

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

January 21, 2008

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 (7:06 p.m.)
  - Wilford Smith
  - Larry Stewart
  - Sean Strang (7:26 p.m.)
- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

### ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Order of Nova Scotia
- Street Lights.
- Barrington Bay Trail.
- Wood's Harbour Multi-Purpose Trail.
- Joyce Christie Request.

### 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 W. Smith and seconded by D. Messenger that the minutes of the last previous meeting held January 7, 2008 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

### COMMUNITY LITTER CLEAN-UP

Members were reminded that the Community Litter Clean-up Program is usually conducted during the spring months within the Municipality.

A summary of the number of kilometers cleaned up was circulated to members for their information. A breakdown, by volume, in the various areas cleaned up is required. A summary of the collection by volume will be done on a year to year basis for the past three years and will be provided to councillors before any further action is taken in this matter.

R.C.M.P. MONTHLY REPORT

Sgt. Bill Mooney appeared before the Committee for the purpose of submitting a written report for the month of December 2007. This report is attached to the minutes.

BARRINGTON REGIONAL CURLING CLUB

Eight members of the Board of Directors of the Barrington Regional Curling Club appeared before the meeting for the purpose of discussing their financial situation. Mr. Bob Cushing acted as spokesman for the Club. Written information was provided by the Curling Club including statements to the 18<sup>th</sup> of January 2008, as well as a summary of memberships for the past four years, and a variety of other statistics including suggestions for the future of the Club.

There then followed some discussion among the committee members. Mr. Cushing indicated to members that membership in the Curling Club had declined over the years and was at a current low. He also indicated that this was a common occurrence among many of the curling clubs in southwestern Nova Scotia.

Various aspects of the Curling Club operation were discussed and reviewed by members, emphasizing the positive contributions that the facility makes to the community.

Resolution COW080120

**Moved** by E. Nickerson and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality defer the payment due from the Barrington Regional Curling Club in the amount of \$15,000.00 until May 31, 2008.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Moved** by W. Smith and seconded by L. Stewart that it be recommended to Council that the Committee of the Whole meet with Board members of the Barrington Regional Curling Club for the purpose of discussing Club finances.

AFFIRMATIVE

Wilford Smith  
Larry Stewart  
Sean Strang

NEGATIVE

George El-Jakl  
Louise Halliday  
Donna Messenger  
Eddie Nickerson

Motion defeated.

Resolution COW080121

**Moved** by E. Nickerson and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that two councillors, the Clerk-Treasurer, and two members of the Board of Directors of the Barrington Regional Curling Club meet for the purpose of discussing the Club finances and bring forward a proposal to the committee.

AFFIRMATIVE

George El-Jakl  
Louise Halliday  
Eddie Nickerson  
Sean Strang

NEGATIVE

Donna LeBlanc-Messenger  
Wilford Smith  
Larry Stewart

Motion carried.

Resolution COW080122

**Moved** by S. Strang and seconded by W. Smith that it be recommended to Council that the members from Council who will participate in the discussions with the Barrington Regional Curling Club will be Deputy Warden Nickerson and Councillor El-Jakl.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was indicated at this time that the members from the Board of Directors of the curling club who will represent the Barrington Regional Curling Club will be Mr. Bob Cushing and Mr. Robert Hopkins.

Having completed their discussion of this matter, the Curling Club members then retired from the meeting.

REGION SIX SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT BUDGET

Each year the budget of the Region 6 Solid Waste Management Authority has to be approved by the 13 municipal members. A proposed budget for 2008/2009 has been forwarded to the Municipality for approval. The total budget for the year is \$149,528.00 and will include \$50,486.00 from Diversion Credits. This amount will be deducted from the Diversion Credits received by the Region before the remaining credits are paid to the individual municipal units.

Resolution COW080123

**Moved** by L. Stewart and seconded by W. Smith that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality approve the proposed budget for the Region 6 Solid Waste Management Authority.

Motion carried unanimously.

PROPOSED FIRE RESPONSE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES POLICY, #54

This policy has been circulated to the various fire departments in the Municipality with a request that they provide comments to the Municipality by Monday, January 7, 2008. Comments have been received by telephone from the Island & Barrington Passage Volunteer Fire Department, from the Port LaTour Volunteer Fire Department and in writing from the Shag Harbour/Bear Point Volunteer Fire Department.

These fire departments indicate they are in agreement to the implementation of this policy. The major changes included in the policy are:

1. The Municipality will pay the cost of obtaining reasonable public liability insurance, including motor vehicle liability insurance required by each registered primary fire service provider. The cost of the premium paid for this insurance will be deducted from the annual operating grant paid by the Municipality to the service provider.
2. There will be certain reporting requirements placed upon the service providers so that Municipal Council can verify that the service providers are actually trained and qualified to provide the services they are registered to provide.

