

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

July 30, 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 AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Port Clyde Center.
- Dr. Chaloner.
- Industrial Site.
- Letter of Support.
- C.S.I. Sewer.
- Community Grant Request.
- Community Health Centre.
- Annual Expenditure Report for Gas Tax.
- Unsightly Premises.
- Sewer Laterals.
- Land for Tourist Centre.
- Promotional Lobster at Oak Park.
- Insurance Changes.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by W. Smith that the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by G. El-Jakl that minutes of the last previous meetings held July 16th and 17th, 2007 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

LABOUR STANDARDS

For the purpose of discussing the Municipality's compliance with the amendments to the Labour Standards Code, Brian O'Connor, Property Services Supervisor, attended the meeting.

Members then discussed the payment of Property Services Staff during lunch breaks.

It is believed that by having Property Services Employees work continuously for an 8 hour period, and providing them with a paid one half hour lunch break during that time, productivity would be higher than if this is not done. If employees are required to take a one half hour unpaid break, it is believed this will lower the productivity of the group.

Resolution COW070717

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by S. Strang that further information regarding the Municipality's Personnel Policy and job descriptions for these employees be provided at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

EXCAVATOR TENDERS

Members were informed that the Property Services Supervisor, together with Michael Swim, an employee in the Property Services Department who has experience operating excavators, journeyed to Truro and Pictou in order to view some of the excavators on which tenders had been received. During their visits Michael Swim was given the opportunity to drive the excavators and to use them for a limited time. As a result of their visits members were informed, by memo from the Property Services Supervisor to the Clerk-Treasurer, that: "either machine is capable of performing the daily work requirements at the C & D Landfill Site".

The lowest price tender was received from CAT Atlantic for a Caterpillar 311CU hydraulic excavator.

Resolution COW070718

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality accept the lowest tender from CAT Atlantic for the purchase of an excavator for the Construction and Demolition Landfill Site.

Motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

Resolution COW070719

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by S. Strang that the meeting enter into Closed Session for the purposes of discussing a personnel matter.

AFFIRMATIVE

George El-Jakl
Louise Halliday
Donna LeBlanc-Messinger
Eddie Nickerson
Wilford Smith

NEGATIVE

Larry Stewart
Sean Strang

Motion carried.

The committee then entered into Closed Session.

Having completed their discussion of the personnel matter, the committee then returned to Open Session.

Brian O'Connor, the Property Services Supervisor, retired from the meeting at this time.

GEORGE NEWELL PROPERTY

Property owned by George Newell and Terry Newell has been offered to the Municipality by the owners. The owners wish to donate this property to the Municipality as they have no further use for it.

This matter was investigated with the Municipal Solicitor. The Solicitor has informed Municipal Staff that migration of the property is not required as it is a gift to the Municipality. The cost of transferring this property will be whatever legal fees are required to prepare a deed, somewhere in the vicinity of \$200.00 to \$250.00.

Resolution COW070720

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality accept the donation of property from George and Terry Newell.

Motion carried unanimously.

BEULAH BURMAN MEMORIAL ANIMAL SHELTER SOCIETY

This matter had been referred to the Committee by Council. In their presentation to the representatives of councils of the County, this Society had made 14 specific requests.

Resolution COW070721

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by G. El-Jakl that this matter be referred to the next Committee of the Whole in order to give members time to review the proposal by the Beulah Burman Memorial Animal Shelter Society.

Motion carried unanimously.

TENDERS FOR ELECTRICAL, CARPENTRY AND PLUMBING

It will be necessary to issue public tenders for electrical and carpentry, both in the very near future. It is also suggested that at the same time tenders also be requested for plumbing work for the Municipality. It is suggested that these tenders be issued for a period of three (3) years in order to give tradesmen an opportunity to provide for some stability in their work and commitment to the Municipality. It is also suggested that certified tradesmen be required to tender for the provision of all of these services.

Resolution COW070722

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by W. Smith that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality tender for a period of three (3) years for certified tradesmen to provide services for plumbing, electrical and carpentry work to the Municipality.

Motion carried unanimously.

DESTINATION SOUTH WEST NOVA SCOTIA

Members were informed that our Visitor Information Centre Manager, Diane Smith, has indicated she would be willing to serve on the Communications Committee of the tourism group. She is uncertain as to the long term benefit of serving with group and its future direction.

Resolution COW070723

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by L. Stewart that it be recommended to Council that Diane Smith, the Municipality's Visitor Information Centre Manager, serve on the Communications Committee of Destination South West Nova Scotia for a period of one (1) year, after which her membership will be reviewed by Council.

Motion carried unanimously.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

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

WOOD'S HARBOUR PROJECT

The design plans provided by Horner Associates were shown to all members. A break period was provided to members so that they could review the plans in more detail.

INDUSTRIAL PARK SITE

At the present time no official communication has been received regarding our application for funding from the Department of Economic Development. Informal communications with the department staff have been favourable. We are still awaiting a reply from them regarding our application.

