

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

June 18, 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:

- Archelaus Smith Museum Request.
- Tax Sale Update.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by W. Smith that the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by W. Smith and seconded by S. Strang that the minutes of the last two previous meetings held June 4th and June 13th, 2007, be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

FIRE SERVICE ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA

Ten members of local fire departments appeared at the meeting in order to discuss proposed standards to be put in place for volunteer fire departments in Nova Scotia. Mr. Tom Bremner was consulted, by telephone, to discuss the development and implementation of these standards by the Fire Service Association of Nova Scotia. Mr. Bremner informed members of the following:

- It is the intent of the Fire Service Association to bring forward standards leading to a better fire service in Nova Scotia. The first standard being developed is for the Chief Officer or Fire Chief. The development of this standard will set in motion the development of other standards in the future.

The time frame for the development of standards has not been definitively set and could be from one to three years. This will be determined by the process being followed.

The Fire Service Association is now developing a Chief Officer standard and is seeking input from fire chiefs throughout the province in regards to this matter. At the present time the provincial government is listening and Minister Parent has asked for proposals from the Fire Service. Mr. Bremner indicated that the NFPA standards are guidelines only. The Fire Service intends to create their own minimum standards for the Province of Nova Scotia. He indicated that it would not be possible for Nova Scotia volunteer fire departments to fulfill NFPA standards as these are very expensive. He also indicated that different standards would be put in place in HRM and CBRM where there are full-time fire fighters. There was some concern expressed that the development of standards will scare volunteers away. Mr. Bremner indicated that he believed there will be changes to the fire service in the future.

There was then some discussion regarding amalgamation of fire departments. Amalgamations may be necessary both financially and due to other circumstances. Area fire services must make the amalgamation decisions. These will not be imposed by the Fire Service Association. No standards will be implemented this year. The province has been recognizing the Fire Service Association in the last few years and has asked them to provide information on their needs for the provision of fire services. The only financial support the province provides the fire service now is a \$190,000.00 grant to the fire school in Waverley and a small grant to the Fire Service Association for administrative costs.

Having completed his discussion of the matter, Mr. Bremner was then excused from the meeting.

There then followed some discussion of the standards with the fire department members present. It was asked if one area rate across the entire Municipality would be acceptable to the fire departments. The fire departments did not provide any definitive answer regarding the matter of a single area rate across the Municipality.

The Shag Harbour, Island & Barrington Passage, Barrington and Wood's Harbour fire departments were represented at the meeting, however, the Port Clyde and Port LaTour fire departments were not.

Resolution COW070607

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by W. Smith that Councillor George El-Jakl and Councillor Sean Strang be appointed to a Fire Service Committee, together with all of the fire chiefs from the fire departments in the Municipality, who would meet on a monthly basis beginning with the first meeting initiated by the Wood's Harbour fire chief in order to discuss the further development of the fire services in the Municipality.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Wood's Harbour fire chief will initiate the first meeting at which a chairman will be elected for this committee.

Having completed their discussion of this matter, the fire department representatives then retired from the meeting.

WOOD'S HARBOUR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Representatives of the Wood's Harbour Volunteer Fire Department appeared before the meeting to discuss the current physical state of their fire department building in Wood's Harbour.

Troy Stoddard acted as spokesperson for the fire department. He indicated that an estimate has been received from Delmar Construction to fix the problem at their fire department. The right rear corner of the building is settling in the truck bay because of a lack of solid ground under that corner of the building. Delmar Construction has estimated that it will cost \$172,400.00, plus H.S.T. to repair the building.

An estimate of constructing a new building on the same property was also obtained. The estimated cost of a new building, with three bays, and the dimensions of 70' X 80', is \$350,000.00. This does not include the cost of demolishing the old building.

An estimate was also obtained for building a new community centre for the Wood's Harbour area which would include a fire department. The estimate for such a building is \$1.4 Million Dollars, plus H.S.T.

Mr. Stoddard indicated that representatives of the fire department have met with Minister Hurlbert and with our MP Gerald Keddy regarding this matter. The fire department has also been investigating funding through the province with Mr. Robert Maillet of the Department of Economic Development.

It was suggested that an alternative to building a new fire department or repairing the current fire department would be to purchase Leslie Chetwynd's building and convert it into a fire department.

The members of the Wood's Harbour Fire Department are seeking the assistance of the Municipality in resolving this problem.

After having completed their discussion of this matter the members then retired from the meeting.

CLOSED SESSION RE: SALE OF MUNICIPAL PROPERTY

Council then entered into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing the sale of Municipal property.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Having completing their discussion of the sale of Municipal property, Council then returned to Open Session.

