

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

January 15, 2007

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

- Louise Halliday
  - George El-Jakl
  - Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
  - Eddie Nickerson
  - Wilford Smith
  - Larry Stewart
  - Sean Strang
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- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk
  - Don Harding, Municipal Solicitor

### ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Trail Grant Application.
- CAP Funding.
- Littering.
- Crow's Neck - Shoulder of Road.
- Various Correspondence.
- Biking.

### APPROVAL OF THE 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 W. Smith that the minutes of the last previous meeting held December 18, 2006 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

### CLOSED SESSION

Council then entered into Closed Session in order to discuss various legal matters.

### Conflict of Interest

Deputy Warden Nickerson declared conflict of interest and left the Conference Room for the consideration of the first legal matter as his step-father was contracted to do work by one of the principals involved in the legal matter.

Deputy Warden Nickerson returned to the meeting for consideration of a second legal matter.

OPEN SESSION

After giving direction to the Municipal Solicitor and to the Municipal Clerk regarding legal matters, Council then returned to Open Session.

LOW INCOME TAX EXEMPTION POLICY

Information was provided to members prior to the meeting, relative to Policy #41 “Low Income Property Tax Exemption Policy”. The current Canada Pension Plan maximum payment is \$863.75 per month, and the current maximum monthly payment for Old Age Security benefits is \$491.93 per month. The maximum annual benefits received under the Canada Pension and Old Age Security is \$16,268.00. The current maximum household income allowed under the present policy is \$17,700.00. Because the combined maximums of Canada Pension and Old Age Security are still less than the maximum under our present policy, it is not necessary to adjust present policy limits.

WIND FARM LEASE

Members were informed that a draft of a wind farm lease has been received from Sou’Wester Wind Field Inc. The company wishes to know if the Municipality is interested in leasing any municipal sites for the purpose of establishing wind farms. This would be done first by signing an Option to Lease Agreement prior to any lease agreement so that Sou’Wester Wind Field Inc. could install test equipment on various sites to determine whether or not wind farms would be feasible in any given location.

After much discussion it was agreed that further information should be obtained from Sou’Wester Wind Field Inc.

Resolution COW070101

**Moved** by E. Nickerson and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that Municipal Staff contact Sou’Wester Wind Field Inc. to obtain more information which would include:

1. Identify location of sites.
2. Number of towers proposed.
3. Height of towers proposed.

Once this information is obtained, members will then further consider an Option to Lease Agreement.

**AFFIRMATIVE**

Louise Halliday  
George El-Jakl  
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger  
Eddie Nickerson  
Larry Stewart

**NEGATIVE**

Wilford Smith  
Sean Strang

Motion carried.

BELL & GRANT CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence has been received from our insurers, Bell & Grant Ltd., indicating that they will be insuring the O'Connor house which was purchased by the Municipality.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM DAVID ELDRIDGE

Correspondence has been received from David Eldridge indicating that his property will be available in mid 2009. The Municipality had previously expressed an interest in acquiring this property, and Mr. Eldridge wished to know if the Municipality was still interested in the property.

Resolution COW070102

**Moved** by L. Stewart and seconded by G. El-Jakl that more particulars be obtained on the Eldridge property regarding the size and asking price of the property before the Municipality will make any consideration on the property.

Motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF DISTRICTS

A copy of correspondence from the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board, to Mr. Angus Atkinson, has been received by the Municipality. This correspondence contains a letter from Mr. Atkinson regarding the number of councillors and the number of polling districts in the Municipality. The letter was read to councillors for their information.

SALE OF MUNICIPAL PROPERTY

This matter will be dealt with in Closed Session as it involves the determination of a price for the disposition of a municipal property.

SIDEWALK TENDER

Council had previously indicated that Municipal Staff should re-tender the sidewalk project in Barrington Passage in the spring. It is now being asked of members how they wish to proceed with this tender.

**Moved** by G. El-Jakl and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality tender the entire sidewalk project and that if the tenders are too costly in comparison as to what the Municipality is willing to pay for the project, then all of the tenders would be rejected.

Resolution COW070703

**Moved** by E. Nickerson and seconded by W. Smith that the previous motion be deferred for discussion to later in the meeting so that an amount could be determined in closed session regarding the maximum the Municipality is willing to pay for such a project.

Motion carried unanimously.

TRAIL GRANT APPLICATION

Members were informed that an application has been prepared to be sent to the Department of Health Promotion and Protection for additional funding for the Wood's Harbour Multi-Use Trail.

Warden Halliday asked that the Deputy Warden assume the chair so that she could address this issue.

Having completed her address of this issue, the Warden then resumed the chair.

There was some question regarding how cost overruns which may occur would be paid for or financed by the Municipality.

There was also much discussion regarding the use of a multipurpose trail.

It was agreed that this matter would be deferred to the next Council meeting for further consideration.

CAP MEETING

Assessment Services will be hosting a meeting to discuss the proposed capping of assessments in future years. This meeting will be held on January 31<sup>st</sup>, in Yarmouth, and the Warden and Municipal Clerk will be attending.

Resolution COW070104

**Moved** by S. Strang and seconded by G. El-Jakl that the expenses of the Warden be paid by the Municipality for attending this meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

LITTERING

It has been brought to the attention of a member that there has been some littering taking place on Highway #3 near the new Barrington Municipal High School.

This matter is being addressed by our By-Law Enforcement Officer who is pursuing the matter with the Tri-County Regional School Board.

### SHOULDER OF ROAD AT CROW'S NECK BEACH

The Area Supervisor for the Department of Transportation will be attending the Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for January 29, 2007 and this matter will be discussed with him at that time.

### VARIOUS CORRESPONDENCE

#### UFO Documentary

The Warden informed members that the UFO documentary that was filmed last fall will be broadcast on the history channel at 9:00 p.m. on January 20<sup>th</sup>, and again at 1:00 a.m. on January 21<sup>st</sup>.

#### Celebrate Canada 2007

Information has been received from the Federal Department of Canadian Heritage and the Celebrate Canada Committee for Nova Scotia regarding Celebrate Canada 2007 and possible funding for various celebrations at that time.

#### Nova Scotia Gaming Foundation

The annual reports for 2004/2005 and 2005/2006 have been received by the Warden and will be available for review of councillors in the Municipal Office.

#### Coastal Communities Network

Correspondence has been received from the Coastal Communities Network indicating that there will be a Rural Policy Forum held at Tatamogouche from February 28 - March 2, 2007 should the Municipality wish to send representatives.

#### Criminal Intelligence Service Nova Scotia

The 2006 Annual Report for the Criminal Intelligence Service Nova Scotia has been received and will be available in the Municipal Office for members to review.

### BIKING

It was indicated by a member that he has been requested to have signs placed along Highway #3 asking motorists to be alert for bikers.

This matter will be brought up with the local Area Supervisor from the Department of Transportation at the January 29<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### WEBSITE

It was asked that the Municipal website be brought up to date so that the List of Committee members is current and so that email addresses for councillors are added to the site.

FCM 2007

Information regarding the FCM conference has yet to arrive, nevertheless Municipal Staff will pursue making reservations for hotels at the site in the immediate future.

CLOSED SESSION

Members then entered into Closed Session for the purpose of setting a price for the sale of municipal property and for determining a maximum price for the construction of the Barrington Passage sidewalk.

The Barrington Passage sidewalk will be given further consideration of Committee at their meeting of January 29<sup>th</sup>.

ADJOURNMENT

**Moved** by D. Messenger and seconded by G. El-Jakl that the meeting adjourn at 10:40 p.m.

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Chairperson

Secretary for the Meeting

**On website January 17, 2007.**

