

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

January 7, 2008

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson at 7:05 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 (7:08 p.m.)
  - Wilford Smith
  - Larry Stewart
  - Sean Strang (7:08 p.m.)
- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

### ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Wetland Information.
- Ryer Property.
- Building Canada Fund.
- Christine Nickerson Request.
- C.S.I. Sewer.
- Correspondence.
- Industrial Park.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Motion carried unanimously.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Moved** by S. Strang and seconded by L. Stewart that the minutes of the last previous meeting held December 17, 2007 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

### WOOD'S HARBOUR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT RE: AREA RATE

Troy Stoddard, Shannon Newell and Jody Goreham appeared before the meeting on behalf of the Wood's Harbour Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. Stoddard informed members that the Fire Department is requesting the renewal of an area capital fire rate in the Wood's Harbour district.

After some discussion it was determined that the Fire Department is not actually asking for the renewal of the area capital fire rate, they are asking for an interest free loan from the Municipality that would combine the loan that is now in place at the bank, with a new loan which would provide funds for the construction of a new fire hall, which will require an additional \$170,000.00 in funding from the communities. The present area capital rate is in place for another three (3) years and is being used to repay a loan for a fire truck. The amount of the loan currently remaining outstanding at this time is approximately \$80,000.00. The total amount of funds to be borrowed will be \$250,000.00 and the fire department is asking to borrow these funds from Municipal Reserves rather than from the bank. The Municipality is required to charge interest on such loans according to the Municipal Government Act, and will be required to collect the interest on the loan and deposit it in Reserve Funds. The Fire Department is required under Municipal Policy to have a public meeting and will be proceeding to do so in the near future. They will forward a copy of the information that will be circulated to their ratepayers and will be requiring a list of taxpayers from the Municipal Office. The total cost of the new fire hall is expected to be in the range of \$420,000.00. Although the fire department is requesting an interest free loan, it is not possible to provide an interest free loan as the Municipality is restricted by the Municipal Government Act as to what it can do.

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

#### BARRINGTON GROUND SEARCH AND RESCUE REQUEST

Correspondence has been received from the Barrington Ground Search and Rescue Organization indicating that they wish to complete a project in their building in Barrington Passage. This building is still owned by the Municipality until it is fully paid for. The Search & Rescue Group wishes to upgrade the building to the standards of an Emergency Comfort Centre as required by the Red Cross. The estimated cost of this project is \$13,580.00. The Search & Rescue Group is applying to the Emergency Services Provider Fund for 60% of the cost of this project. The remaining amount will be paid from money presently held by the organization. The Search & Rescue Group is asking for approval from the Municipality to have this project completed in the building which is still owned by the Municipality.

#### Resolution COW080101

**Moved** by W. Smith and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that a letter of approval be sent to the Barrington Ground Search & Rescue Group for their project to upgrade the building from which they operate in Barrington Passage.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### CLYDE RIVER SIGN

Members were informed that Councillor Nickerson of the Municipality of Shelburne has informed the Municipal Clerk, by telephone, that placement of a sign in Clyde River has received informal approval by their councillors, but will not be officially considered by their council until their meeting later in January. It is anticipated that this sign will be paid for out of district community funds once approved by their council.

Resolution COW080102

**Moved** by W. Smith and seconded by S. Strang that consideration of placement of a sign in the community of Clyde River be deferred until the matter is first dealt with by Shelburne Municipal Council.

Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE EXPANSION

Members were informed that Dr. Blair has visited the Municipal Office for the purpose of discussing expansion of the Community Health Centre. His comments were provided to members for their information. No response has yet been received from Dr. O'Connor.

Resolution COW080103

**Moved** by S. Strang and seconded by E. Nickerson that a letter of thanks be sent to Dr. Blair for his input in this matter.

Motion carried unanimously.

There then followed some discussion regarding the potential expansion of the Community Health Centre.

Resolution COW080104

**Moved** by S. Strang and seconded by E. Nickerson that the Municipality send a letter to each of the doctors in the Municipality, and the Nurse Practitioner, asking them how they feel we should handle the Community Health Centre in our community. Should we build something similar to what is being done in the Municipality of Clare, or have local people build something, and would they be willing to meet with the Committee of the Whole Council all at once, or one at a time, or by correspondence, in order to discuss this matter.

Motion carried unanimously.

DR. YEE REQUEST RE: FAMILY MEDICINE RESIDENT

Correspondence has been received from Dr. Yee indicating that Dr. Courtney Smith, a second year family medicine resident from Dalhousie University, will be attending at Dr. Yee's practice from April 9<sup>th</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Dr. Yee is asking the Municipality to provide free accommodations for Dr. Smith during that time, and also to pay a portion of the rent for Dr. Abud's office out of which Dr. Smith will be working.

Resolution COW080105

**Moved** by L. Stewart and seconded by W. Smith that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality provide the use of the apartment in the Community Health Centre to Dr. Courtney Smith during the period for which she will be staying in the area and working with Dr. Yee, and that the Municipality pay a portion of the rent for Dr. Abud's office during the time that Dr. Smith is working out of that location.

