

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

December 4, 2006

The meeting was called to order by the Deputy Warden at 7:10 p.m., in the Conference Room, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington, N.S., with the following members present:

- Eddie Nickerson, Chairman
 - George El-Jakl
 - Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
 - Wilford Smith
 - Larry Stewart
 - Sean Strang
- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

Absent was Warden Louise Halliday who is in hospital.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Item 6, *Veteran's Tree*, has been deferred until further information is obtained.

Also added was *Christmas Tree at Causeway*.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by G. El-Jakl 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 November 20, 2006 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

SHELBURNE YOUTH CENTRE

Correspondence was received from the Warden of the Municipality of the District of Shelburne. This correspondence was in response to a request from Barrington Municipal Council. Council had requested the Municipality of Shelburne to put, in writing, their offer to take over the Shelburne Youth Centre from Team Shelburne.

The letter from the Municipality of Shelburne indicated "the concept which is being advanced is that the Municipality and the Province would move all existing offices and facilities to Shelburne Place, the infrastructure of which is a natural fit".

After much discussion it was the consensus of members that the letter received from Warden Scott was very vague. More clarification needs to be provided indicating the details of the proposed takeover of this property by the Municipality.

Resolution C061201

Moved by W. Smith and seconded by S. Strang that Municipal Staff be requested to get more detailed information and clarification regarding the takeover of the Shelburne Youth Centre by the Municipality of the District of Shelburne.

Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE PARKING LOT

Correspondence was circulated to members from Dexter Construction Limited. In this correspondence Dexter Construction Limited indicated that they will pave the Community Health Centre parking lot at a cost to them of \$9,800.00. This paving will be done at no cost to the Municipality in return for the use of Municipal property on which their paving plant has been located during the months of November and December.

EI PROGRAM

Correspondence has been received from Bill James, Director General, Employment Insurance Policy, Human Resources and Social Development Canada. In this correspondence Mr. James provides an explanation as to why the number of hours required in Western Nova Scotia is less than the number of hours required in Eastern Nova Scotia to qualify for Employment Insurance Benefits. The number of hours required to qualify for Employment Insurance benefits is tied to the unemployment rate in any given region. In Eastern Nova Scotia the unemployment rate for the month ending October 7th was 14.4%, while in Western Nova Scotia the unemployment rate for the month ending October 7, 2006 was 9.7%. As a result the number of hours required to qualify for Employment Insurance in Eastern Nova Scotia is 420 compared to 560 hours required in Western Nova Scotia. Mr. James also indicated in the correspondence that the Region of Western Nova Scotia is included in the extended EI benefits pilot project introduced in June 2006. This pilot project increases EI entitlement by providing 5 additional weeks of benefits to EI claimants up to a maximum of 45 weeks. The number of hours required in any given region is adjusted on a monthly basis in relation to the unemployment rate in that particular month.

Resolution C061202

Moved by L. Stewart and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that Human Resources and Social Development Canada be required to provide a breakdown of the unemployment rate, by county, for the Western Nova Scotia region.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was also requested that a copy of the letter from Human Resources and Social Development Canada be circulated to all councillors.

PHYSICIAN INCENTIVE PROGRAM

This matter was deferred to this Committee by Council. It was suggested there needs to be more flexibility in providing incentives to doctors so that the incentive programs could be tailored for individual doctors as has happened in the case of Dr. O'Connor and Dr. Abud. There needs to be some balance maintained between attracting doctors and cost to taxpayers.

It was suggested that a list of alternatives or options be drafted by staff which could be used by Council for providing incentives when speaking with doctors. Alternatives will be drafted by Staff and presented at a subsequent meeting of committee.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE

Correspondence has been received from Warden Halliday requesting permission from Council for leave of absence to miss the December 11, 2006 council meeting due to surgery which she has had today.