RECESS

Resolution COW070608

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by L. Stewart that the committee temporarily take a brief recess for the purpose of holding an Emergency Meeting of Council.

Motion carried unanimously.

BARRINGTON AREA SOCCER ASSOCIATION

This matter will be deferred to a future meeting as no response has yet been received from the Association.

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE EXPANSION

There followed much discussion regarding the expansion of the Community Health Centre and the scheduling of health professionals in the Centre.

An email received this evening from Dr. John O'Connor was read to members for their information.

The Deputy Warden then related his discussions with Dr. Blair and the Nurse Practitioner regarding the use of space at the Community Health Centre.

The Warden then related a summary of her discussion with Rosanne D'Eon, the new representative from the District Health Authority regarding community health issues.

A call was then placed to Dr. O'Connor so that he could discuss these issues with the Committee of the Whole. Dr. O'Connor was assured that two exam rooms, together with a reception area and office area for his secretary, would be provided to him in the Community Health Centre when he comes here in early September. Dr. O'Connor requested confirmation of this space being available to him, in writing, so that he could practice full time in the Community Health Centre.

Resolution COW070609

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality confirm, in writing, to Dr. O'Connor that two exam rooms, together with office space for his secretary and office space for Dr. O'Connor, will be provided to him in the Community Health Centre.

Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. O'Connor suggested that the clinic tenants, together, design expanded space in the Community Health Centre, in consultation with an architect.

Having completed their discussion of the matter, Dr. O'Connor's telephone conversation was then terminated.

It was agreed by consensus of members that the Warden will call Rosanne D'Eon at the District Health Authority and arrange for a meeting with her as soon as possible.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

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

OLD TELEPHONE OFFICE

A local contractor, Mr. Mike Hennigar, has been contacted and asked to provide an estimate of the cost of making repairs to the Old Telephone Office building.

ARCHELAUS SMITH MUSEUM

At a previous meeting, it was agreed by Council that the Municipality would provide a portable toilet to the Archelaus Smith Museum for the summer of 2007, at Municipal expense. The museum is now requesting that this be done on a continuing basis.

Resolution COW070610

Moved by L. Stewart and seconded by E. Nickerson that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality pay for, and provide a portable toilet to the Archelaus Smith Museum each summer while it is in operation.

Motion carried unanimously.

TAX SALE

Members were updated regarding the Tax Sale which took place this morning. There were 28 properties sold at the Tax Sale. Of these, only four properties were purchased by the Municipality. The Tax Sale Certificates will be duly processed.

LABOUR STANDARD CODE

There have recently been amendments to the Nova Scotia Labour Standards Code which will require changes to the Municipality's Personnel Policy regarding vacations and hours of work.

The Labour Standards Code now requires that any employee who works five (5) consecutive hours must receive a one half hour break for a rest or eating period. This one half hour break can be unpaid time, or may be paid time as determined by the employer. At the present time Property Services employees work from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. without being given any break. In future, they will be required to take at least a one half hour unpaid break and be required to work 8 hours, meaning they will either start work at 8:00 a.m. or finish at 5:00 p.m., as determined by the Property Services Supervisor.

As a result of amendments to the Labour Standards Code, it is also now necessary to provide employees with a vacation of two (2) weeks after twelve (12) months of work, which are to be taken within the following ten (10) months. If an employee has been employed with the same employer longer than eight (8) consecutive years, a vacation of at least three (3) weeks is necessary. It is not acceptable for employees to not take this vacation.

Resolution COW070611

Moved by L. Stewart and seconded by W. Smith that it be recommended to Council that work hours of Property Services employees be amended in order to comply with the Labour Standards Code of Nova Scotia, and that they be required to work 8 hours daily with a one half hour unpaid break.

AFFIRMATIVE

George El-Jakl
Louise Halliday
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
Wilford Smith
Larry Stewart
Sean Strang

NEGATIVE

Eddie Nickerson

Motion carried.

Resolution COW070612

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by L. Stewart that it be recommended to Council that all Municipal Employees be required to take vacation as required by the Labour Standards Code of Nova Scotia.

Motion carried unanimously.

The requirements of the Labour Standards Code will be confirmed, in writing, by the Nova Scotia Department of Environment & Labour for the information of members.

A letter will be sent to the Nova Scotia Department of Environment & Labour confirming that employees will not be permitted to waive their right to a vacation or to a break when working in excess of five (5) consecutive hours.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 11:17 p.m.

_____ Chairperson

_____ Secretary for the Meeting

On website June 19, 2007.