Motion carried unanimously.

### WOOD'S HARBOUR TRAIL AGREEMENT

A Letter of Authority has been received from the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources for the Multi-Use Recreational Trail on crown land at Wood's Harbour. This is the Letter of Authority that will allow the Municipality to construct a multi-purpose trail between Post Office Road and Cemetery Road in Wood's Harbour.

#### Resolution COW080106

**Moved** by E. Nickerson and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality enter into the agreement constituting the Letter of Authority between the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and the Municipality of Barrington to construct a multi-purpose trail in Wood's Harbour between Cemetery Road and Post Office Road on the former CNR right of way.

Motion carried unanimously.

### NORTH EAST POINT POSTAL SERVICE

A copy of an email received from Marilee Ross, who is the Constituency Assistant for MLA Sterling Belliveau, was read to members. Also read to members was an email received at the MLA's Office from Mr. Allan LeBlanc, Local Area Superintendent for Canada Post, in Yarmouth. In his email Mr. LeBlanc indicates that Canada Post is waiting for a municipal councillor to complete a mail survey through the Post Office regarding the relocation of the North East Point Postal Service.

#### Resolution COW080107

**Moved** by E. Nickerson and seconded by W. Smith that Mr. LeBlanc be informed that the Municipality has already provided survey information to Canada Post and that if Canada Post wishes to complete a further survey that they should do so on their own initiative and not through the Municipality.

Motion carried unanimously.

### PERSONNEL MATTERS

#### Property Services Technician

An application has been received from an employee regarding the Property Services Technician vacancy. Members of the Hiring Committee agreed to convene a meeting later this evening to determine when an interview may be conducted.

#### Development Officer

The Municipality had appointed Mr. Carl Smith as Acting Building Inspector and Acting Fire Inspector and also needs to appoint him as Acting Development Officer, for an interim period until a new Building Inspector can be hired. Carl Smith has already been appointed for building and fire inspection, however, his appointment as Acting Development Officer was inadvertently overlooked at the time of the other appointments.

Resolution COW080108

**Moved** by S. Strang and seconded by W. Smith that it be recommended to Council that Carl Smith be appointed Acting Development Officer for the Municipality in addition to being the Acting Building Inspector and Acting Fire Inspector, for the interim period until a new employee is hired.

Motion carried unanimously.

Sewer Services Technician

Members were updated on the present situation of Mr. Rodney Shand, our Sewer Services Technician, who is off on sick leave at the present time.

WOOD'S HARBOUR SIDEWALK

The Wood's Harbour Sidewalk Project must now be redesigned to use the urban profile for the sidewalk as approved by the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund.

Resolution COW080109

**Moved** by G. El-Jakl and seconded by E. Nickerson that it be recommended to Council that Horner Associates be requested to redesign the sidewalk in Wood's Harbour using the urban profile, so that it can be constructed as far as possible within the existing budget.

AFFIRMATIVE

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

NEGATIVE

Sean Strang

Motion carried.

UNCOLLECTIBLE TAXES

Camp Lease

There are outstanding taxes on a camp lease in the name of Ryan Thomas. These taxes are deemed to be uncollectible as Ryan Thomas has moved to Alberta and is no longer living in the Municipality.

Resolution COW080110

**Moved** by W. Smith and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality write off the outstanding amount of taxes and interest on this camp lease which has been terminated.

**AFFIRMATIVE**

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

**NEGATIVE**

Larry Stewart  
Sean Strang

Motion carried.

Outstanding Mobile Home Taxes

It has been brought to the attention of Municipal Staff that Gina Thomas has been assessed for a mobile home in two different places in the Municipality even though she owns only one mobile home. The confusion has arisen because Ms. Thomas had previously had her mobile home located at Anthony Estates and was assessed at that location. She moved her mobile home to the Wireless Road and was also assessed again at that location. As a result, there are outstanding taxes owing at the Anthony Estates location even though the mobile home has not been located there since late 2005.

Resolution COW080111

**Moved** by W. Smith and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the outstanding taxes on the account of Gina Thomas at the Anthony Estates location be written off as a duplication of taxes which is uncollectible.

Motion carried unanimously.

Joval International

Joval International had previously operated a clothing store at the Causeway Mall in Barrington Passage. On the 13<sup>th</sup> day of December 2007 Joval International became an insolvent business that went into receivership. As a result the outstanding business occupancy taxes will become uncollectible.

Resolution COW080112

**Moved** by E. Nickerson and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that the outstanding business occupancy taxes, plus interest, of approximately \$4,300.00 on the account of Joval International Nova Scotia Limited, be written off as uncollectible.

AFFIRMATIVE

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

NEGATIVE

Sean Strang

Motion carried.

FORMER B.M.H.S. PROPERTY

Members were brought up to date on the current status of the former B.M.H.S. property. The current owner is attempting to address problems which he has incurred with contaminated soils on the location. There are a number of locations where above ground and underground storage tanks were previously located on the property and these are being cleaned up and addressed by the owner.

Members are being updated on this matter as the Municipality may be drawn into legal issues regarding these locations should they become significant in future.

