

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

December 1, 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
- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Department of Transportation Matters.
- Diversion Credits.
- Shelburne County Industrial Commission.
- RV Dumping Station.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by G. El-Jakl that the minutes of the last previous meeting held November 17, 2008 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by C. Stoddard that minutes of the last previous meeting held November 17, 2008 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Building Inspection Department

Glen Muise, Building Inspector/Development Officer, for the Municipality, presented a written report regarding activities of the Building Inspection Department for the month of November.

Recreation Department

Anna Kenney, Recreation Director for the Municipality, presented a written report regarding activities of the Recreation Department for the month of November and tentative initiatives to be taken during the month of December.

Having completed their reports Mr. Muise and Mrs. Kenney were thanked for their presentations and retired from the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

BARRINGTON MUNICIPAL HIGH SCHOOL

Representatives from the Tri-County Regional School Board, together with members of the R.C.M.P appeared before the meeting. Local residents were invited to attend the meeting for the purpose of discussing concerns related to students at Barrington Municipal High School.

Phil Landry, Superintendent, and Faye Haley, Chair of the TCR School Board, attended the meeting together with Mr. David Buckland, Principal of the High School, and Mrs. Helen Goreham, Chair of the School Advisory Committee. Also in attendance were Sgt. Bob Forbes and Cpl. Doug Brannen of the local R.C.M.P. Detachment.

Mr. Landry acted as spokesman for the Tri-County Regional School Board. He related some of the history of the new school including the decision to have a closed parking lot. This decision was reached after consideration by the School Advisory Committee and staff of the school.

A meeting was held at 6:00 p.m. this evening at the school, which was attended by 8 of the 11 board members. As a result of this meeting the Board has decided to continue the closed parking lot policy that has been previously put in place by the School Advisory Committee and staff. The School Advisory Committee's main concern is the safety of students.

Seven of the board members who attended the meeting at the school are present at the committee meeting this evening. They will continue to consult with the R.C.M.P. regarding this matter.

Sgt. Forbes informed members that the R.C.M.P. will address any police issues that arise in the area, however, they must be informed of these issues in order to address them. A School Liaison Officer will soon be hired for the entire County and will operate out of the Barrington Detachment.

The Chairperson of the School Advisory Committee stated that they are trying to make the "campus" as safe as they can. It was stated that 15 - 20 cars are parked along the Oak Park Road on average, and that 20 - 30 cars are parked in the parking lot on average. The gate is open during the day for reasonable cause to allow students to leave for dinner hour and for appointments as required.

Parents of the students who are parking their cars along the Oak Park Road have not been consulted by the School Board or the School Advisory Committee.

The Department of Transportation has been contacted by a Board representative regarding signs being placed along the Oak Park Road. These signs would include both no parking and no littering signs.

It was stated that fewer students are driving to school, in total, because of the locked gate policy, and that the locked gate also keeps unwanted outsiders from entering the school grounds. The R.C.M.P. stated at this time that this was not so, that at lunch time there are other individuals in the main driveway where students are gathered. Locking the gate prevents egress but does not prevent access to the school property. The R.C.M.P. requested that all incidents in the area should be reported to the R.C.M.P. so that they can be acted on.

Having completed their discussion of this matter, members then retired from the meeting at approximately 8:15 p.m.

R.C.M.P. REPORT

The new Commanding Officer for the local R.C.M.P., Sgt. Bob Forbes, appeared before the meeting with Cpl Doug Brannen in order to provide a written report for the month of November. Sgt. Forbes has been in Shelburne County before, stationed at the Shelburne Detachment, and has recently been working with the Tri-County Traffic Unit. The new School Officer that is being provided to the County will work out of the Barrington Detachment while the four new "Street Crime Unit" officers will be operating out of the Shelburne Detachment once they are stationed here.

Having completed their report, Sgt. Forbes and Cpl. Brannen then retired from the meeting.

