

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

September 15, 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 item was added to the agenda:

- Barrington Regional Curling Club.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Moved** by S. Strang and seconded by L. Stewart that the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Moved** by W. Smith and seconded by S. Strang that minutes of the last previous meeting held September 2, 2008 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

### ROSEWAY HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM

Dr. John Keeler, Chief of Staff of Roseway Hospital, and Jodi Ybarra, Administrator for Roseway Hospital, appeared before the committee for the purpose of discussing the use of the Emergency Room at Roseway Hospital.

Discussion centered around the use of the Emergency Room while it is closed to the public. Members were informed that the Emergency Room is sometimes used for ambulatory care when there is no other space available for that purpose. The Emergency Room is also used for other procedures when space requires it. Over the course of the summer the Emergency Room has been closed on numerous occasions due to a lack of physicians to cover hours there. At the present time a locum doctor is also helping at Roseway Hospital. She will be taking a turn in the Emergency Room until the end of October. There is currently a need for 3 if not 4 more doctors to share the Emergency Room location at Roseway Hospital. It was suggested that use of Nurse Practitioners trained to work in the Emergency Room would be an alternative.

Having completed their discussion of this matter, Dr. Keeler and Ms. Ybarra retired from the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

#### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Mr. Benny Acker, Shelburne County Supervisor, Department of Transportation appeared before the meeting for the purpose of discussing transportation matters. The following matters were discussed:

1. Signs for the sharp corner on the 103 near Clement's Pond are being considered by the Traffic Supervisor for the Department of Transportation. One sign has already been placed and chevrons are being requested to be placed there.
2. Rain from the road floods the lawn at #280 West Baccaro, property of Mr. Richard Brannen. Mr. Acker will view this property to determine what is required to be done by the Department of Transportation.
3. The Lighthouse Road at Baccaro Point needs to be graded.
4. Cutting of brush and grass along the sides of the road on the Port LaTour Road needs to be done. Mr. Acker indicated this would be done once the Barrington area has been completed.
5. Shouldering needs to be done. This work has been contracted out to Aberdeen Construction and will be done by the end of October.
6. The Seal Point Road and the Old Ferry Wharf Road need shouldering done on them as well.
7. Trees need to be cut along the Port LaTour Road. Mr. Acker indicated that this has been done from the Port Clyde end and has been completed over the past three days.
8. The sign at the end of the Villagedale Road needs to be reconfigured so that there are arrows pointing in both directions.
9. Pavement patching has been done on part of the Villagedale Road. It is unlikely that additional patching will be done on the Villagedale Road this year due to the increased cost of asphalt. The additional patching for the Villagedale Road will be scheduled for next year. Centre lines will be painted on these sections.

10. The Forbes Point Bridge will be repaired by December.
11. The Pope's Road needs to be graded.
12. Shoulder repairs need to be done in the Wood's Harbour area.
13. Just past the UFO Site grass needs to be cut in the ditch on the right hand side.
14. Repairs to the roadway near Twinkie's Corner will be done next year.
15. The guardrail at the Newellton duck pond needs to be installed.
16. Shouldering needs to be done on Cape Sable Island.
17. It is requested that the shoulder of the road on Sherose Island be widened. Mr. Acker stated that this is not likely to be done since there is no space to allow this.
18. It was requested that ditching be done on the side of the road in South Side where it floods.
19. Shoulder repairs need to be done along the South Side Road near the "old ladies house" indicated by the councillor for the area.
20. The road at The Hawk needs gravel near The Hawk Beach. There is a water hole in the middle of the road which needs to be filled.
21. Near #1086 ditching needs to be done. This location is in Lower Clark's Harbour.
22. Approximately 5.5 kilometers of the Upper Clyde Road has been resurfaced this year.

Having completed his discussion of these matters, Mr. Acker then retired from the meeting.

#### R.C.M.P. MONTHLY REPORT

Sgt. Bill Mooney, the Barrington Detachment Commanding Officer, appeared before the meeting and provided written reports. These reports covered both the months of July and August. The month of July had been reviewed at a previous meeting. For the month of August the number of calls made in the Municipality was 151. For the same month the previous year the number of calls was 174.

Sgt. Mooney indicated that he will be here at least another month, until approximately October 15<sup>th</sup>. The R.C.M.P. has been checking the area near the High School for traffic violations and patrolling it on a regular basis.

Sgt. Mooney indicated that the R.C.M.P. has not yet hired the three (3) "plain clothes" officers allocated for Shelburne County, but this will be done during the fall.

It was requested that more speeding monitoring be conducted in the Barrington area. Sgt. Mooney indicated that two officers have completed radar training this week and therefore more radar speed monitoring will be done in the very near future.

Sgt. Mooney was also informed of the hazardous pieces of wood that were found at the Brass Hill playground and he ensured committee members that the area would be monitored.

There then followed some discussion regarding the use of cell phones in cars. Sgt. Mooney informed members that the pertinent act does not refer to cell phones but simply to “communication devices” and that they cannot be used while driving.

It was also indicated that another R.C.M.P. member has applied for and may be transferred in the near future. Although it has not been confirmed yet it is anticipated that Sgt. Bob Forbes will be replacing Mr. Mooney when he is relocated.

Having completed his discussion of these matters, Sgt. Mooney then retired from the meeting.

#### JAMES MOOD INTERVIEW RE: FINANCIAL MATTERS

Mr. Mood appeared before the meeting for the purpose of discussing various financial matters. He has indicated that there have been various rumors throughout the Municipality and he wishes to obtain information on various matters so that he is better informed and able to deal with the proper information rather than rumors.

