

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

May 17, 2007

The meeting was called to order by the Warden at 6:38 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
- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

PURPOSE OF MEETING

The purpose of this meeting was to review expenditures proposed for the 2007/2008 fiscal year. These expenditures are contained in budget documents which have been copied and circulated to all members for discussion during the meeting.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES

The expenditures required for General Government Services were reviewed by members. As a result of this review, the following comments and issues were raised.

1. Councillor's insurance travel. The premium for councillor's insurance travel has increased again this year. This matter will be brought up when our insurance agent, Mr. Darryl Wilson, speaks with the Committee of the Whole. It may be advisable to have this insurance travel folded into our regular liability insurance program in order to obtain cheaper premiums.
2. Many residents are now paying their taxes through credit cards. As a result the Municipality is paying out high costs for credit card fees. The discount for credit card fees are 2.17% for both Visa and Mastercard. There is a transaction fee of 12 cents each for each debit card transaction processed. Over the course of the year this fee amounts to a considerable amount of money. It is believed many of our residents pay by credit card in order to obtain their air miles. It is suggested by members that a fee be put in place for residents who wish to pay their taxes by credit card.
3. There is some confusion as to what amounts are being charged to various accounts for travel expenses of councillors, as well as for expenses of attending conferences and committee meetings outside the Municipality. Detailed charges to the following accounts will be printed out and circulated to members at the next meeting:
 - Acc.# 21130-010
 - Acc.# 21130-020
 - Acc.# 21920-000
 - Acc.# 21920-010

4. \$5,000.00 has been included in the budget in Acc.# 22450-000 for placement of a fire hydrant at West Baccaro for the Port LaTour Volunteer Fire Department.
5. There is a difference in the per unit cost of street lights billed from the Yarmouth Office of NSPI as compared to those billed from the Shelburne Office of NSPI. This matter will be further investigated and the information returned to the committee.
6. There then followed much discussion regarding sewer systems and cost of sewer systems. The information provided in the budget was reviewed with the councillors. It is apparent that the current sewer charges in the Barrington sewer system are not recovering the total cost of the system. More information will be prepared on the sewer systems and the cost of the sewer systems, and brought back to committee.
7. No costs have been included for the cost of by-law enforcement as during the previous year a municipal employee conducted most of these costs. The charges for by-law enforcement will be estimated and included in the budget. The budget will be amended accordingly.
8. Other municipal units deposit waste at our Landfill, including the Town of Clark's Harbour. A summary of the amount of waste deposited in our Landfill by other municipal units will be brought to the next budget meeting for information of members.
9. There was some discussion regarding the charging of rent at the Community Health Centre. It was the general consensus of members that sometime in the near future it would be necessary to begin charging rent again at the Community Health Centre.
10. The deficit of the Tri-County Housing Authority is included in the budget, however, as yet we have received no definite estimate of this amount from the Authority.
11. It was generally agreed by members that an expenditure of \$25,000.00 will be included to fund a study to determine where an industrial park can best be located in the Municipality. It is believed by members that an industrial park is necessary in order to attract additional businesses to the community.
12. Repairs and maintenance at the Sherose Recreation Centre will be listed in detail for information of members. This will be presented to the next budget committee meeting.
13. A printout of all miscellaneous accounts is requested by members. This will be done in the near future and brought to the next budget review meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Having completed their consideration of these matters, the meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 10:47 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary for the Meeting

On website May 24, 2007.