SOUTH WEST SHORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Mr. Frank Anderson, the CEO of the South West Shore Development Authority, appeared before the meeting in order to introduce himself and to bring members up to date on the activities of the Authority in general. He provided a document entitled S.W.S.D.A. 101. Mr. Anderson then covered the various activities of the Development Authority including the funding proposals through which the Authority is funded. He also informed members that in future the original development authorities in the province would be provided with "performance based funding" from the province. Mr. Anderson anticipates that this funding formula will increase the funding for the S.W.S.D.A. and will require a proportional increase in funding from the municipal units. Mr. Anderson also suggested that tourism in Shelburne County needs to be developed further, that a plan needs to be put in place, and that the S.W.S.D.A. has started looking for funding from the province for this purpose.

Having completed his discussion of the S.W.S.D.A., Mr. Anderson then retired from the meeting.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Members reviewed the current vacancies on municipal committees and made the following recommendations.

Resolution COW081201

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Warden continue to be the Municipality's board member on South West Shore Development Authority, and that Councillor Sean Strang continue to represent the Municipality on the Region 6 Solid Waste Management Committee.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution COW081202

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that Deputy Warden Messenger be the alternate designated board member for the South West Shore Development Authority.

Motion carried unanimously.

COASTAL FINANCIAL CREDIT UNION

Correspondence has been received from Mr. David Eldridge requesting a letter of support for the establishment of a branch office of the Coastal Financial Credit Union Ltd. in the Municipality of Barrington. Mr. Eldridge is attempting to attract the credit union to establish an office in the Municipality.

Resolution COW081203

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that a letter of support for the establishment of a branch office be sent to the Coastal Financial Credit Union Ltd.

Motion carried unanimously.

IN CAMERA SESSIONS

Correspondence has been received from the County of Annapolis regarding the recent motion that was passed at the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities Conference regarding broadening the powers of municipal government to hold in camera sessions. The Municipality of Annapolis is opposed to broadening these powers.

Resolution COW081204

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by D. Messenger that consideration of the UNSM motion regarding in camera sessions be deferred until consideration of the proposed Code of Conduct is discussed by committee.

Motion carried unanimously.

C.S.I. LEGION REQUEST

Correspondence has been received by email from Mr. David Cleaver, President of Branch #148 Cape Sable Island Legion. Mr. Cleaver is requesting, on behalf of the veterans, that the tree in front of the Barrington Library be decorated in time for the 2008 Christmas season.

The Warden then vacated the Chair in order to address this matter.

The Warden then resumed the Chair.

Resolution COW081205

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by C. O'Donnell that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality decorate the tree planted in honor of the veterans in front of the Barrington Municipal Library.

Motion carried unanimously.

CIRCUS

Members were informed that a circus promoter wishes to bring a circus to the Barrington Municipal Arena on Saturday, June 13, 2009. The promoter will provide 2 showings of the circus that day and would like to rent the Arena for that occasion.

There then followed much discussion of this matter in relation to the treatment of animals, in particular circus animals.

The Warden vacated the Chair in order to discuss this matter and the Deputy Warden assumed the Chair.

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

Resolution COW081206

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by C. Stoddard that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality decline the promoter's offer to host a circus in the Barrington Municipal Arena.

AFFIRMATIVE

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

NEGATIVE

George El-Jakl

Motion carried.

PROPERTY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

This matter was referred to Committee by Council. A recommendation had previously been circulated to members suggesting that the Property Services Department be divided into two groups, one being the Arena with its own manager and other being the Property Services Department with its own manager.

Members discussed the various aspects of this matter at length.

The Warden then vacated the Chair and the Deputy Warden assumed the Chair.

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

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality adopt the proposed job descriptions for an Arena Manager and a Property Services Supervisor and that the Arena Department and Property Services Department be divided into two separate groups.

AFFIRMATIVE

Louise Halliday
Cathy Stoddard
Sean Strang

NEGATIVE

George El-Jakl
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
Cecil O'Donnell

Motion defeated.