2008 ELECTION

In order to prepare for the municipal elections which will be held in October of 2008 a number of issues must be addressed by Council.

Mayor/Warden

The first issue is whether or not the Municipality wishes to elect a Mayor at large, or a Warden, through Council. The Municipal Government Act requires Council of a district municipality to address this issue at any time, not less than 9 months prior to a regular municipal election.

Resolution COW080113

**Moved** by S. Strang and seconded by W. Smith that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality continue to elect a warden as it has done in the past.

Motion carried unanimously.

Fees and Deposit

The Municipality pays a fee to a Returning Officer and to Deputy Returning Officers and to Poll Clerks to conduct the municipal elections. The current fee for the Returning Officer is \$5,000.00. The fee for the Deputy Returning Officer is \$125.00 per day, and the Poll Clerk fee is \$90.00 per day.

Resolution COW080114

**Moved** by E. Nickerson and seconded by W. Smith that it be recommended to Council that the following fees be established for the 2008 municipal election:

- Returning Officer, \$5,000.00, plus out-of-pocket expenses as per policy
- Deputy Returning Officer, \$175.00 per day
- Poll Clerk, \$150.00 per day

Motion carried unanimously.

Halls will be rented as determined by the rental fees charged at the various locations where polls are conducted.

Candidates Deposit

The current candidates' deposit required for municipal elections is \$100.00.

It was agreed by consensus of members that there is no need to change this deposit at the current time.

List of Electors

The Municipality may use the Federal List of Electors, the Provincial List of Electors or may do an enumeration to obtain its own list of electors for the municipal election.

Resolution COW080115

**Moved** by D. Messenger and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality use the most recent Provincial List of Electors for the 2008 municipal elections.

Motion carried unanimously.

Returning Officer

Resolution COW080116

**Moved** by L. Stewart and seconded by W. Smith that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality advertise for a Returning Officer for the 2008 Municipal Elections as soon as possible.

Motion carried unanimously.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

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

#### WETLANDS MEETING IN YARMOUTH

Correspondence has been received from the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour indicating that there will be a Wetland Information Session held on Thursday, January 17, 2008, at 1:00 p.m., at the Rodd Grand Hotel in Yarmouth. The purpose of this session will be to discuss wetlands under the jurisdiction of the Nova Scotia Department of Environment & Labour and the Provincial Wetland Alteration Approval Process. This session is being held for municipal leaders and staff, as well as others who are interested in the administration of wetlands.

#### Resolution COW08017

**Moved** by S. Strang and seconded by L. Stewart that the Municipality pay the expenses of members attending the Wetland Information Session scheduled for January 17, 2008.

Motion carried unanimously.

The following members requested to be registered for the meeting: Wilford Smith, Louise Halliday, Sean Strang and Donna LeBlanc-Messenger.

#### RON RYER PROPERTY

Members agreed to defer this matter to the end of the meeting so it could be discussed in Closed Session.

#### BUILDING CANADA FUND

Information was circulated to members regarding the Building Canada Fund. The Building Canada Fund is now requesting expressions of interest which must be submitted to them prior to January 30, 2008. Mr. Grant Brennan has been called to obtain further information on the Fund. He indicates that the amount of the fund is limited and may not provide sufficient funding for the Cape Sable Island Sewer Project. Nevertheless, he suggests that an application should be made in any case.

#### Resolution COW080118

**Moved** by S. Strang and seconded by L. Stewart that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality apply for funding for the Cape Sable Island Sewer Project under the Building Canada Fund.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### CHRISTINE NICKERSON REQUEST

Christine Nickerson has requested a letter of support for her Community Based Option Home for seniors. Mrs. Nickerson wishes to obtain funding from the Province of Nova Scotia for her facility. Council had previously provided a letter of support to Mrs. Nickerson in 2006. A new letter of support will be prepared and sent to her in the near future, as requested.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence has been received from the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies. This correspondence indicates that an evaluation will be done in the near future on municipal units in the Province of Nova Scotia. This evaluation will be published during the month of September 2008, just prior to the 2008 municipal elections.

Correspondence was previously circulated to members regarding the Integrated Communities Sustainability Plan and the development of this plan. Further information will be provided as it is obtained regarding this plan.

INDUSTRIAL PARK

Members were updated regarding the proposed study for an industrial site in the Municipality. To date the study has not been received from the consultants although it is expected in the very near future.

NOVA SCOTIA GREEN MOBILITY GRANT

Information was provided by a member on the Nova Scotia Green Mobility Grants. This information will be further investigated to determine whether or not the Municipality can apply for grants under this program.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Resolution COW080119

**Moved** by E. Nickerson and seconded by G. El-Jakl that the department heads of the various municipal departments will appear before the first Committee of the Whole meeting each month in order to present their reports for the previous month.

Motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION RE: PURCHASE OF PROPERTY

Members entered into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing the purchase of property by the Municipality.

Having completed their discussion of the purchase of property, the members then returned to Open Session.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 10:22 p.m.

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Chairperson

Secretary for the Meeting

**On website January 9, 2008.**