

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

August 5, 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
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- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Roseway Hospital ER.
- Green Grove Cemetery.
- Stoney Island Community Club.
- Correspondence.
- Community Grants.
- Financial Request.

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 L. Stewart and seconded W. Smith that minutes of the last previous meeting held July 21, 2008 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD

Mr. Phil Landry, Superintendent of the Tri-County Regional School Board, appeared before the meeting for the purpose of explaining the funding of the Tri-County Regional School Board by the Nova Scotia Department of Education.

Mr. Landry provided a written report comparing the funding allocation for the fiscal year 2007/2008 for the Tri-County Regional School Board and the Strait Regional School Board. This comparison was not a criticism of the Strait Regional School Board, but simply a comparison of the funds provided to the school boards by the Department of Education. Mr. Landry pointed out various aspects of the funding as provided to both school boards. Some of this funding is based on information that can support the calculation of funding amounts while other funds are apparently discretionary amounts. Most of the funding formula is based on the "Hogg Report" which was provided to the government in 2004.

At the conclusion of his presentation, Mr. Landry provided a funding comparison for 2007/2008 and 2008/2009 for all of the school boards in the province. The South Shore Regional School Board and the Strait Regional School Board are similar in size to the Tri-County Regional School Board, however, both receive much more funding than the local school board in this area. Mr. Landry has made several presentations to Councils, and local councils are being requested to write the Nova Scotia Minister of Education to request a review of the Hogg formula for education funding in the Province of Nova Scotia.

Resolution COW080801

Moved by W. Smith and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that the Nova Scotia Minister of Education be requested to review the Hogg funding formula model for the school boards in the Province of Nova Scotia.

Motion carried unanimously.

There then followed some discussion of the traffic and vandalism problems in the vicinity of Barrington Municipal High School.

Having completed his discussion of these matters, Mr. Landry retired from the meeting at approximately 8:00 p.m.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Building Inspection

Glen Muise provided a report on the Building Inspection Department for the month of July.

During the month of July thirteen (13) building permits had been issued at a value of \$167,100.00.

A number of fire inspections have been done together with the Deputy Fire Marshal, Mr. Ron Thibeau. Additional fire inspections have been completed by Mr. Muise.

Several zoning questions have arisen and have been addressed by Mr. Muise as Development Officer.

Twenty-four (24) building inspections were done during the month of July.

Mr. Muise has now completed six courses towards his Building Official certification and has five to complete. It is anticipated the additional five courses will be completed this fall.

Recreation Department

Anna Kenney, Recreation Director, provided a verbal report for the month of July which included the Day Camp activities, pool activities and a summary of other programs conducted during the month.

Mrs. Kenney indicated that there were 161 participants in the Nova Scotia Marathon/Half Marathon which was held on July 27, 2008. The event seemed to be very successful and several pointers were noted that would improve the event again for next year.

Having completed her report, Mrs. Kenney retired from the meeting at approximately 8:21 p.m.

Visitor Information Centre Report

A Visitor Information Centre Report was also provided to members. This report covered the period from May 16th to July 31st. During that time there were 1,937 visitors to the Visitor Information Centre. For a similar period last year there were 1,721 visitors. This year there is an overall increase of approximately 9% in the number of visitors to the Visitor Information Centre.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The Department of Transportation representative was unavailable this evening and will appear at the Committee of the Whole meeting to be held on Monday, August 18, 2008.

PLAYGROUND FUNDING POLICY

A proposed Playground Funding Policy was previously circulated to members for their information and review. The policy was reviewed paragraph by paragraph in order to make necessary amendments.

Resolution COW080802

Moved by L. Stewart and seconded by W. Smith that the deadline date for applications for playground funding under the proposed policy be March 31st of each year.

Motion carried unanimously.

Much discussion followed regarding the funding being provided under this policy.

It was agreed by consensus of members that paragraph 3 would be further amended to provide greater clarity for the amount of funding being provided by the policy. It was also agreed by consensus of members that paragraph 5 dealing with in kind contributions would be further refined in order to provide greater clarity as well.

OWNERS UNKNOWN PROPERTY

Further information was provided regarding access to the owners unknown property at the end of Exit 30. The Supervisor for the Department of Transportation in Yarmouth has indicated that a distance of 60 metres from the D.O.T. access must be maintained for any access road to the property. This does not preclude any Visitor Information Centre being built on the property closer than 60 metres to the highway off ramp. This information has been provided verbally. The D.O.T. Supervisor is further investigating the potential access distance with D.O.T. officials in Halifax and will provide a written response once this is done.

