to address representatives of all of the five municipal councils at the same time.

Having completed their discussion of this subject the Barrington Area Ground Search and Rescue members retired from the meeting at approximately 8:45 p.m.

#### DEBENTURE PAYMENTS

Members returned to the discussion regarding the debenture payments required in the coming year and the proposed payment of the Barrington Regional Curling Club debenture.

#### Resolution COW050324

**Moved** by L. Halliday and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality repay \$250,000.00 on the Barrington Regional Curling Club debenture on November 9, 2005, and refinance the balance of \$300,000.00 over a period of eleven (11) years, and that the Curling Club be required to continue their payments of \$28,000.00 per year on the capital until the \$250,000.00 is repaid to the Municipality's Reserve Fund, so that the Curling Club pays the total capital cost of construction of the facility as previously agreed.

Motion carried unanimously.

The purpose of paying down this debenture debt is to reduce the amount of interest that will need to be paid by both the Municipality and the Curling Club, and to reduce the outstanding debt of the Municipality.

#### LAPTOP COMPUTERS

This matter was referred to the Committee by Council for further discussion. There followed some discussion regarding the quality of the computers required and of the use that would be made of them.

#### Resolution COW050325

**Moved** by F. Bower and seconded by L. Stewart that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality purchase computers with 512 megabites of operating RAM memory in order to ensure that the speed of the computers is adequate for councillors use.

#### AFFIRMATIVE

Fred Bower  
Louise Halliday  
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger  
Eddie Nickerson  
Larry Stewart  
Sean Strang

#### NEGATIVE

Sterling Belliveau

Motion carried.

Page 5, Committee of the Whole Meeting, March 21, 2005

**Moved** by F. Bower and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that councillors have the first option to purchase their laptop computers at the end of their current term.

**AFFIRMATIVE**

Fred Bower

**NEGATIVE**

Sterling Belliveau

Louise Halliday

Donna LeBlanc-Messenger

Eddie Nickerson

Larry Stewart

Sean Strang

Motion defeated.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Members then entered into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter and for the purpose of discussing the purchase of a tax sale property.

After completing the Closed Session of Committee, the Warden convened an Emergency Meeting of Council to deal with a personnel matter and then the Committee returned to continue its Committee of the Whole meeting.

**Community Club Property**

Information was provided to members regarding the properties being purchased from the Barrington Passage Community Club. The property located at the High School which was previously identified on the Nova Scotia Property Records Database has been surveyed. The survey cost is approximately \$8,000.00 for this property. This property was discovered to be about 35% of the size that it was originally believed.

The property located at Owaissa Park which was covered by the deed was surveyed at a cost of approximately \$6,000.00. This property includes all the land surrounding the pond. The pond itself is not included in the deed that the Community Club presently has. It will be necessary to have the Municipal Solicitor make an application to a court in order to have the pond area included in the deed for the land surrounding the pond.

The property surveyed at the Tennis Court next to the former Barrington Passage Fire Hall was done at a cost of \$2,000.00. This property includes the tennis court and some area behind the Fire Hall.

As a result of the discrepancies in the property and the high cost of surveying the property it has been suggested to the Community Club that the Municipality would purchase the properties for the agreed upon amount, less the cost of the survey and legal fees, which will be in the vicinity of \$20,000.00.

**Resolution COW050327**

**Moved** by E. Nickerson and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality renegotiate the purchase price of the three (3) properties of the Barrington Passage Community Club to be the purchase price, less the cost of survey and legal fees.

Motion carried unanimously.

Page 6, Committee of the Whole Meeting, March 21, 2005

D. WAYBRET & SONS LIMITED

D. Waybret & Sons Limited is a company that has gone into bankruptcy. There are two (2) outstanding tax accounts in this name. One is for a business occupancy tax in the amount of approximately \$210.00. The second is for a bait shed which has since been removed from the property. This bait shed was located on property owned by D. Waybret & Sons Fisheries but was assessed in the name of Cripple Creek Fisheries Group. The bait shed has been removed from the property for some time and the assessment account has been closed as of November 25, 2004. At the present time there is outstanding taxes for the 2003/2004 fiscal years in the amount of approximately \$702.00.

Resolution COW050328

**Moved** by D. Messenger and seconded by L. Halliday that it be recommended to Council that the balance of accounts in business occupancy taxes to D. Waybret & Sons Fisheries and in the name of Cripple Creek Fisheries Group be written off as they are now deemed to be uncollectible.

AFFIRMATIVE

Sterling Belliveau  
Louise Halliday  
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger  
Larry Stewart

NEGATIVE

Fred Bower  
Eddie Nickerson  
Sean Strang

Motion carried.