Resolution C061203

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that Warden Halliday be granted leave to be absent from the December 11, 2006 Council meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

LIGHTHOUSE COSTS

Correspondence has been received from Fisheries and Oceans Canada regarding their cost of maintaining various lighthouses within the Municipality. This information had been previously discussed at the Committee of the Whole meeting on November 20, 2006 and continues to be a matter of discussion by the Committee.

There was some discussion regarding which lighthouses might be taken over by the Municipality. It was indicated during the discussion that the horn is working at Baccaro light.

It was agreed that this matter would be further researched by councillors and again discussed at a Committee meeting during the month of January 2007.

C.S.I. SEWER

It was suggested by a member that meetings be arranged with the MP and Minister Hurlburt regarding the C.S.I. Sewer proposals.

TAX WRITE-OFF

A judgement has been obtained in Small Claims Court for Business Occupancy Taxes owed by Mr. Shawn Landry.

JANUARY MEETINGS

It was suggested that the first Committee of the Whole Council meeting to be held on Tuesday, January 2nd be cancelled since Municipal Staff will be off the previous week, and it is very unlikely any business will be conducted prior to that meeting.

It was the consensus of members that there would be no meetings during the first week of January unless specific municipal business arose during that time.

C & D LANDFILL JOB DESCRIPTION

A job description for a Solid Waste Manager/By-Law Enforcement Officer had previously been circulated to members for their information and review. This is the former position termed C & D Landfill Manager. The position will be expanded to include the management of all of the Municipality's solid waste programs, and not be limited to the C & D Landfill Site. The job description was discussed in conjunction with department restructuring which had been previously suggested to members by a member of the committee.

There then followed much discussion regarding the procedure to be followed and the suggested restructuring to be done in the Property Services, Sewer Services and Landfill operations of the Municipality.

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by D. LeBlanc-Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality restructure its departmental organization to include the Sewer Services Department as part of the Property Service Department with the Sewage Treatment Plant Operator reporting to the Property Services Manager.

AFFIRMATIVE

NEGATIVE

Eddie Nickerson
George El-Jakl
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger

Wilford Smith
Larry Stewart
Sean Strang

Motion defeated.

Resolution COW061204

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the proposed job description for Solid Waste Manager/By-Law Enforcement Officer be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT CHART

It was indicated by a member that this matter had been dealt with at a previous meeting of the committee.

REGION 6 WASTE MANAGEMENT

The Region 6 Waste Management Steering Committee will be holding a meeting at the Bridgewater Town Office on Friday, December 15, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. It will be necessary for our representative to attend that meeting to ensure that there is a quorum. The agenda for the meeting has been circulated to the Deputy Warden who is our representative, and also to Councillor Stewart. The alternate for the meeting is Warden Halliday who will be unable to attend since she is convalescing after her surgery.

POLICE ADVISORY BOARD

Correspondence has been received from the Town of Clark's Harbour indicating that they are in agreement with forming a Joint Policy Advisory Board with the Municipality of Barrington and would like to further discuss the matter with Municipal Council.

Resolution COW061205

Moved by D. Leblanc-Messenger and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality discuss the formation of a Joint Police Advisory Board with the Town of Clark's Harbour.

Motion carried unanimously.

Councillor Strang was temporarily absent from the meeting during this discussion.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

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

CHRISTMAS TREE

It was indicated by a member that the lights on the Christmas tree were inadequate. This matter needs to be addressed so that the lights on the Christmas tree can be made to be as bright, or brighter than the lights on the gazebo adjacent to the tree.

This matter will be further addressed by Municipal Staff.

CLOSED SESSION

Members entered into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing legal agreements being provided to Dr. O'Connor and Dr. Abud and also a legal matter regarding the prior issuance of a tender.

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It was agreed by consensus of members that the Municipal Solicitor would be consulted regarding the tender issue.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by D. Messenger that the meeting adjourn at 10:32 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary for the Meeting

Emailed to councillors December 8, 2006.