BUSINESS PARK FINANCING

A Temporary Borrowing Resolution was circulated with the agenda for members to review. It is anticipated that a temporary loan in the amount of \$250,000.00 will be put in place for the initial contribution providing sewer and road access to the business park location in Barrington Passage. This Temporary Borrowing Resolution will be brought forward at the next subsequent Council meeting for approval.

SHELBURNE COUNTY INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

The most recent meeting of the Shelburne County Industrial Commission was canceled without proper notice being provided to members of the Board. The Industrial Commission seems to be lagging in its efforts in getting organized. The Commission does not seem to be taking the initiative required for this organization to become an economic development force in Shelburne County.

Resolution COW080803

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to the Shelburne County Industrial Commission requesting that meeting dates be set, and that meetings be held as required by the Terms of Reference of the Commission whenever a quorum is available, regardless which individual members may be available, and that the Commission conduct its business according to the Terms of Reference, as required.

Motion carried unanimously.

FOSTER PARENT ASSOCIATION

Correspondence has been received from the Shelburne County Foster Parent Association requesting a financial contribution.

The Deputy Warden was asked to assume the Chair by the Warden so that she might address this matter.

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

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by D. Messenger that the Shelburne County Foster Parent Association be requested to provide details of the funding which they are requesting. The details that are being requested are: who are these funds being provided for, how much funding is being requested, and what use will be made of the funds.

AFFIRMATIVE

Donna Leblanc-Messenger
Eddie Nickerson
Wilford Smith

NEGATIVE

George El-Jakl
Louise Halliday
Larry Stewart
Sean Strang

Motion defeated.

Resolution COW080804

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by S. Strang that the Municipality reply to the Shelburne County Foster Parent Association indicating that the deadline for applications for Grants to Organizations has passed for the current year, and that the group should apply again next year if they so wish.

AFFIRMATIVE

George El-Jakl
Louise Halliday
Larry Stewart
Sean Strang

NEGATIVE

Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
Eddie Nickerson
Wilford Smith

Motion carried.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN

A list of projects submitted under the Municipality's proposed Capital Investment Plan was circulated to all members for their review. These projects have been rated by all seven councillors in order to develop a list of capital projects, in priority.

There followed much discussion regarding the Capital Investment Plan and the listing of priorities.

It was agreed by consensus of members that expansion of the Cape Sable Island Sewer System be listed as a number one priority, and that the remaining list be maintained as now listed. These priorities will now be placed in a five year investment plan which will be forwarded to Council for approval.

ROSEWAY HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM

There was some question regarding the use of the Roseway Hospital Emergency Room and the availability of doctors.

Resolution COW080805

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by D. Messenger that the Administrator of Roseway Hospital, Jodi Ybarra, be requested to attend a Committee of the Whole meeting for the purpose of discussing the operation of the emergency room.

AFFIRMATIVE

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

NEGATIVE

Wilford Smith

Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Town Criers Association

Correspondence has been received by the Warden from the Town Criers Association thanking her for attending the Annual Town Criers Meeting in Shelburne.

Green Grove Cemetery

Correspondence has been received from Green Grove Cemetery requesting a Community Grant. Two applications have been provided for community grants. One is for \$400.00 for annual mowing and maintenance of the cemetery, and the second is for \$1,600.00 which is to help pay for a sign for the cemetery.

Further consideration of this request will be deferred to a subsequent meeting by consensus of members.

Stoney Island Community Club Request

A Community Grant request has been received from the Stoney Island Community Club. The Club is requesting financial support for gravel fill, loam, grass seed and fertilizer, for repairs to the old cemetery. The approximate cost of this material is \$3,500.00, plus tax.

Resolution COW080806

Moved by L. Stewart and seconded by W. Smith that it be recommended to Council that the Stoney Island Community Club be granted \$3,500.00 from the District 5 Community Grants Fund.

Motion carried unanimously.

Barrington Municipal Exhibition

Resolution COW080807

Moved by L. Stewart and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Barrington Municipal Exhibition be granted \$200.00 from the District 5 Community Grants Fund.

Motion carried unanimously.

Community Grant

A member informed the meeting that it is anticipated that a request for funding for construction of a boat ramp at The Hawk will be coming forward to committee in the very near future.

Financial Request

Members were informed that the group of fishermen who are protesting at the Cape Sable Island Causeway will be requesting a contribution from the Municipality to pay for the rental of an underwater camera for the purpose of determining whether or not the lobster habitat is being affected by the scallop draggers. This information will be brought forward at a subsequent meeting when it is received.

Certificate of Recognition

Resolution COW080808

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that a certificate of recognition be issued to the Wood's Harbour Fire Department Extrication Team for their recent accomplishment at competitions.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Having completed the business of the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 10:48 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary for the Meeting

On website August 6, 2008.