

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

February 18, 2008

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson at 7:02 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 (7:09 p.m.)
 - 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:

- CIP Project.
- Taxes.
- Petro Can Property.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by W. Smith and seconded by L. Stewart that the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by L. Stewart and seconded by W. Smith that the minutes of the last previous meeting held February 4, 2008 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

LEGAL SERVICES

Members were informed that it has been five (5) years since requests for proposals were obtained for legal services. These are due to be renewed, or a new request for proposals is to be put out.

Resolution COW080220

Moved by L. Stewart and seconded by W. Smith that it be recommended to Council that a request for proposals for legal services be advertised covering the next five (5) year period.

Motion carried unanimously.

PROPERTY SERVICES TERM EMPLOYEE

It was suggested to members that an employee be hired in the Property Services Department for the interim period while one of the Property Services technicians is off on sick leave. It is proposed to hire an individual to work in the Property Services Department for a term of sometime between six (6) months and one (1) year, depending on the length of the absence.

Resolution COW080221

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality hire a term employee for the Property Services Department for a period of between six (6) months and one (1) year, and that the position be advertised according to policy.

Motion carried unanimously.

R.C.M.P. MONTHLY REPORT FOR JANUARY

Cpl Doug Brannen appeared before the Committee for the purpose of providing the local R.C.M.P. Detachments' monthly report for the month of January.

Cpl Brannen indicated that one of the main changes during the month was the provision of community office hours in the Town of Clark's Harbour. These office hours are being maintained on Mondays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., during which time an R.C.M.P. Officer is in an office at the Town Hall.

Cpl Brannen then reviewed the Statistics Report for the month of January. The report indicated that there were 167 calls this January compared to 122 for January of the previous year. The increase in calls were mostly self-generated by the R.C.M.P. Officers themselves. These include increases in criminal record checks, provincial traffic checks and inspections, 911 Act, and drug related complaints.

Having completed his report, Cpl Brannen retired from the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

FELTON ATKINSON REQUEST

Mr. & Mrs. Felton Atkinson appeared before the meeting for the purpose of requesting Council to forgive the interest charged against their tax account. In 2006 there had been some delay in revising the assessed value for Amber's Play School which formed part of the assessment on the Atkinson property. As a result of this delay in the change in assessment, the outstanding taxes were more than what they would ordinarily have been. The taxes have subsequently been paid with the exception of the interest charged on the account.

Resolution COW080122

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by S. Strang that Municipal Staff investigate the possible adjustment of interest based on the delay in change of assessment.

Motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET SCHEDULE

Members were informed that due to an increasing usage of the Municipality's line of credit during the months of April, May and June, it may be necessary to adjust the timing of the budget schedule in order to send out tax bills earlier. Another manner of dealing with this situation is to have two (2) tax bills sent out, an interim bill early in the year, and the final bill later in the year.

This matter was then explained at length and discussed at length by members. Further information will be obtained by members regarding this matter.

The Deputy Warden was requested to assume the Chair while the Warden addressed this matter.

Having completed her address of this matter, the Warden then resumed the Chair.

Resolution COW080223

Moved by W. Smith and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality implement an interim billing system for taxes in the current year accompanied by an appropriate amount of advertising to inform taxpayers.

AFFIRMATIVE

George El-Jakl
Louise Halliday
Eddie Nickerson
Wilford Smith

NEGATIVE

Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
Larry Stewart
Sean Strang

Motion carried.

BARRINGTON REGIONAL CURLING CLUB

Members were previously provided with a summary of the meeting held with representatives of the Barrington Regional Curling Club.

Members then discussed various aspects of the proposal that resulted from this meeting. The accountability of the Club administration is a paramount concern to members, especially in relation to the operation of the bar.

Resolution COW080224

Moved by W. Smith and seconded by S. Strang that further consideration of the Barrington Regional Curling Club operations be deferred to the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

MODEL VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY AWARD

Information regarding the nomination of Model Volunteer Community Award was circulated to members for their consideration.

Resolution COLW080225

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that Municipal Staff submit a Model Volunteer Community nomination form on behalf of the Municipality.

Motion carried unanimously.

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Members were informed that the Recreation Director had been considering the use of a Recreation Advisory Committee. The Recreation Director has indicated at this time that she does not wish to set up an Advisory Committee as yet as she is new to the job and would like to spend some time in it first.

RECREATION CENTRE RENTAL RATE

The Recreation Director has indicated that the rental rate for the Community Recreation Centre at Sherose Island for birthday parties is now \$50.00, plus H.S.T.. The public room in the Arena is rented at a price of \$25.00, plus H.S.T. for birthday parties. In order to be consistent she is suggesting that the rental rate be the same in both places.

