

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

March 31, 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
 - Wilford Smith
 - Larry Stewart
 - Sean Strang
- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- C.S.I. Sewer.
- Correspondence.
- Marathon.
- Department of Transportation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by S. Strang 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 W. Smith that the minutes of the last previous meeting held March 17, 2008 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

R.C.M.P. MONTHLY REPORT

Sgt. Bill Mooney appeared before the meeting in order to provide members with the statistical report for the month of March 2008. The statistical report for the month of February was also circulated as copies had not been available at the previous meeting.

There then followed a brief question period regarding the statistical report and the various number of calls in different categories.

There then followed some discussion regarding recent issues that have developed along the roadway in front of Barrington Municipal High School. There has been much concern regarding the parking of vehicles along the side of the road, as well as vandalism and damages to property that have occurred as a result of students loitering near the homes located across the street from the high school and adjacent to the high school. The R.C.M.P. have towed vehicles from this area and have charged individuals with littering. These concerns continue to be a problem even though they have received some attention from the R.C.M.P.

Resolution COW080323

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by S. Strang that School Superintendent, Phil Landry, and School Principal, David Buckland, be requested to attend a Committee of the Whole meeting, together with the R.C.M.P. and a representative of the Student Council, in order to discuss these matters.

Motion carried unanimously.

Having completed his presentation, Sgt. Mooney retired from the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE

Doctors Abud, O'Connor and Yee attended the meeting in order to discuss health care in the community and the direction it should be taking, and to advise members on what direction should be taken in the area of health care and use of the Community Health Centre. There is some question as to the mandate or purpose of the Community Health Centre.

There were many concerns expressed in the discussion, some of which included that recruitment has been emphasized and there is also a need to put more emphasis on retention of physicians. The Municipality should let doctors run their businesses and not compete with other local businesses when trying to attract and retain doctors.

The sentiment was expressed that all of the doctors need "more room for less money". Health services in the Municipality appear to be fragmented because they are located in different locations throughout the Municipality and are not centralized in one location which would provide the potential for better service and better organization. Construction of a clinic or expansion of the present clinic needs to be based on a vision for health care in the community.

It was suggested that the doctors could continue to operate individual practices in one centre along with other services. There was a suggestion that councillors should look at the Musquodoboit Valley Clinic as an example of one community's vision for health care. Whatever is done in regards to the provision of a primary care centre should be done in general with a "look to the future".

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

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

It was suggested that the Municipality should help doctors establish their own private practices in the area, and that this would keep doctors in the area rather than having them come here on a temporary basis and then move on to other locations.

It was also suggested that more input is needed from the local health care providers in order to develop a vision for health care in the community.

The common message received from all of the doctors was not to build more offices on the current health centre at this time.

Having completed their discussion of this matter, the doctors retired from the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

POLICY CHANGES

The Interim Tax Billing Policy and other by-law and policy changes were deferred for consideration to another meeting of the committee.

TAX WRITE-OFFS

D. E. & Sons Fisheries and Eddie & Sons Fisheries

The following tax write-offs were brought before the committee. These are business occupancy taxes that are deemed to be uncollectible for various reasons. The first two uncollectible business occupancy taxes are the balance of accounts of D. E. & Sons Fisheries and Eddie & Sons Fisheries. A judgement has been obtained on the account of D.E. & Sons Fisheries in excess of \$5,000.00. This judgement was obtained through Small Claims Court for outstanding business occupancy taxes. There is also outstanding business occupancy taxes on the account of Eddie & Sons Fisheries which exceeds \$3,300.00. Because these businesses have both gone out of business and no longer exist, it is impossible to collect these outstanding business occupancy taxes.

Resolution COW080324

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the auditors be asked to write off the balances of these accounts in the current years financial statements.

AFFIRMATIVE

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

NEGATIVE

Larry Stewart
Sean Strang

Motion carried.

McGray Boat Builders Ltd.

McGray Boat Builders Ltd. is a company that went out of business during the current fiscal year. The boat shop has been demolished and removed from the site. There is balance owing on the account of McGray Boat Builders Ltd. in the amount of \$2,415.00. The McGray Boat Builders boat shop building has been demolished and removed from the site. The property has been in the name of June Smith and continues to be in that name. The McGray Boat Builders Ltd. business is now defunct and no longer exists.

Resolution COW080325

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the balance of business occupancy taxes in the name of McGray Boat Builders be written off as uncollectible in the current years' financial statements.

AFFIRMATIVE

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

NEGATIVE

Wilford Smith
Larry Stewart
Sean Strang

Motion carried.

Tobi Fougere Business Occupancy Taxes

There is an outstanding amount of \$79.58 in business occupancy taxes on the account of Tobi Fougere for a tack shop in Clyde River. Ms. Fougere has now moved from the Municipality and no longer resides in the area. This account is deemed to be uncollectible.

Resolution COW080326

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by W. Smith that it be recommended to Council that the balance of business occupancy taxes on the account of Tobi Fougere, Clyde River, be written off as uncollectible in the current years' financial statements.

Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNITY SERVICES AIR CONDITIONERS

Information was provided to members regarding the installation of air conditioners in the Community Services offices in the Administration Building.

Resolution COW080327

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by S. Strang that this matter be referred to the next Committee of the Whole meeting so it could be discussed with the Property Services Supervisor.

Motion carried unanimously.

DEMOCRACY 250

The Province has decided not to proceed with their essay contest as previously indicated, therefore, the Municipality will proceed as originally planned with its own essay contest. It will be determined first when the Premier is visiting the local high school in order to determine whether or not the local essay contest can be timed in conjunction with his visit.

ROBERTSON BUILDING

Information was previously circulated to members regarding the former Royal Bank building in Barrington Passage.

