

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

November 17, 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
 - Cecil O'Donnell
 - Cathy Stoddard
 - Sean Strang
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- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Essay Contest.
- Judging.
- J. R. Fry Pension.
- New Newellton Cemetery.
- Dr. Vanast.
- Cats and Dogs.
- Meetings.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by G. El-Jakl that the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by D. Messenger that the minutes of the last previous meeting held September 29, 2008 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

R.C.M.P. MONTHLY REPORT

Cp. Doug Brannen from the local R.C.M.P. Detachment appeared before the meeting for the purpose of delivering the R.C.M.P. Detachment's monthly report. Cpl. Brannen provided written statistics for the months of September and October. He indicated that the numbers reported in October of 2008 have risen, and it is expected that the caseload numbers will continue to be substantially more than the previous year as the R.C.M.P. are now reporting more of the calls they receive at the office that they deal with on a daily basis.

The sergeant vacancy has now been filled by Sgt. Bob Forbes who is scheduled to start at the detachment on December 1st. Sgt. Forbes has 30 years experience in the R.C.M.P. and has been stationed in Shelburne County previously. There is currently one constable off on parental leave until next spring. The local detachment will be getting a cadet soon. Both he and his family will be moving to the area. All members of the detachment have now been trained in "speed enforcement". Cpl. Brannen reported that Halloween went very well this year and was relatively quiet compared to other years. The R.C.M.P. continues to monitor student activities in the area of Barrington Municipal High School and are there more frequently than they have been in the past.

Having completed his discussion and his report, Cpl. Brannen retired from the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

NURSE PRACTITIONER SERVICE

Jodi Ybarra and Tanya Nixon who both work for the District Health Authority appeared before the meeting for the purposes of discussing the nurse practitioner service provided in Shelburne County.

A letter received today, by email, from Dr. Blair regarding the nurse practitioner was read to members for their information. This letter was sent today to Jodi Ybarra in regards to the cost of the nurse practitioner working at the Community Health Centre. In this letter Dr. Blair informs Ms. Ybarra that he will absorb all of the costs related to the Community Health Centre that would be born by the nurse practitioner, with the exception that the District Health Authority will still have to provide supplies. In this way the overhead costs of the nurse practitioner will not need to be included in the District Health Authority's budget.

Ms. Nixon informed members that in the past the District Health Authority had had the capacity to absorb the nurse practitioner's deficit. This capacity no longer exists as several other nurse practitioner positions have been filled by the District Health Authority. The Authority has clinical space available at the Parsons Mall which is already being rented and paid for by the District Health Authority. The primary decision in moving the nurse practitioner to the Parsons Mall location is motivated by funding issues. The nurse practitioner will not be alone at the Parsons Mall space, therefore the security and the isolation of the individual are not an issue.

The need for the nurse practitioner in Shelburne County has also changed over time. The need for primary health care in Shelburne County, especially in the Shelburne area, has increased since the nurse practitioner has been in the County and this need must be addressed. Nurse practitioners are as rare to find and recruit as physicians are. The proposal made by Dr. Blair will be looked at and evaluated by the District Health Authority.

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

Ms. Nixon informed members that the District Health Authority has a deployment plan for nurse practitioners. At the present time there are two vacancies. One is a full vacancy in the District of Clare and the second is a .8 vacancy in Digby. Ms. Nixon also noted that the level of collaboration with Dr. Blair has changed over the last few years as he now works fewer days per week. The nurse practitioner does not have to have a doctor who is on the alternate payment plan system, and the physician does not have to be present in the same location as the nurse practitioner. Dr. Blair will be contacted by the District Health Authority regarding his letter.

At this time the Warden resumed the Chair.

Jodi Ybarra and Tanya Nixon were thanked for attending the meeting and they retired from the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

KEMPTON GOODWIN INTERVIEW

Mr. Goodwin appeared before the meeting for the purpose of appealing the fine that was imposed on him by the Property Services Manager for bringing alcohol into the Arena and having possession of it in the Arena.