EMERY SMITH FISHERIES

Emery Smith Fisheries is a local business that experienced a fire in their facilities on December 29, 2004. Pursuant to Section 69(a) of the Municipal Government Act, the Municipality has a Tax Reduction Policy. It is suggested that Council consider a reduction under Policy #46 "Tax Reduction Policy" by reducing the commercial property taxes on the property at which the fire occurred for the period from December 29, 2004 to the end of the current fiscal year, March 31, 2005. The amount of commercial tax reduction based on that period would be \$740.95. Since this has already been paid by Emery Smith Fisheries, it would either be reimbursed to the company or applied to their next years taxes. In addition, because the business occupancy assessment will be affected, as of December 29<sup>th</sup>, there will be an adjustment also crediting Emery Smith Fisheries with a portion of their business occupancy taxes for the year ending March 31, 2005.

Resolution COW050329

**Moved** by L. Halliday and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that the commercial property taxes of Emery Smith Fisheries Ltd., in the amount of \$740.95, be reduced for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2005, by \$740.95, in consideration of the fire which took place in their production facility on December 29, 2004.

Motion carried unanimously.

Page 7, Committee of the Whole Meeting, March 21, 2005

#### ADVERTISING

It was suggested by a member that the Municipality should investigate the cost of advertising on CBC and CTV television networks. This advertisement would be done as part of a promotion for the Municipality.

#### Resolution COW050230

**Moved** by E. Nickerson and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that Municipal Staff determine the cost of advertising on the CBC and CTV television networks.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### WEST BEAR POINT ROAD

Municipal Staff has been in discussion with Mr. Stuart Clare from the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Public Works. Mr. Clare suggested that the Municipality should not change the designation of "J" Class roads as this would affect the services provided on the roads that are currently under this designation. In order to have the West Bear Point Road paved Mr. Clare suggested it would be more appropriate for the Municipality to send a letter to the Department of Transportation and Public Works indicating that they wish to have this road paved, and would be willing to share in the cost of paving the road. The Department of Transportation would then consider this request, and if deemed viable, would include it in their new paving projects for the year. Any improvements to local roads should be initiated under the Municipality's Local Improvement By-law. This project will be pursued under this by-law.

#### FAM TOUR

Discover Shelburne County is conducting a FAM Tour to make the Visitor Information Centres on the South Shore familiar with all of Shelburne County. Part of this tour will be conducted in the Municipality of Barrington. This tour will include Visitor Information Centre employees from the Halifax Airport to Digby. A portion of the tour will be held in the Municipality of Barrington on the week of May 9 - 12, 2005. The two day tour will begin at the Barrington Visitor Information Centre. Discover Shelburne County is requesting a grant from the Municipality in the amount of \$150.00 to help cover the cost of providing meals to the participants of this tour.

#### Resolution COW050331

**Moved** by D. Messenger and seconded by L. Stewart that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality provide a grant in the amount of \$150.00 to Discover Shelburne County for the purpose of assisting in the funding of the FAM Tour to be held in Shelburne County during the week of May 9 - 12, 2005.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### SCHEDULE OF FEES

A Schedule of Fees for the previous two weeks was circulated to members for their information.

Page 8, Committee of the Whole Meeting, March 21, 2005

#### SEA CADET REQUEST

The 327 Unicorn Sea Cadet Corps will be holding their closing ceremonies this year on Saturday, May 21, 2005. The Sea Cadets are requesting permission from the Municipality to hold their closing at the Barrington Municipal Arena from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., on that date.

#### Resolution COW050332

**Moved** by E. Nickerson and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the 327 Unicorn Sea Cadet Corps be allowed to hold their closing ceremonies at the Barrington Municipal Arena, on May 21, 2005, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at no charge because this is local community youth group serving the Municipality.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### Resolution COW050333

**Moved** by D. Messenger and seconded by L. Stewart that it be recommended to Council that a letter of congratulations be sent to the 327 Unicorn Sea Cadet Corps of Barrington on the reception of their award for the most improved cadet corps in the Maritime Region.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### SPRING CLEAN UP

Members were informed that the Spring Clean Up for waste collection in the Municipality would be conducted during the week of April 25 - 29, 2005. This clean up will be conducted by Wayne Newell Trucking who is subcontracting the clean up from Ridge Road Recycling who is our regular Municipal contractor. The subcontractor will be required to perform all aspects of the collection satisfactorily as contained in the contract with Ridge Road Recycling.

#### OLD TELEPHONE OFFICE EQUIPMENT

It was suggested by a member that the Municipality obtain old telephone office equipment and have it placed in the former telephone building next to the Old Court House in Barrington. This building could be used as an additional museum housing the old telephone equipment. Prior to proceeding with this venture it is suggested that the Cape Sable Historical Society be contacted and that it be determined whether or not the Historical Society would be interested in operating this building during the summer months as an additional museum site.

#### Resolution COW050334

**Moved** by F. Bower and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that the Cape Sable Historical Society be contacted regarding the development of a museum housing old telephone office equipment in the building adjacent to the Old Court House in Barrington.

Motion carried unanimously.

Page 9, Committee of the Whole Meeting, March 21, 2005

ADJOURNMENT

**Moved** by F. Bower that the meeting adjourn at 10:45 p.m.

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Chairman

Secretary for the Meeting

**Copied for Councillors on March 22, 2005 by Sharon Brannen.**