Resolution COW081207

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by C. O'Donnell that further consideration of this matter be deferred to the end of tonight's meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

ARENA DISCIPLINE POLICY

A proposed Arena Discipline Policy was circulated to members at the previous meeting of Council. Members were given this opportunity to further discuss the policy. Members were asked if an intermediate step was required prior to calling the R.C.M.P. regarding the presence of alcohol in the Arena. Members indicated that no intermediate step was to be taken. It is the intention of the committee that when municipal employees see or suspect that individuals are consuming or are in possession of alcohol in the Arena that the R.C.M.P. be called immediately.

Having completed their discussion of this matter members agreed by consensus that the policy would be considered by Council at their next meeting.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

It was suggested by a member that each councillor may wish to host their own meeting regarding municipal issues in their own district.

There was some uncertainty as to the legality of conducting such meetings. The Municipal Solicitor will be contacted and asked to provide an opinion in this matter.

BIKE TRAILS ALONG THE HIGHWAY

It was suggested that the Municipality pursue the installation of bike lanes along various parts of the highway within the Municipality.

Municipal Staff will investigate this matter further with the Department of Transportation and attempt to determine if there is any funding available.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

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

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

It was indicated that there is a hidden driveway along Highway No. 3 in Wood's Harbour which needs to be signed.

Resolution COW081208

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to the Department of Transportation requesting a hidden driveway sign be placed near civic address #6923 on Highway #3 in Wood's Harbour.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was also the consensus of members that they would like to request the Shelburne County Department of Transportation Supervisor to attend a Committee of the Whole meeting some time in December or January.

DIVERSION CREDITS

A copy of a draft letter to the chairman of the Region 6 Solid Waste Management Committee was circulated to members for their information and review. The purpose of this letter is to ask the Region 6 Solid Waste Management Committee to forgive the amount of Diversion Credits for the 2007/2008 year which have already been received by the Municipality. The diversion rate for the Municipality and the Town of Clark's Harbour based on the calculation done by the Nova Scotia Department of Environment yields a negative 14%. Because of this the \$23,105.00 that has already been received by the Municipality and the Town could be required to be returned to the Committee. In the past this has not been done when similar circumstances have arisen in other municipal units. What has been done, in particular with the Town of Windsor, is that the recipient has been allowed to retain the Diversion Credits but no additional Diversion Credits have been paid.

It is the intention of Council to ask the Region to allow the Municipality and the Town to retain these Diversion Credits. A copy of this letter has also been forwarded to the Town of Clark's Harbour for their consideration as well.

Resolution COW081209

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality forward a letter to the Chairman of the Region 6 Solid Waste Management Committee indicating their concerns with Diversion Credits for the 2007/2008 fiscal year, and requesting that the Municipality not be required to repay the Diversion Credits that have already been advanced.

Motion carried unanimously.

This letter will be forwarded to Region 6 upon approval of Council and will be requested to be discussed at the Regional Committee's meeting on December 12th.

SHELBURNE COUNTY INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

Correspondence had previously been sent to the Shelburne County Industrial Commission requesting that they pay the travel expenses of the Municipality's public and council members on that Commission. According to the current terms of reference of the Commission that were approved by Team Shelburne County, the Industrial Commission should be paying its members travel expenses. To date the Commission has not paid these travel expenses.

DUMPING STATION

It was requested by a member that garbage cans be placed near the RV dumping station on Sherose Island and that an approximate cost be determined for bringing a water supply to the location of the dumping station.

These matters will be addressed by Municipal Staff.

PROPERTY SERVICES CONTINUED

Members continued to discuss the various aspects of the Property Services Department and replacing the Property Services Supervisor who has recently resigned.

Having come to no conclusions, it was the consensus of members that this matter be addressed again at Council.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 11:45 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary for the Meeting

On website December 3, 2008.