Mr. Goodwin informed members that he had indeed brought a case of 24 bottles of beer into the Arena during the benefit game being held for Sandy Wickens in the spring of 2008. He was asked by members of some of the teams involved in that game to purchase some beer and bring it to the game so that it could be consumed in the dressing room after the game. Mr. Goodwin was stopped by an Arena Attendant and subsequently reported to the Manager. The Manager followed Municipal Policy and tried to notify Mr. Goodwin by telephone on two separate occasions after the incident. Having been unable to connect with Mr. Goodwin by telephone a certified letter was sent to Mr. Goodwin informing him of the \$100.00 fine. Mr. Goodwin did not dispute that he had taken the beer into the Arena. He also stated that a friend of his also accompanied him with another case of beer at the same time. He also stated that two weeks prior to the event he had been in the dressing room after an Old Timers game drinking beer. Mr. Goodwin also stated that he did not believe that he had done anything wrong. Mr. Goodwin's main concern was two issues. First, he believes that he was targeted because he was known to Arena personnel and second he stated he was told it was O.K. to take the beer into the dressing room by the Arena Attendant after he had the beer in the Arena. The Arena Attendant's report did not state that this occurred. Questioning of the Arena Attendant by the Manager also indicated that this had not occurred. Mr. Goodwin felt that the policy may be in place but it is not being enforced and that he was being unfairly targeted. He felt that the problem was not having it in there but how he got the beer in the Arena. Mr. Goodwin implied that a lot of drinking is being done in the Arena.

It was the general consensus of members that there is a mixed message being given to patrons by staff.

Resolution COW081101

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality enforce the policy that no liquor is allowed in the Arena and that Mr. Goodwin must pay the fine imposed upon him before he will again be allowed in the Arena.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution COW081102

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by C. Stoddard that it be recommended to Council that municipal employees attend a meeting of Council in order to clarify municipal policy regarding alcohol in the Arena.

Motion carried unanimously.

Having completed his appeal to Council, Mr. Goodwin then left the meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE - DESTINATION SOUTHWEST NOVA SCOTIA

The Visitor Information Centre Manager, Diane Smith, had been appointed to the Destination Southwest Nova Scotia Communications Committee for a period of one year on a trial basis.

Members were informed that it is recommended that the Manager no longer serve on this committee as there have been very few meetings, and that she has attended none of them as she had not been notified of the meetings.

Resolution COW08103

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the V.I.C. Manager no longer be designated to be a member of the Destination Southwest Nova Scotia Communications Committee.

Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNITY GRANT REQUEST

Barrington Good Will Club

The Good Will Club is replacing wooden shingles and corner boards on the front wall of the building. The estimated cost of this project is \$2,147.00 and the Club is requesting a Community Grant from the Municipality in the amount of \$700.00.

Resolution COW081104

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that a grant of \$700.00 be provided to the Barrington Good Will Club from the District 3 Community Grants Fund.

Motion carried

Old Farm Cemetery

An application for a Community Grant has been received from the Old Farm Cemetery Society for the purpose of maintenance of the cemetery road and parking area. The total estimated cost of the project is \$1,039.04 and the Society is requesting a grant in the amount of \$1,000.00.

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

Members were informed that the Society has GICs in the amount of \$11,500.00 but these are not available to the Society as they are a bequest. The Society is only allowed to use the interest from these GICs for their purposes.

Resolution COW081105

Moved by L. Halliday and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that a grant of \$1,000.00 be provided from the District 2 Community Grants Fund to the Old Farm Cemetery Society.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Warden then resumed the Chair.

New Newellton Cemetery

An application for a Community Grant has been received from the New Newellton Cemetery for the purpose of completing work on the cemetery which includes recapping the existing sea wall, placing topsoil on the new section of the cemetery and applying seed and fertilizer to that section. The total cost of the project is \$8,400.00, plus taxes. A grant of \$1,000.00 is being requested towards this project.

Resolution COW081106

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that a grant of \$1,000.00 be provided from the District 6 Community Grant Fund to the New Newellton Cemetery.

Motion carried unanimously.

Green Cart Funding Application

Members were informed that an application has been filed with the Resource Recovery Fund Board in the amount of \$2,175.00 for the purpose of obtaining 75 green carts for the Municipality. The RRFB will provide 50% of the funding towards the purchase of green carts in the next fiscal year.

Resolution COW081107

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality submit a Municipal Approved Program application for the 2009-2010 fiscal year in the amount of \$2,175.00 for the purchase of green carts.

Motion carried unanimously.

Scavenging at the Landfill

Members were informed that an elderly local resident had attended at the Landfill for the purpose of scavenging some lumber from that site. The policy of the Municipality is not to allow scavenging at the Landfill Site due to the significant liability involved.

It was suggested that municipal employees salvage what lumber they can from the waste lumber pile at the site and provide it for resale to local residents, when available. This is being done by municipal staff and will continue to be done.

PROPERTY SERVICES SUPERVISOR

A report to Council has been prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer regarding the replacement of the Property Services Supervisor who has recently resigned.

It is proposed that the management of the Arena and management of Property Services be separated into two jobs so that there is a supervisor for each of these.

