

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

April 21, 2008

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson at 7:04 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 (7:38 p.m.)
- Sean Strang

Larry Stewart had previously called in indicating that he would be late for the meeting due to a prior commitment.

- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Amcoy Developments.
- Dangerous & Unsightly Premises Complaint.
- Roseway Hospital Charitable Foundation.
- Shelburne County Learning Network.
- Diabetes.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION INTERVIEW

Mr. Benny Acker, Supervisor for Shelburne County for the Department of Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal appeared before the meeting for the purpose of discussing Department of Transportation issues. Also appearing were Verna Nickerson and other residents of McGray Avenue in North East Point.

The issues regarding the gravel road at McGray Avenue in North East Point were then discussed. The road has recently been graded. Residents believe that the road needs to be upgraded, that grading is only a temporary improvement, and more gravel needs to be placed on the road in order to upgrade it. Mr. Acker was able to indicate when gravel had been put on the road in recent years and what work had been done to it. There is a problem with the culvert that is at the turn of the road on the lower end of the road near the Nickerson's house. There were also complaints regarding snow removal on the road and the time it takes for the snowplow to arrive there. It was indicated by Mr. Acker that D.O.T. will be putting gravel on the road over the course of the summer and will continue to maintain the road.

There then followed some discussion of other D.O.T. issues in the Municipality.

Mr. Acker was thanked for replacing the School House Lane sign in Centreville which had been knocked down during the winter.

Mr. Acker also informed members that he had spoken to a resident of Newellton regarding the placing of a guardrail at the turn in Newellton where local residents view what is called the "duck pond".

It was also indicated that there is a culvert plugged near the Port LaTour Baptist Church. Mr. Acker has viewed this and this will be repaired.

The shoulder of the road is being eroded by water across from Fort Creek and this matter will be addressed.

The Lighthouse Road also needs grading and the School House Road in Baccaro needs grading.

Sears Lane needs to have the trees and brush cut back along the sides.

The highway sign at the eastern end of Villagedale Road is overgrown with trees which need to be clipped in order to make the sign more visible.

The pavement is broken at the lower end of the Villagedale Road and needs patching. Mr. Acker also informed members that shouldering will be needed to be done along the Port LaTour Road.

The Factory Hill Road in Barrington also needs to be graded.

The eel grass along the Sherose Island Road also needs to be removed.

Ditching will continue to be done along the old Oak Park Road. Some brush has been cut back and D.O.T. will continue working on this road during the summer.

Cemetery Road in Wood's Harbour needs ditching and there needs to be patching done to the pavement at the end of the Cripple Creek Road. These will be done by D.O.T. in the near future.

The Department of Transportation is also trying to do repairs to an additional three kilometers of the Upper Clyde River during the summer.

Having completed his discussion of D.O.T. matters, Mr. Acker retired from the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

LOLA SEARS INTERVIEW RE: RECREATION PROGRAMS

Mrs. Sears appeared before the meeting in order to discuss recreation programs that may be added by the Municipality. Her main concern was that a lady who is competing with her for recreation business not be allowed to be given an unfair advantage by using municipal recreation facilities to provide programs competing with her facility. The Recreation Director has already discussed this matter and the recreation programming being referred to is not being added to the municipal programs as it is believed that the expertise to provide these programs already exists in the community. The letter that was provided by Ms. Sears had been previously circulated to all members for their information. This letter will be further addressed with the Recreation Director.

Resolution COW080405

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that the letter provided by Lola Sears to the Committee of the Whole be addressed with the Municipal Recreation Director in the near future.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

Having completed their discussion of this matter, Lola Sears and Tashina O'Connell then retired from the meeting.

INTERIM TAX BILLING

A proposed Interim Tax Billing Policy has been circulated to members for their review and perusal. It was suggested that paragraph 4 be amended so that the amount of taxes being billed in the interim tax billing would be as close to 50% of the total years tax invoice as possible. The appropriate change will be made by Municipal Staff. A notice will be sent out in January of 2009 to taxpayers indicating that the Municipality will provide interim tax bills in April of 2009.

