

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

October 15, 2007

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 8:15 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
- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

VICTORIA HOTEL DEMOLITION ORDER

Mr. Mario Cormier, the owner of Mansonville Plastics who is the company that owns the former Victoria Hotel property, was interviewed by members.

Mr. Cormier wished to discuss the demolition of the Victoria Hotel in order to obtain a further delay in order to demolish the property.

Mr. Cormier spoke at length regarding the demolition of the hotel and history behind the ownership of it. He indicated that Mr. David Trefry from Yarmouth will start demolition of the hotel building on Wednesday morning, October 17, 2007. Mr. Cormier is also requesting Council to waive the Landfill tipping fee for the material being taken to the C & D Landfill Site.

Resolution COW071008

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by E. Nickerson that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality waive the tipping fee for the deposit of waste from the Victoria Hotel property being deposited by Mr. David Trefry, at the Municipal C & D Landfill Site beginning, on Wednesday, October 17, 2007.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Cormier indicated that local contractors would not be able to start the job at the present and had indicated that they would be more expensive for demolishing the hotel. Mr. Cormier also indicated that he will be tearing down the motel units as well as the hotel building.

Having completed his discussion of the matter, Mr. Cormier then retired from the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Resolution COW071009

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by W. Smith that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality defer any action on its Demolition Order on the Victoria Hotel until after Wednesday, October 17, 2007.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Councillor El-Jakl wished to obtain some direction from other councillors regarding the South West Shore Development Authority meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 17th.

No definitive recommendation was made to Councillor El-Jakl at this time.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by W. Smith and seconded by G. El-Jakl that the minutes of the last previous meeting held October 1, 2007 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

INTEGRATED COMMUNITIES SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

Prior to the meeting members had been provided with information from Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations regarding the templates for an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan. These templates are contained in the guide that has been provided by the department for the development of these plans. All municipal units receiving Gas Tax Funds are required to have these plans developed and forwarded to Service Nova Scotia, no later than January 2010. This is a subject that will no doubt be discussed numerous times in the near future as plans are developed. At the same time members are informed that the Planning Advisory Committee is also doing strategic planning for the District Planning Commission and each individual unit. It is suggested that these two planning efforts which are being done simultaneously, be coordinated in order to eliminate any duplication of effort, and to provide for sharing of information.

Resolution COW071010

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Strategic Planning which is being done by the Planning Advisory Committee be coordinated with Council in order to incorporate the information and initiatives into the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan which is required to be done in order to obtain Gas Tax Funds.

Motion carried unanimously.

MUNICIPAL INSURANCE RE: NON PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AND SCHOOL AGREEMENT

These two items were discussed at the same time as they are inter-related.

The insurance company had been asked if insurance coverage could be provided to non profit organizations wishing to use municipal property. The intention is that the Municipality would purchase coverage from the insurance company to cover any non profit groups that wished to use municipal property for fundraising or other events.

An email was received on October 3rd from Mr. Darryl Wilson who is our insurance agent with Bell & Grant Ltd. Mr. Wilson indicated that the bottom line again is: “No. The Municipality cannot buy insurance coverage for other groups. Specifically relative to the two groups you have mentioned, the Parent Teacher Group should be approaching the School Board, if anybody, and the cancer group may check with the Cancer Society. Other than that separate groups should contact insurance brokers in the area with whom they are familiar. As well, subject to receipt of a completed application from any such group, that are actually a user of a municipal property, Bell & Grant could attempt to obtain a quote.”

At this time the Community School Use Agreement was also discussed as this also affects insurance coverage. Each time the local School Board wishes to have school events on Municipal property, insurance coverage must be obtained. The local schools use the Arena for high school hockey games and tournaments, they use the baseball field at Sherose Island for high school baseball games and tournaments. They also use the walking trail for “walk to school day”, the tourist rest stop in Barrington for a fundraising event for Forest Ridge Academy, and various other municipal facilities such as the Community Recreation Centre for a variety of school and fundraising events. Also the Municipality uses the Barrington Municipal High School, Evelyn Richardson Memorial Elementary School, Forest Ridge Academy and Cape Sable Island Elementary School to conduct recreation programs at various times of the year.