Resolution COW080124

**Moved** by W. Smith and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that notice of consideration be given at the next subsequent Council meeting for Policy No. 54, "Fire Response and Emergency Services Policy".

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution COW080125

**Moved** by E. Nickerson and seconded by W. Smith that a draft for a resolution to the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities regarding the provision of insurance services be placed on a subsequent Committee of the Whole agenda.

Motion carried unanimously.

REQUEST OF GEORGE SALISBURY

Conflict of Interest

Councillor Wilford Smith declared a conflict of interest in this matter and retired from the meeting table.

Correspondence has been received from other parties involved in the request of Mr. George Salisbury for a right of way. Correspondence was previously circulated to members for their information. Also discussed and reviewed at this time was the information provided by Mr. Salisbury and the advice provided by the Municipal Solicitor.

Resolution COW080126

**Moved** by E. Nickerson and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality inform both parties that Council believes that access by right of way is a civil matter that should be negotiated to a satisfactory resolution between the parties involved.

AFFIRMATIVE

Louise Halliday  
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger  
Eddie Nickerson  
Larry Stewart  
Sean Strang

NEGATIVE

George El-Jakl

Motion carried.

Having completed discussion of this matter, Wilford Smith was requested to return to the meeting table.

OLD SCHOOL HOUSE PROPERTY

Members were informed that correspondence has been received from the Old School House indicating that the owners are interested in selling the property if the Municipality is interested in purchasing it for the purposes of a commercial business park.

The matter was briefly discussed by members.

Resolution COW080127

**Moved** by S. Strang and seconded by W. Smith that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to the Old School House Restaurant indicating the Municipality is not interested in purchasing their property as it does not fall within the Municipality's budget.

Motion carried unanimously.

LOW INCOME PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

Members reviewed the Low Income Property Tax Exemption Policy to determine its appropriateness for the coming year. The maximum Canada Pension Plan benefits payable is \$884.58, and the maximum Old Age Security payable is \$502.31. The maximum payable to any one recipient for Canada Pension Plan and Old Age Security combined is \$16,643.00.

In consideration of these amounts, it was the decision of members that the maximums currently contained in the policy were satisfactory for the coming year.

### ATKINSON REQUEST

Members were informed that correspondence has been received from Debbie Atkinson, of Kenney Road, in Stoney Island. In this correspondence Mrs. Atkinson is requesting that Council forgive the interest applied to her tax account. She states that Amber's Play Academy closed in August of 2006 and the Assessment Office did not get a reassessment done until September of 2007, and therefore the tax reduction was not made until that time.

Having researched this matter, it was found that a notice of reassessment was received by the Municipality on September 5, 2006 and the adjustment was completed on September 19, 2006, therefore, the adjustment reducing the commercial property taxes was done in September of 2006, not September of 2007, therefore the interest is due and payable on the taxes.

### ORDER OF NOVA SCOTIA

Some time ago the Municipality had provided a letter of support recommending that Hattie Perry be nominated for the Order of Nova Scotia. Municipal Staff will investigate this matter further to determine whether or not a new nomination may be brought forward for Mrs. Perry.

### STREET LIGHTS

A member provided a list of street lights that are out in the Port LaTour/Baccaro area. This list will be forwarded to Nova Scotia Power in order to take corrective action.

### BARRINGTON BAY TRAIL

It was brought up to members that residents using the Barrington Bay Trail should clean up behind their animals when using the trail.

### Resolution COW080128

**Moved** by W. Smith and seconded by E. Nickerson that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality install several signs along the Barrington Bay Trail indicating that users will be expected to clean up behind their animals when using the trail.

Motion carried unanimously.

### NATURE TRAIL

It was reported that garbage has been deposited on the Nature Trail at Sherose Island at the end of the Arena parking lot.

This matter will be addressed by Municipal Staff.

WOOD'S HARBOUR MULTI-PURPOSE TRAIL

Members were informed of the projected costs for the redesign of the sidewalk portion of the Multi-Purpose Trail in Wood's Harbour, and reviewed the proposed engineering cost for the continuation of this project.

Resolution COW080129

**Moved** by G. El-Jakl and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality tender the Multi-Purpose portion of the Wood's Harbour project and have it completed as soon as possible in the near future.

Motion carried unanimously.

JOYCE CHRISTIE REQUEST

Mrs. Christie has requested of a member that consideration be placed to constructing a tourist rest stop at Sheros Island in an area near or adjacent to where an old bridge had previously been located.

This matter will be further investigated by Municipal Staff.

CLOSED SESSION

Members then entered into Closed Session for discussion of a potential legal issue.

Having completed their discussion in Closed Session, Council then returned to Open Session.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 10:30 p.m.

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Chairperson

Secretary for the Meeting

**On website January 23, 2008.**