Resolution COW080226

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by L. Stewart that it be recommended to Council that notice be given of an amendment to the Recreation Centre Policy changing the rental rate for childrens' birthday parties to \$25.00, plus H.S.T., consistent with that of the Arena.

Motion carried unanimously.

SEMI-ANNUAL FIRE DEPARTMENT MEETING

It was agreed by members that the Semi-Annual Fire Department Meeting would be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2008, at 7:00 p.m., in the Conference Room. This meeting date will be communicated to all of the fire departments.

POLICY NO. 8 AMENDMENTS

Policy No. 8 is for the administration of the annual remuneration and expenses for councillors, staff and others. In Section 5 the remuneration of employees and others on committees is proposed to amend the remuneration of employees and others on committees. This amendment is necessary in order to adequately address the matter of absences from committee meetings and inactive committees.

Resolution COW080227

Moved by W. Smith and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that notice be given at the next subsequent Council meeting of the proposed amendment of the annual remuneration of Policy No. 8. The proposed amendment will be:

“The annual remuneration to be paid to non council members of the public who are appointed to municipal committees shall be \$25.00 per meeting attended, plus expenses, effective April 1, 2008.”

Motion carried unanimously.

C.S.I. CAUSEWAY

This matter was referred to Committee by Council.

After some discussion it was the consensus of members that no definitive action would be taken on this matter at this time.

GUARANTEE REQUEST

Correspondence has been received from the South West Shore Development Authority requesting an additional guarantee for their line of credit. The Authority is increasing their line of credit from \$500,000.00 to \$700,000.00, and requesting the municipalities to provide an additional guarantee in a proportional amount.

Service Nova Scotia has been requested to provide the appropriate resolution for Council which would subsequently be approved by the Minister. In an email response received from our Municipal Advisor the Municipality is advised that: “The Municipal Government Act provides very specific conditions for giving a guarantee. The request for the guarantee in question, one being issued in favour of S.W.S.D.A. by a Municipality, does not appear to meet those conditions. You may wish to confirm this with your respective municipal solicitors. I am open to discussing this matter as there may be facts which would demonstrate compliance with the Municipal Government Act.”

As a result our Municipal Advisor will not approach the Minister for approval for the required motion as it does not meet the requirements of the Municipal Government Act.

Resolution COW080228

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality forward this information to the South West Shore Development Authority informing them that the Municipality is unable to extend any guarantee as a result.

Motion carried unanimously.

LANDING OF QUAKERS AND PURITANS

Correspondence has been received from the Cape Sable Historical Society regarding a celebration for the 250th anniversary of the landing of Quakers and Puritans.

Some discussion followed regarding this matter.

Further information will be obtained by Municipal Staff for the information of the committee members.

Resolution COW080229

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by E. Nickerson that it be recommended to Council that a reply be sent to the Cape Sable Historical Society indicating that the Municipality encourages them to form a committee, and conduct the appropriate celebration for the anniversary of the landing of the Quakers and Puritans as this is a matter that should be done by members of the community and not by Council. Council wishes to indicate that as in all community endeavors, that it will support this community group as it does all community groups and activities.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF STREET NAMES

Correspondence has been received from Mr. Carl Smith the Municipal Development Officer indicating that he has a request for the approval of private roads in a proposed subdivision located at Port Clyde. The requested road names are Seaside Drive, Sand Castle Drive, Oceanside Drive and Beach Drive. Under 911 procedures Council is required to provide the final approval of private road names.

Resolution COW080230

Moved by L. Stewart and seconded by W. Smith that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality approve the requested private road names for a proposed subdivision located at Port Clyde. The private road names being approved are Seaside Drive, Sand Castle Drive, Oceanside Drive and Beach Drive.

Motion carried unanimously.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

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

CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN PROJECT

Correspondence has been received from the Canada-Nova Scotia Infrastructure Secretariat requesting that the Municipality participate with other municipalities in a pilot project for the purpose of establishing a capital investment plan template to be used by all municipalities in the province. This will require attendance at 2 or 3 meetings of a steering committee and a review of the proposed template. The Clerk-Treasurer will participate on behalf of the Municipality.

Resolution COW080231

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by W. Smith that it be recommended to Council that the Clerk-Treasurer participate in a pilot project for the establishment of a capital investment plan template for Nova Scotia municipalities.

Motion carried unanimously.

TAXES

A member questioned the implementation of the 2.2% cap on assessments for the current year.

Members were informed that municipal taxpayers may still appeal the market values of their assessments even though they are capped for the current year.

PETRO CAN PROPERTY

There is some erosion of the gravel surface next to the paved area at the Petro Can property. Municipal Staff will attempt to notify the owners of the property regarding this matter.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Chairperson

Secretary for the Meeting

On website February 21, 2008