Mr. Mood had submitted a written letter asking that several issues be explained to him. The issues included; loans to the Wood’s Harbour Fire Department, sale of land to Yarmouth Area Industrial Commission, environmental issues at the former High School property, construction of the library, the Municipality’s financial report and projected future spending by the Municipality.

Mr. Mood also indicated to members that the economy of coastal communities is not now in a very good condition. The economy of coastal communities has been declining since 1990. He indicated that an informal census done in Wood’s Harbour showed that there are now 900 residents in the area where in previous years there had been 1200. He indicated although Council should not be pessimistic, they must be realistic in their planning for the future. He also indicated that the situation at the present time is not good and work must be done in order to improve it.

Having completed his discussion of these matters with committee members, Mr. Mood then retired from the meeting.

#### CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN

The proposed Capital Investment Plan to be submitted to Service Nova Scotia for Gas Tax Funding was discussed by members. This plan is the result of projects that have been put forward by Council and which have been prioritized by Council. The plan had been previously circulated to members on August 18<sup>th</sup> for their review. It is being requested that the plan be approved by Council so that it can be forwarded to Service Nova Scotia by the required due date of October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Resolution COW080909

**Moved** by L. Stewart and seconded by W. Smith that it be recommended to Council that the proposed 2008 Capital Investment Plan be approved by Council as required, and subsequently forwarded to Service Nova Scotia.

Motion carried unanimously.

PLUMBING SERVICES

There was some discussion regarding the tendering of plumbing services. Pursuant to motion C080710, plumbing services are now being tendered by invitation to the licenced plumbers in the area.

GRANTS TO SPORT TEAMS

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

The Warden then resumed the Chair.

**Moved** by W. Smith that this matter be deferred for discussion until a subsequent meeting in January or February of 2009.

Having requested three times for a seconder and having heard none, the Chair declared this motion lost.

Some discussion then followed regarding the lack of a policy to consistently deal with applications for requests for funding for sports teams and others involved in provincial and other competitions.

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

Having completed her address, the Warden again resumed the Chair.

**Moved** by E. Nickerson and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that a policy be put in place so that grants could be made to individuals and other groups competing at provincial or other competitions above provincials.

Discussion of this motion then followed.

**Moved** by E. Nickerson that the motion be amended by adding that this motion includes sponsorships for sports teams and others.

There then followed much discussion of both the amendment and the main motion. At this time both the amendment and the motion were then withdrawn by the mover.

It was the consensus of members that Municipal Staff would obtain further information regarding the sponsorship of local groups competing at provincial and other levels of competition and this information would be forwarded to committee members for their consideration at a subsequent meeting.

### COMPUTERS

Information which was obtained from local suppliers was provided to members regarding the current value of the computers that the councillors now use and the cost of buying new computers for the incoming council.

After much discussion it was the consensus of members that the current computers would be passed on to the new councillors.

### GEORGE'S BANK DRILLING

This matter had been deferred to this meeting from a previous meeting.

There was some discussion regarding the possibility of completing a survey throughout the Municipality regarding the potential for drilling on George's Banks.

Members were of the opinion that more information is necessary before any surveying of the public should be done.

At this time it was the feeling that not enough information was available for further action to be taken.

### LINE OF CREDIT

A graph indicating the level of the Municipality's line of credit for the current year was shown to members. From April 25<sup>th</sup> to August 12<sup>th</sup> the Municipality had outstanding balances on its line of credit because not enough taxes were collected from residents during that period to offset current expenses. The maximum amount of the line of credit during that period was \$740,000.00. This maximum was reached for the three days, July 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Council has already approved issuing two tax bills next year. By issuing two tax bills in the course of a year it is anticipated that this use of the line of credit will no longer be necessary. The estimated interest costs associated with this line of credit is approximately \$4,500.00. It is anticipated that this \$4,500.00 cost will not be incurred next year as a result of two tax bills being issued.

### DR. VANAST

Dr. Vanast is a psychologist who lives in Montreal. Dr. Vanast visits the Municipality and has been seeing patients over the course of the previous year at the Community Health Centre. Dr. Vanast comes here usually on weekends and consults a number of patients during that time. Dr. Vanast will no longer be coming as the personnel at the Community Health Centre have changed and will no longer be able to accommodate his requirements.

### Resolution COW080910

**Moved** by G. El-Jakl and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that a letter of thanks be sent to Dr. Vanast for his services to the Municipality.

Motion carried unanimously.

BARRINGTON REGIONAL CURLING CLUB

Financial Statements for the year ended May 31, 2008 have been received from the Barrington Regional Curling Club. These statements have been copied to members for their information. A summary of these statements for the years 2001 to 2008 has also been received and this summary has also been copied to members for their information.

Various comments were made regarding the results of the current year. It was encouraging to members to see that the Barrington Regional Curling Club had “broken even” during the year.

SUBSEQUENT COUNCIL MEETINGS

Due to the Municipal Election being held on October 18<sup>th</sup>, it is necessary to reschedule some of the Council meetings.

It was agreed by members that the last meeting of the current council will be held on Monday, October 6, 2008. The first meeting of the new Council will be held after the appeal period has ended. This will be after orientation has been completed. The first meeting of the new council will be held on Monday, November 10, 2008, and orientation is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, November 1, 2008.

ORDER OF CANADA

Correspondence has been received from the Chief of Protocol for the Order of Nova Scotia indicating that the nomination of Hattie Perry was one of 68 that were submitted this year. Unfortunately, the nomination for Hattie Perry was not successful this year. The Municipality is encouraged to resubmit the nomination in the following year.

Resolution COW080911

**Moved** by D. Messenger and seconded by W. Smith that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality again submit the nomination of Hattie Perry for the Order of Nova Scotia in 2009.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 10:26 p.m.

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Chairperson

Secretary for the Meeting

**On website September 17, 2008.**