It was suggested to the High School Principal, who is agreeable to the suggestion, that a reciprocal use agreement could be developed and put in place between the Municipality and the Tri-County Regional School Board for the use of all School Board properties in the Municipality, and for the use of Municipal properties by School Board entities.

Members generally supported the development of such an agreement.

Resolution COW071011

Moved by W. Smith and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that Municipal Staff develop a reciprocal agreement for the use of School Board and Municipal properties within the Municipality and that this agreement be forwarded to the School Board for their comments and approval.

Motion carried unanimously.

ACTIVITIES FUNDS POLICY AND FIRE RESPONSE & EMERGENCY SERVICES POLICY

It was agreed by consensus of members that these two policies would be deferred until the next meeting of the committee to give members more time to review and consider the proposed policies.

C & D LANDFILL POLICY

Members were provided with a draft of a proposed amendment to the C & D Landfill Policy. The proposed amendment would be inserted at the end of paragraph 5(a) and states: "If a resident's waste is being transported to the site by non residents then a resident must be on site when the waste is being deposited." This is the practice that is now in place and it is being added to the policy for the sake of clarity.

Resolution COW071012

Moved by L. Stewart and seconded by W. Smith that notice be given to Council at its next subsequent meeting of the proposed amendment to the C & D Landfill Policy for paragraph 5(a).

AFFIRMATIVE

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

NEGATIVE

Eddie Nickerson

Motion carried.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST ACT

Correspondence has been received from the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities by email requesting comments on the proposed changes to the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act. This correspondence had previously been circulated to councillors for their review. At the present time there were no comments or suggestions made by members.

BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

The Municipality has advertised for an additional By-Law Enforcement Officer in two editions of the local newspaper. To date, no responses have been received. The deadline for response was Friday, October 12th.

There followed much discussion regarding the use of By-Law Enforcement Officers and its viability as a full-time position. It is not believed that by-law enforcement will require a full-time employee at any time in the near future.

Resolution COW071013

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that Municipal Staff search for one or more by-law enforcement officers for the Municipality since no response has been received from the advertisement for the position.

AFFIRMATIVE

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

NEGATIVE

Eddie Nickerson

Motion carried.

LOBLAWS EASEMENT

Correspondence has been received from Mr. Anthony Chapman who is a lawyer with the firm of Cox & Palmer. Mr. Chapman is requesting the Municipality of Barrington to enter into an easement agreement with Loblaw Properties Ltd. for the sewer line which crosses property which Loblaws is in the process of purchasing. Loblaws is purchasing this property from the provincial government. This is property that is in their parking lot at the edge of the former CNR right of way which is now owned by the Department of Natural Resources. The Municipal sewer line runs underneath a portion of this property. Loblaws is offering to provide a ten foot wide easement to the Municipality over this property. The Municipality will require this easement in order to be able to maintain its sewer line in the area.

Resolution COW071014

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by W. Smith that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality enter into an easement agreement with Loblaw Properties Ltd. for the purpose of maintaining its sanitary sewer line on their property in Barrington Passage.

Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

Information was provided to members indicating the potential cost of providing a generator at the Community Health Centre in the case of a state of emergency being declared in the Municipality. It is believed that this is the only location where the Municipality may wish to place a backup generator for electrical power. The estimate which was provided, by memo, from the Property Services Supervisor was that a generator would cost approximately \$25,000.00, and proper installation cost would be in the range of \$4,000.00. This estimate was provided for the information of members.

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Municipal Staff have been trying to communicate with the Yarmouth Employee Assistance Program, without success. Numerous calls have been placed to the number provided to us for contact with these people. Messages have been left but at no time have we been able to get in touch with them, and at no time have they returned any calls to us.

Members were also informed that the present Employee Assistance Program that is in place experienced only one usage by staff of the Municipality during the previous year.

Resolution COW071015

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality renew its current Employee Assistance Program.

Motion carried unanimously.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

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

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by S. Strang that the meeting be adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary for the Meeting

On website October 16, 2007.