Discussion then ensued regarding the separation of the jobs and the operating and financial effects on the Municipality.

The Deputy Warden was asked to assume the Chair while the Warden addressed the matter and the Warden then resumed the Chair.

Resolution COW081108

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by C. O'Donnell that it be recommended to Council that the Arena and Property Services Department be separated into two departments and that there be a Property Services Manager and an Arena Manager to manage these departments.

AFFIRMATIVE

Louise Halliday
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
Cecil O'Donnell
Cathy Stoddard
Sean Strang

NEGATIVE

George El-Jakl

Motion carried.

YARMOUTH AREA INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

Members were informed that funds in the amount of \$28,963.36 have been received from the Yarmouth Area Industrial Commission as a result of the sale of property owned by them in the Municipality. This property has been sold to private interests for the purpose of development of a mink farm. As required by the Municipal Financial Reporting and Accounting Manual these funds have been deposited to the Special Reserve Fund Capital.

CHRISTMAS BREAK

It is proposed that the Municipal Office and Building Inspection Office be closed from 12:00 Noon on December 24, 2008 and reopen on Monday, January 5, 2009 after the new year. Municipal employees will take 4 ½ days vacation during that time.

Resolution COW081109

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Municipal Office and Building Inspection Office be closed from 12:00 Noon December 24th over the Christmas holidays and reopen at 8:30 a.m., on Monday, January 5, 2009.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution COW081110

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that Committee of the Whole meet on Monday, December 22, 2008.

AFFIRMATIVE

George El-Jakl
Louise Halliday
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
Sean Strang

NEGATIVE

Cecil O'Donnell
Cathy Stoddard

Motion carried.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

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

DOCTOR VANAST

A member informed the meeting that there was some question regarding Dr. Vanasts' continued use of the Community Health Centre. It was suggested that Dr. Vanast may now have someone who is prepared to do the paperwork so that he may resume using the Community Health Centre to see patients in this area.

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

The Warden then resumed the Chair.

Should a written request be received from Dr. Vanast, this will be considered in the future.

CATS AND DOGS

A member questioned whether unwanted cats are being dropped off in the vicinity of the Arena.

Up to this point there has been no evidence of this happening. No reports have been made by the Arena Staff and there has been no evidence in this area that this has been taking place.

ESSAY JUDGING CONTEST

Resolution COW081111

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by C. Stoddard that it be recommended to Council that the Warden and Deputy Warden judge the Democracy 250 poster and essay contests that are being sponsored at the local schools by the Municipality.

Motion carried unanimously.

J.R. FRY PENSION FUNDING

The pension plan for the previous clerk, Mr. Jack Fry, was discussed by members. The pension plan has an actuarial valuation done every three years. The most recent evaluation was done March 31, 2008. This valuation has only recently been received in the Municipal Office. The valuation indicates that a continued funding of the pension plan in the amount of \$7,411.00 will be required for the next 15 years. At the present time the plan is funded in the amount of \$37,300.00 per year. As a consequence of the valuation being received this month, the Municipality has already paid \$21,759.00 this year into the pension plan. It is suggested that the amount already paid into the pension plan remain there and that the Municipality continue to fund the plan in the next two years in the required amount of \$7,411.00 per year. At that time another actuarial valuation will be done.

Resolution COW081112

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by C. O'Donnell that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality leave the contributions in the J. R. Fry pension plan that have actually been paid for the current year, and continue to fund the pension plan in the required amount over the next two years until the next actuarial valuation is completed.

Motion carried unanimously.

MEETINGS

Members were informed that there is a South West Shore Development Authority meeting being held in the Conference Room, in the Barrington municipal building, on Wednesday, November 19th. The Warden will attend this meeting.

There is also a Roseway Hospital Charitable Foundation meeting being held on November 19th and the Warden will also attend that meeting.

On November 22nd there is a Christmas Parade being held in Shelburne at 1:30 p.m. The Warden and all councillors have been invited to attend that parade and participate in it.

On December 12th there will be a Region 6 Solid Waste Management Committee Meeting being held at the Town of Bridgewater Municipal Office and Councillor Strang will attend that meeting.

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Also on December 12th the new superintendent for the R.C.M.P. will be in this area. Superintendent Dave Fudge will attend the local detachment at 10:05 a.m. The Warden will attend this meeting at the local detachment.

It was also suggested by a member that the government caucus be invited to come to the Municipality to meet Council and tour the Municipality some time early in the new year.

It was the consensus of members that these meetings be attended by the Municipal representatives as indicated above and that an invitation be extended as suggested.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Chairperson

Secretary for the Meeting

On website November 20, 2008.