

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

May 7, 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, Chairperson
 - George El-Jakl
 - Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
 - Eddie Nickerson
 - Wilford Smith
 - Larry Stewart
 - Sean Strang
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- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Firefighter.
- Tax Assessment.
- Industrial Park.
- Litter.
- Questions for Insurer.
- Engineering Services.
- CBDC Invitation.
- Meeting with Energy Minister.
- Correspondence.

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 G. El-Jakl and seconded by S. Strang that the minutes of the last previous meeting held April 30, 2007 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

R.C.M.P. MONTHLY REPORT

Cpl. Doug Brannen appeared before the meeting for the purposes of presenting the R.C.M.P.'s monthly report. Unfortunately, this month Cpl. Brannen was unable to provide a written report due to the absence of secretarial staff at the Detachment.

Information had previously been circulated to members by the Principal regarding the security event held at the High School. Cpl. Brannen reviewed this incident and provided further information to councillors. He informed members that the incident at the High School was in fact a hoax perpetrated by other students on one particular student.

Cpl. Brannen also indicated that there would be a public meeting tomorrow night, May 8th, at the Wood's Harbour Fire Hall. This meeting would deal with the policing issues in the community, including events surrounding Halloween night of the previous year. Members were informed that there have now been 43 charges resulting from the events of Halloween night 2006.

Constable Ross is now back in the Detachment bringing it up to full staff. Constables Keddy and O'Brien will be transferred sometime during the summer, and it is anticipated their replacements will follow shortly so that a full complement of staff is maintained.

Having completed his discussion of matters, Cpl. Brannen retired from the meeting.

VICTORIA HOTEL UPDATE

The By-Law Enforcement Officer has attempted to contact the owner of the Victoria Hotel property by telephone. He has been unsuccessful and therefore has had to send information to the owner of the property by mail. A report has been done and pictures taken of the status of the hotel, and the owner has been asked to rectify deficiencies.

DR. YEE REQUEST

Dr. Yee is requesting the Municipality to pay the board for a doctor who will be attending here from May 28th to June 29th.

Resolution COW070501

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by L. Stewart that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality pay the board for Dr. Gabrielle Gellrich who will be practicing with Dr. Yee from May 28th to June 29th, and that she be invited to meet the Community Health Care Advisory Committee during her stay here.

Motion carried unanimously.

SCOTIAN GOLD RESOURCES

A representative of Scotian Gold Resources visited the Municipal Office recently and discussed the establishment of wind turbine generators in the Municipality with the Municipal Clerk and Municipal Development Officer. This company represents a larger company which builds wind farms. They are proposing to lease property in the Wood's Harbour area for the purpose of constructing a wind farm and would like to lease some Municipal property in that area. The company starts with an option on property for five years and if it is then developed it exercises the option to obtain a 25 year lease.

Resolution COW070502

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by W. Smith that it be recommended to Council that Municipal Staff inform the Scotian Gold Resources representative that the Municipality at the current time is not interested in providing an option on its property in the Forbes Point area, however, when the company is ready to develop wind turbine generators in the area, it should contact the Municipality, which may then wish to negotiate a lease agreement.

Motion carried unanimously.

BLACK WATCH PAINTBALL REQUEST

Correspondence has been received by email from Black Watch Paintball. The owners are requesting permission from the Municipality to excavate the property they are leasing in order to make it more useful for a “speedball field”.

There followed some discussion regarding this matter.

Resolution COW070503

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by D. Messenger that the Black Watch Paintball principals be asked to attend the Committee of the Whole meeting on May 22nd in order to discuss this matter further.

Motion carried unanimously.

OCEAN PRODUCE INTERNATIONAL

Members were informed that Ocean Produce International had served an Originating Notice on the Warden last Friday regarding a future legal action.

BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

The Municipality has advertised for a By-Law Enforcement Officer for the animal and dog by-laws. Four applications have been received. It will be necessary for the Hiring Committee to meet to interview these applicants. It was suggested that the Hiring Committee should meet on May 24th for this purpose. Arrangements will be made for the Hiring Committee meeting.

BUDGET

Grants to Organizations and Community Grants

Two areas of the budget are to be considered tonight. The first area is Grants to Organizations and Community Grants, and the second area is Area Fire Rates.

Information was provided on the Grants to Organizations that are normally provided each year and the additional requests for Grants to Organizations. A list of the Community Grants requested was also provided to members, summarized by district.

After some discussion it was agreed that members would review these grants and further discuss them during the budget process.