DR. CHALONER

A member questioned whether or not Dr. Chaloner has been notified of activities taking place at the Community Health Centre which may affect her.

To date no notification has been provided.

This matter will be further discussed under the title "Community Health Centre".

PORT CLYDE COMMUNITY CENTRE

The councillor for the area informed members that he has been told by the Deputy Chief of the Port Clyde Fire Department that their application for a grant from the Province has been declined because the Municipality did not provide a grant for this project.

No written verification has been provided to the Municipality by the Fire Department in regards to this matter.

At this point the Deputy Warden was asked to assume the Chair while the Warden addressed the issue.

The Warden then resumed the Chair.

CAPE SABLE ISLAND SEWER

This matter was deferred to the end of the meeting for further discussion.

COMMUNITY GRANT REQUEST

A grant request has been received from the Club House Playground Group in Wood's Harbour for funding to upgrade their playground.

Resolution COW070724

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by L. Stewart that it be recommended to Council that a grant of \$1,500.00 from the District 1 Community Grants Fund be provided to the Club House Playground Group for the purpose of maintenance to their facility.

Motion carried unanimously.

ANNUAL EXPENDITURE REPORT FOR GAS TAX AGREEMENT

Members were informed that this report has been completed by our auditors and will be forwarded to Service Nova Scotia as soon as it is approved by Council.

This report will be put on the Council agenda for approval.

UNSIGHTLY PREMISES

Our By-Law Enforcement Officer has investigated an alleged unsightly premise at Petticoat Lane. No official report has been received yet, although the preliminary indications are that the premise is neither dangerous or unsightly according to our by-laws.

SEWER CHARGES

A member was informed that there is a charge of .3 units for each vacant lot which borders on the sewer line in either Barrington/Barrington Passage or Wood's Harbour.

LAND IN OAK PARK FOR TOURIST CENTRE AND BIG LOBSTER

A member indicated that the Municipality should be investigating the cost of acquiring the property at Intersection 30, adjacent to the Yarmouth exit, or as near as possible, for the purpose of relocating the Visitor Information Centre and constructing a "big lobster".

Resolution COW070725

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by W. Smith that Municipal Staff determine ownership of the property at the Yarmouth exit on the connector road which may be obtained for the purpose of relocating the Visitor Information Centre and other construction, as soon as possible.

AFFIRMATIVE

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

NEGATIVE

Sean Strang

Motion carried.

BIG LOBSTER

It was requested that staff provide information regarding the cost of constructing a "big lobster" which could be used as a view point at the highway at Intersection 30 to see over Barrington Bay.

It was requested that information be obtained on the design and cost of such a facility.

Resolution COW070726

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by W. Smith that Municipal Staff obtain the information required on the cost and design of constructing a big lobster as an observation point at Exit 30, and that this information be obtained by mid September.

AFFIRMATIVE

George El-Jakl
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
Eddie Nickerson
Wilford Smith

NEGATIVE

Louise Halliday
Larry Stewart
Sean Strang

Motion carried.

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality allocate up to \$25,000.00 from General Revenues for the purpose of obtaining the information regarding the construction of a “big lobster” observation site.

AFFIRMATIVE

George El-Jakl
Eddie Nickerson
Wilford Smith

NEGATIVE

Louise Halliday
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
Larry Stewart
Sean Strang

Motion defeated.

INSURANCE

Members questioned who is the beneficiary on the accident insurance that is being put in place on the councillors.

Resolution COW070727

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by E. Nickerson that Municipal Staff obtain information regarding the beneficiaries on accident insurance on councillors.

Motion carried unanimously.

LETTER OF SUPPORT

The meeting was informed that a phone call had been received by the Warden regarding the letter of support provided for the Affordable Housing Project being started by Mr. Ken Anthony. A member of the public had expressed concern regarding the impact of housing projects in the Municipality.

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

Members were informed that the Department of Health may provide funding for the purchase of equipment in a Community Health Centre.

Members were also informed that the South West Shore Development Authority may be able to provide funding for the building, or expansion of the Community Health Centre.

The Deputy Warden assumed the Chair so that the Warden could summarize the situation at our Community Health Centre.

The Warden emphasized the need for a decision to move forward with the Community Health Centre so that all of those individuals involved could be notified of any actions being taken place when Dr. O'Connor arrives in the fall.

The Warden then resumed the Chair.

Resolution COW070728

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by L. Stewart that it be recommended to Council that Municipal Staff contact Dr. Chaloner, the VON, Diane Corbett and Dr. Vanast, informing them that temporarily their use of the offices at the Community Health Centre would be interrupted. An office will be provided for their interim use until the situation at the Community Health Centre has been resolved. The office being provided in the interim will be in the Municipal Administration Building, if they wish to use it, and will be provided free of charge.

Motion carried unanimously.

C.S.I. SEWER

Resolution COW070729

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by W. Smith that consideration of the C.S.I. Project be deferred until the next meeting of the committee.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by G. El-Jakl that the meeting adjourn at 10:26 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary for the Meeting

On website July 31, 2007.