

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Barrington Municipal Council held in the Council Chambers, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington, N.S., on Monday, November 27, 2006.

The meeting was called to order by the Warden at 7:00 p.m.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The Warden informed members that it is necessary to add “legal matters” to the Closed Session of Council to be held later in the evening.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk reported that all councillors representing all districts of the Municipality were present:

- Warden Louise Halliday
- Deputy Warden Eddie Nickerson
- Councillor George El-Jakl
- Councillor Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
- Councillor Wilford Smith
- Councillor Larry Stewart
- Councillor Sean Strang

- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk
- Lesa Rossetti, Deputy Clerk

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by G. El-Jakl that the minutes of the last meeting held November 14, 2006 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Sou’Wester Windfield

Mr. Keith Towse of Sou’Wester Windfield made a presentation to Council regarding two potential wind power development sites within the Municipality. The two possible sites of development include the GATR Site in Baccaro, and Sherose Island.

After the presentation councillors were given an opportunity to ask questions.

Mr. Towse was then thanked for appearing before Council and making his presentation.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Crosswalk - Bay Vista Apartments

The Clerk informed members that a letter has been received from the Department of Transportation requesting confirmation from the Municipality that the Municipality will be responsible for the installation and maintenance costs of the crosswalk prior to investigating the location.

Much discussion took place regarding this matter.

Resolution C061146

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by L. Stewart that the Municipality inform the Department of Transportation that they will be responsible for the cost of installation and maintenance.

The Warden then turned her chair over to the Deputy Warden in order that she could address the crosswalk issue.

The Chair was then resumed by the Warden.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was agreed that the Municipal Clerk would discuss the matter with Mr. Greg Newell of the Department of Transportation.

Highway 103 By-Pass

The Clerk informed members that correspondence has been received from the Department of Transportation, in response to our letter dated October 30, 2006, in which Council forwarded a petition from residents opposing the closure of the current access road at Oak Park. The Department advised that the two (2) accesses provided by the 103 Highway Upgrade is more than adequate to accommodate the needs of the adjacent communities. One access is located at the interchange near the centre of the project, and the other access is an “at grade” intersection at the eastern end of the project to tie the trunk system and 100 series highway system together. The current access road at Oak Park will be closed.

C.S.I. Causeway

The Clerk informed members that correspondence has been received from the Department of Transportation indicating that the Department is not convinced that engineering mitigation or further environmental investigation is warranted at this time.

Resolution C061147

Moved by L. Stewart and seconded by E. Nickerson that Ian MacCallum of the Department of Transportation be invited to attend a future meeting of Council to discuss the Cape Sable Island Causeway.

Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Employment Insurance Program

The Clerk informed members that letters have been received from the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg and the Town of Annapolis Royal, both supporting the efforts of seasonal employees to have the number of hours necessary to draw employment insurance benefits decreased in the South Western Nova Scotia Region, from 560 hours to 420 hours.

Resolution C061148

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by G. El-Jakl that the letter forwarded by the Municipality, as well as all letters received in support of the reduced number of hours, be forwarded to Sandra Atwood together with the Minister's response.

Motion carried unanimously.

Court Room Rental

The Clerk informed members that representatives from the Department of Justice viewed the court facilities and the lock-up facilities earlier in the month. An email has now been received indicating that they are willing to extend the lease term to March 31, 2013, at a rental rate of \$10.64 per square foot, commencing December 1, 2006.

Resolution C061149

Moved by L. Stewart and seconded by S. Strang that the Municipality enter into a lease agreement with the Department of Justice for rental of court facilities as indicated above.

Motion carried unanimously.

Shelburne County Adult Workshops and Residential Services

In advance to the meeting each member was provided with a copy of a letter received from the Shelburne County Adult Workshops and Residential Services. The letter thanked the Municipality for the opportunity to employ persons with disabilities in the cleaning contract at the Barrington Library.

Safer Communities Initiative

Correspondence has been received from the Department of Justice advising that the Department currently has a number of initiatives underway to improve the safety of Nova Scotian communities.

REPORT OF WARDEN

Digby Ferry

The Warden informed members that she attended a meeting regarding the Digby Ferry on November 21, 2006. A short term solution has been put in place to keep the ferry operational for the next two years. James Thurber, Warden for the Municipality of Digby, wants to work with municipal units and various government departments to find a solution to keep the Digby ferry operational.

The Warden asked Council if they wanted her to participate in these meetings, and if so, would her expenses be paid.

Resolution C061150

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by W. Smith that the Warden attend meetings relating to the Digby ferry, and that her expenses be paid, and that an alternate be selected to attend in her absence.

Motion carried unanimously.

South West Shore Development Authority

The Warden gave a brief report on a recent meeting of the South West Shore Development Authority. At that meeting discussion took place regarding the broadband project, wind power, etc.

Library Board Meeting

The Warden gave a brief report on a Library Board meeting which was recently held in Yarmouth. She reported that the library has been very busy and has seen a 60% increase in usage.

The Warden informed members that the Librarian, Pat Greenwood, will be retiring at the end of the month.

Team Shelburne County

The Warden informed members that she attended the Team Shelburne County meeting held earlier today in Shelburne. The Youth Centre has not yet been sold. A decision had been previously made by the Team that if the facility had not been sold by the end of this year that the buildings would be demolished.

Warden Paulette Scott informed members that the Municipality of Shelburne has expressed an interest in the Youth Centre since they are running out of space at their current location.