Area Fire Rates

A list of Area Fire Rates was provided to members. Also provided to members were the calculations of the Area Fire Rates by individual district. This information was provided to members so that they will be aware of the fire rates required to fund local volunteer fire departments.

GOOSE LAKE ROAD

The Municipal Solicitor has been asked to provide advice regarding the status of Goose Lake Road. He has informed us that this road is probably a public road due to the use being made of it. He also informs us that while the road is probably a public municipal road, the Municipality does not have an obligation to keep the public road in good repair and cannot be liable for any action for non repair. On the other hand, if work is done on the road and it is not done properly, there is a liability.

Members generally agreed to continue to maintain the Goose Lake Road in a similar fashion as has been done in the past, and have been advised that funds will be included in the current year's operating budget for this purpose.

CAPE LIGHT SIGNAGE

Information on the Cape Sable Island Lighthouse was circulated to members for their information. It is suggested that a sign be placed along the bottom of the municipal signs on Highway 103 referring to the Cape Light as the highest lighthouse in Nova Scotia. The funding for these proposed signs will be included in the Municipality's budget for the current operating year.

ALLEGATION OF DISCRIMINATION

Information was obtained from the Municipal Solicitor regarding this matter. It is the advice of the Solicitor that it would not be appropriate to provide confidential information to Councillor Stewart because he has otherwise declared a conflict from getting this information under the circumstances. It is the Solicitor's view that an allegation of discrimination should be investigated by an independent body, and in this province that body is the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission.

There then followed some discussion regarding this matter.

No further action is required at this time.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

The Schedule of Fees was circulated to members for their information and perusal.

FIREFIGHTER

There was some question regarding the requirement for employers to allow volunteer fire fighters to attend at fires when an alarm was sounded.

At the present time there is no law requiring employers to allow their employees who are volunteer fire fighters to go attend to a fire.

TAX ASSESSMENT

The current total taxable assessment for the Municipality after adjustments is \$341,170,000.00. As a result a tax of \$.01 per \$100.00 of assessment on all taxable properties will produce \$34,170.00 in tax revenues.

INDUSTRIAL PARK STUDY

Members were informed that the South West Shore Development Authority is still seeking funding for the study to be done on industrial park sites in the Municipality. As yet no funding sources have been found.

This matter will be further pursued with the South West Shore Development Authority.

LITTER

Local distributors are placing advertising flyers in people's driveways in plastic bags. These bags are sometimes collected by the property owners and sometimes are not. As a result there is much litter in the community resulting from the distribution of these flyers.

Resolution COW070504

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to the distributors of flyers to local households in our area requesting them to take ownership of the litter problem that they are creating by the manner in which they are distributing these flyers.

Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Information has been received from Councillor Russell Walker, President of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities, regarding a workshop for CAOs, Clerk-Treasurers and Wardens regarding council/staff relations.

At the present time both the Warden and the Clerk-Treasurer have indicated they will not be attending this workshop.

MINISTER OF ENERGY VISIT

The Minister of Energy will be meeting with representatives of local municipalities at Rudders Restaurant, in Yarmouth, on May 17th. The Minister's Executive Assistant has also indicated that the Minister would be willing to meet with Municipal Council the following day, on May 18th, at the Municipal Office in Barrington.

Arrangements will be made for this meeting and councillors will be informed as soon as arrangements have been completed.

QUESTIONS FOR INSURER

Our Municipal Insurance representative is willing to meet with Council for the purpose of discussing insurance coverage. He has sent an email to the Municipal Officer requesting questions from councillors in advance so that he may prepare for this meeting.

The only question put forward by members is: "Can a yearly fee be put in place by the insurance company to cover all events that take place on municipal properties whether they are municipal events sponsored by the Municipality or outside organizations, and how much would this premium for insurance coverage be to the Municipality?"

This question will be forwarded to the insurance company and arrangements will be made for the insurer to come to the next Committee of the Whole, if possible.

ENGINEERING SERVICES

The Municipality has advertised by way of Request for Proposals for engineering services to be provided for the next three years, beginning June 1, 2007.

As a result of this advertisement, seven proposals have been submitted. The proposals were opened by councillors this evening. These will be reviewed and evaluated by Municipal Staff who will then report back to Council.

CBDC OPEN HOUSE

The Shelburne Office of the Community Business Development Corporation is hosting an Open House on May 9th, and has invited members to attend as May 9th is CBDC Awareness Day.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 10:40 p.m.

_____ Chairperson

_____ Secretary for the Meeting

On website May 9, 2007.