Resolution COW080406

Moved by L. Stewart and seconded by W. Smith that notice be given to Council of consideration of the Interim Tax Billing Policy at the first Council meeting during the month of May 2008.

Motion carried unanimously.

PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGES

It is proposed that a new policy for the regulation of committees of council be put in place to consolidate the current by-laws and policies which regulate committees of council.

There was much discussion regarding this matter, in particular Section 13(5). Further consideration of the proposed changes was deferred by consensus of members to the November, 2008 committee meeting.

BARRINGTON MUNICIPAL HIGH SCHOOL

A response has been received from the Principal at Barrington Municipal High School. He has indicated that the Superintendent of Schools cannot meet with the Committee of the Whole during the month of April. He would not be available until the month of May. The committee wishes to meet with the Principal and the Superintendent of Schools, together with a representative of the R.C.M.P., to discuss the parking and loitering of students along the Oak Park Road.

Resolution COW080407

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by G. El-Jakl that the Principal of Barrington Municipal High School be requested to meet with the Committee of the Whole and the R.C.M.P. as soon as possible to discuss students parking and loitering along the Oak Park Road near the High School.

Motion carried unanimously.

INSURANCE COVERAGE

Members were provided with a memo from the Clerk-Treasurer indicating proposed changes in the municipal insurance coverage. At the present time no changes are recommended to the policy. The recommendations made by the insurance company are primarily to increase the deductible levels of the insurance coverage. This is not believed to be desirable at the present time.

Resolution COW080408

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that there be no further changes made to insurance coverage during the 2008/2009 fiscal year.

Motion carried unanimously.

V.I.C. RELOCATION

Members had been provided with further information regarding a possible site for relocation of the Visitor Information Centre. At the present time Council is still considering whether or not to move the Visitor Information Centre to a new location.

Resolution COW080409

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by D. Messenger that the Ryers be informed that Council is still considering whether or not to move the Visitor Information Centre to a new location.

AFFIRMATIVE

Louise Halliday
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
Eddie Nickerson
Wilford Smith

NEGATIVE

George El-Jakl
Larry Stewart
Sean Strang

Motion carried.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

A Code of Conduct for Municipal Elected Officials is being proposed by the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities. This information will be forwarded to councillors in the immediate future for their comment. This proposed code of conduct will be discussed at the UNSM Spring Conference.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

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

DANGEROUS AND UNSIGHTLY PREMISES

Two properties are requested to be investigated under the Dangerous and Unsightly Premises Provisions of the Municipal Government Act. The properties are the Leroy Martin property in Brass Hill, and the second house on the left side of the Daniel's Head Road in South Side.

AMCOY DEVELOPMENTS

Information was circulated to members regarding Amcoy Developments. This is a seniors housing development that is proposed for the Barrington area. This is the development that is proposed by private developers which may take place in the near future depending upon interest expressed by local residents.

CORRESPONDENCE

Learning Centre

Correspondence has been received from the Shelburne County Learning Centre. This correspondence is a letter of thanks and appreciation for the use of the facility in Barrington Passage which is being used as an example for other areas of the province.

Roseway Hospital Charitable Foundation

Correspondence has also been received from the Roseway Hospital Charitable Foundation indicating that they wish to trade some old equipment for new equipment that will enable the Roseway Hospital to provide better hospital care to residents of the County.

It was the consensus of members that the proposed trading of equipment should be done as it would be advantageous to all of the communities in Shelburne County.

DIABETES

Question was raised whether or not dialysis can be done in the Barrington area rather than having diabetic patients travel to Yarmouth for this service.

It was indicated by a member that the machines required for dialysis are very expensive and that trained personnel are required to operate them. It is therefore very unlikely that this service will be able to be provided in the local area in the immediate future.

CLOSED SESSION

Members then entered into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing purchase of property and a legal matter.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 10:50 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary for the Meeting

On website April 22, 2008.