Much discussion took place regarding this proposal.

It was agreed that Warden Scott be requested to put the Municipality's proposal, in writing, regarding the Youth Centre.

It was agreed that the Youth Centre be added to the next Committee of the Whole agenda for further discussion.

COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Councillor George El-Jakl

Councillor El-Jakl informed members that he met with the Principal of ERMES on November 21, 2006. They are exploring the possibility of updating their playground equipment. The Principal will be making application to the provincial government for 1/3 funding. Once approval has been received from the provincial government, the Municipal Council will be approached.

Councillor El-Jakl also informed members that he attended the Fishermen's Service held yesterday.

Councillor Sean Strang

Committee of the Whole Council

Committee Nominations

Resolution C061151

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by W. Smith that the attached list of committees as agreed to by the Nominating Committee be approved by Council.

Motion carried unanimously.

D.O.T. Request

Resolution C061152

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by D. Messenger that the Municipality write the local Supervisor of the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation asking him to evaluate whether or not the Department could help the flooding problem in the area between the Catholic Church and Mr. Everett Scott's property in Barrington by cleaning out the ditch along the side of Highway #3, and if necessary replacing the culvert near where the former CNR right of way crosses the highway adjacent to Mr. Scott's property.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution C061153

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by W. Smith that Benny Acker be requested to put, in writing, the procedure required to be followed when lodging complaints regarding transportation issues.

Motion carried unanimously.

Deputy Warden Eddie Nickerson

Waterfront Development Committee

The Deputy Warden gave a brief report on the Waterfront Development Committee meeting which was held last week.

The new committee chairman is Dean Nickerson of Riverhead.

Matters discussed by the committee included, future projects, concrete walkway across the Causeway, work along Barrington Bay Trail, beautification at McGray Avenue.

Discussion also took place regarding commercial activity at McGray Avenue concerning a rockweed operator.

Discussion also took place regarding the Municipality's Commercial Activity on Municipal Property By-Law.

It was agreed that these matters be discussed by the Committee of the Whole once the Waterfront Development Committee minutes have been received.

Hall of Fame Request

Resolution C061154

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by L. Stewart that the Municipality make a grant of \$100.00 to the Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame Capital Campaign.

Motion carried unanimously.

TELEVISED COUNCIL MEETING

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by S. Strang that Eastlink be request to televise the December 11, 2006 council meeting since that is the only council meeting being held during the month of December.

Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Neurologist

The Clerk informed members that correspondence has been received from Dr. Walter Vanast in which he has expressed an interest in setting up a practice in neurology. Dr. Vanast has requested space at the Community Health Centre and it is his intentions to come in for just a week or two at a time at first, and will increase hours as his practice develops.

Resolution C061155

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by S. Strang that the Clerk discuss available space with Dr. Walter Vanast.

Motion carried unanimously.

RBC Credit Facilities Agreement

Resolution C061156

Moved by L. Stewart and seconded by S. Strang that the RBC Credit Facilities Agreement be approved as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

Former B.M.H.S. Property

Mr. Ken Anthony of Anthony Properties Limited wishes to make a new power connection to the former senior high school. In order to make this connection Nova Scotia Power requires an easement. A diagram was provided to each councillor showing the proposed location of the easement.

Resolution C061157

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by S. Strang that Nova Scotia Power be provided with an easement provided it does not interfere with the soccer field, parking lot or driveway owned by the Municipality of Barrington.

Motion carried unanimously.

Tax Reduction Application

The Clerk informed members that a Tax Reduction Application has been received from Frances Brannen. Mrs. Brannen is requesting a reduction in taxes since the building on her property was demolished on or about October 23, 2006.

Resolution C061158

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by D. Messenger that the application received from Mrs. Frances Brannen relating to Assessment Account #00023532 be approved, and the taxes be adjusted in proportion to the reduction in assessment.

Motion carried unanimously.

Draft Physician Incentive Program

Resolution C061159

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by G. El-Jakl that the draft physician incentive program be referred to the Committee of the Whole for further discussion.

Motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

At this time a Closed Session of Council was held to deal with personnel matters and legal matters.

The Regular Council Meeting was called back to order.

Yearly Increment

Resolution C061160

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by S. Strang that Wes Deschamp receive his annual increment effective November 20, 2006, after receiving a satisfactory performance evaluation by his supervisor.

Motion carried unanimously.

Probation Period

Resolution C061161

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by W. Smith that Laura Lee Greenwood, Tax Clerk, be hired as a full-time employee after having successfully completed her six month probationary period.

Motion carried unanimously.

Request for Leave of Absence

Resolution C061162

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by G. El-Jakl that Luella Belliveau, Accountant, be granted her request for a leave of absence effective November 28, 2006 for the next six month period. Her leave of absence will begin by a reduced work week to half time. Mrs. Belliveau will be permitted to continue in the Group Insurance Plan at her own expense.

Motion carried unanimously.

Municipal Solicitor

It was noted that both the Municipality of Barrington and Anthony Properties Limited engaged the same lawyer, Donald Harding, to finalize the sale/purchase of the former B.M.H.S. property.

Resolution C061163

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by E. Nickerson that the Municipal Solicitor, Donald Harding, be permitted to act on behalf of both parties concerning the disposal of the former B.M.H.S. property.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by D. Messenger that the meeting adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Warden

Clerk

Secretary for the Meeting

On website November 29, 2006