Resolution COW080328

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that the name of the former Royal Bank building be designated as the *Robertson Building*.

Motion carried unanimously.

LICENSING FEES

There was some discussion regarding licensing fees required for garbage collectors. Members were informed that different municipalities charge different amounts for licensing fees.

Resolution COW080329

Moved by W. Smith and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that the licensing fees for garbage collectors in the Municipality of Barrington be raised to \$100.00 per year.

AFFIRMATIVE

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

NEGATIVE

Eddie Nickerson

Motion carried.

HERITAGE PROJECT

Members were informed that Heritage Canada will provide funding to have records made of the various older buildings within the Municipality. These records will be put on a Heritage Canada website for the information and use of the public. Heritage Canada will pay \$10.00 per form for each one completed.

It is proposed that Trudy Atkinson be requested to provide this service at no cost to the Municipality, as it will be paid for by Heritage Canada through their grant process. Trudy Atkinson is being requested to do this as she has already prepared much of the information that is required to complete these records.

Resolution COW080330

Moved by L. Stewart and seconded by W. Smith that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality enter into an agreement with Heritage Canada to have Trudy Atkinson complete heritage records for the registration of properties in the Municipality.

Motion carried unanimously.

DIGBY FERRY

Correspondence has been received from Warden Thurber of the Municipality of the District of Digby indicating the next steps in supporting the Digby Ferry Project.

Resolution COW080331

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by L. Stewart that it be recommended to Council that a grant of \$1,244.00 be provided to the Municipality of Digby for assistance in their efforts to maintain the Digby Ferry service from Digby to Saint John.

AFFIRMATIVE

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

NEGATIVE

Wilford Smith

Motion carried.

MUNICIPAL INSURANCE PROGRAM RENEWAL

The municipal insurance program is up for renewal again this year. The suggested recommendations and changes were provided to councillors for their information and review.

Resolution COW080332

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by S. Strang that Municipal Staff review the recommendations made by the insurance company and provide a recommendation to the committee for any desired changes.

Motion carried unanimously.

COUNCILLORS ACCIDENT POLICY

Members were informed that the beneficiaries under the Councillor's Accident Policy is the insured person. This means that in the event of loss of life the estate of the insured receives the insurance benefits. The insurance company will be contacted to determine if councillors can name a beneficiary.

V.I.C. RELOCATION

It was suggested that this matter be deferred to consideration at a later meeting when Mr. Walton Ryer can be invited to be present to discuss purchase of property.

Resolution COW080333

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by W. Smith that Mr. Walton Ryer be invited to attend a Closed Session of the Committee of the Whole for the purpose of discussing the purchase of property by the Municipality.

AFFIRMATIVE

NEGATIVE

George El-Jakl

Sean Strang

Louise Halliday

Donna LeBlanc-Messenger

Eddie Nickerson

Wilford Smith

Larry Stewart

Motion carried.

CURBSIDE INSPECTION PROGRAM

The proposed curbside inspection program was circulated to members for their information and review.

Moved by E. Nickerson that residents not complying with the separation of waste as required by the Municipal By-law be recorded and brought to the attention of the Committee of the Whole.

Having asked for a seconder for this motion three times, and their being no response, the Warden declared this motion lost.

ARENA FUNDRAISING EVENT

The Arena Fundraising Committee is proposing to have a dance on April 26, 2008 at the Arena. It is necessary for the Fundraising Committee to seek a temporary advance of funds from the Municipality for the purpose of funding this event.

Resolution COW080334

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by W. Smith that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality provide a temporary advance of funds to the Arena Fundraising Committee for the purpose of funding the dance to be held on April 26th at the Arena, and that this advance will be repaid to the Municipality immediately following the dance.

Motion carried unanimously.

WOOD'S HARBOUR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Members discussed financing of a loan to the Wood's Harbour Volunteer Fire Department. The Fire Department may wish to borrow funds from the Municipality over a ten year period in order to pay off their current loan on the truck and to finance the construction of their new building.

This matter is deferred by agreement of members to the next Committee of the Whole Council meeting.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Royal Bank

Correspondence has been received from the Royal Bank regarding increased Visa card fees.

Early Childhood Development

Correspondence has also been received in the form of a grant request from the Shelburne County Early Childhood Development Association. This request will be included with other requests that are being considered during the budget process.

Green Houses

Correspondence has also been received from Sister Helen Wallace regarding the construction of green houses within the Municipality.

Resolution COW080335

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the information regarding the construction of green houses be forwarded to the Barrington Municipal High School Environmental Club.

Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNITY LITERACY AWARD

Correspondence has been received from Canada Post regarding the Community Literacy Award. This is an award presented by Canada Post and is nominated by local organizations throughout the country.

Resolution COW080336

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that information on the 2008 Canada Post Community Literacy Awards be forwarded to the Shelburne County Learning Centre for their information.

Motion carried unanimously.

MARATHON

A member indicated that the awards being presented following the marathon did not recognize the various groups. Most of the marathons recognize age group of participants in increments of 20 years.

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality provide awards for the various age groups in increments of 10 years, similar to other marathon events across the province.

Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Members indicated that there are several issues that need to be addressed by the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal.

Resolution COW080337

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal be requested to grade Pope's Road, to repair Cripple Creek Road, to grade the Lighthouse Road in Baccaro, and to grade the West Bear Point Road.

Motion carried unanimously.

C.S.I. SEWER

There then followed some discussion regarding the recent funding announcement for the C.S.I. sewer and the next steps in proceeding. The next step will be to consult Service Nova Scotia and determine what steps are necessary to get this project underway.

CLOSED SESSION

Members entered into Closed Session to discuss the purchase and development of property by the Municipality.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 11:52 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary for the Meeting

On website April 2, 2008.