

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

August 17, 2009

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:00 p.m., in the Court Room, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington, N.S., with the following members present:

- Louise Halliday, Chair
 - Murray Atkinson
 - George El-Jakl
 - Shaun Hatfield
 - Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
 - Cecil O'Donnell
 - Cathy Stoddard
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- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Barrington Municipal High School.
- Tri-County Housing Authority Representative.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by C. O'Donnell that the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by C. Stoddard that the minutes of the last previous meeting held August 4, 2009 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

MINK FARM PRESENTATION

Mr. Tony Perry and Mr. Doug Brannen appeared before the Committee for the purpose of making a presentation on behalf of the Clyde River Land Use Committee. This is a committee of concerned residents in the Clyde River area.

Mr. Perry introduced the subject of the mink farm being built on property adjacent to the 103 highway in Clyde River. He expressed concerns that there are a lot of rumors regarding this property, and that people do not know what is happening. He then asked Mr. Brannen to present further information.

Mr. Brannen presented a summary of information dating back to May of 2005. He reviewed correspondence between the Municipality and the South West Shore Development Authority as well as other correspondence and articles in the Chronicle Herald newspaper. Mr. Brannen also indicated that the Clyde River Land Use Committee had several questions, and was requesting the provision of additional information. The representatives of the committee will be attending the Municipality of Barrington Council meeting scheduled for August 24th, at which time they would like to have a response to their requests.

Concern was expressed regarding the use of the property and the sale of the property to private developers. Mr. Brannen requested the situation be explained by providing the following information:

1. Disclosure of information in regards to this project.
2. Development permits and drawings for the proposed mink farm.
3. Environmental Assessment Screening Report provided by the South West Shore Development Authority.
4. Copy of any revised reports.
5. A copy of any new environmental assessment done by the private owner which is assumed to have been provided to the Municipality.

It is requested that this information be provided at the Council Meeting on August 24th.

There then followed some discussion and questions by members of the Committee of the Whole.

Resolution COW090807

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that Municipal Policy be revised for the sale of municipal property to provide an assurance to the community, and to invite public participation in any decisions resulting in the sale of municipal property.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was also suggested by Mr. Brannen that the agenda for meetings be published weekly prior to the meetings.

It was also suggested to Mr. Brannen that Council of the Municipality could facilitate a public meeting with representatives from the Provincial Department of Environment and the Provincial Department of Agriculture, if necessary.

Resolution COW090808

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by C. Stoddard that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality bear the cost of setting up any public meeting with provincial officials regarding the establishment of a mink farm in Clyde River.

Motion carried unanimously.

Having completed their discussion of this matter, members of the Clyde River Land Use Committee then retired from the meeting at approximately 7:50 p.m.

KEN ANTHONY WELL REQUEST

Mr. Anthony appeared before the Committee for the purpose of discussing his request to use the Municipality's well at the soccer field located behind the former Barrington Municipal High School. This well is on Municipal property and it is currently supplying water to the former High School facility that is now owned by Mr. Anthony. Mr. Anthony reviewed his request and his development of the former High School property. He was advised that this matter has been referred to a solicitor by the Municipality and that since Mr. Anthony has also obtained the services of a solicitor, that any communication regarding this matter should be done through legal advisors. Mr. Anthony continued to address the matter by stating that he was sure that something could be worked out, and that he was assured by several lawyers that this was nothing more than a "normal well easement". He indicated to members that the well on the property which he purchased is believed to be too close to a contamination site to be used as a source of water for the development.

Mr. Anthony was again advised to communicate through his legal advisor to the Municipality.

Having completed his discussion of this matter, Mr. Anthony retired from the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Members agreed to review the list of committees for the 2009/2010 year so that members could be appointed to all of the boards and committees of the Municipality.

These were reviewed individually and a list approved for recommendation to Council is attached.

Waterfront Development Committee

Resolution COW090809

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that since Waterfront Development funds are no longer provided for that specific purpose by the Province, and since this committee has been dormant for more than three years, the most recent members of the committee would be contacted first, and pending their response, if there is no indication that the committee is of any further use, it will be dissolved by Council.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution COW090810

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the list of committee membership be approved as per the attached list.

Motion carried unanimously.

TRI-COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVE

The Municipality had previously advertised for a new representative for the Tri-County Housing Authority. Three applications have been received. The applicants are: Richard Clark, A. Roy Quinlan, and Tanya A. Smith.

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that Richard Clark be appointed the Municipality's representative on the Tri-County Housing Authority.

AFFIRMATIVE

George El-Jakl
Louise Halliday
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger

NEGATIVE

Murray Atkinson
Shaun Hatfield
Cecil O'Donnell
Cathy Stoddard

Motion defeated.

Resolution COW090811

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. O'Donnell that it be recommended to Council that A. Roy Quinlan be appointed as the Municipality's Tri-County Housing Authority representative.

AFFIRMATIVE

Murray Atkinson
Shaun Hatfield
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
Cecil O'Donnell
Cathy Stoddard

NEGATIVE

George El-Jakl
Louise Halliday

Motion carried.

COMMUNITY GRANT REQUESTS

Community Grant requests have been received from the following organizations:

Seaside Cemetery

A request has been received from the Seaside Cemetery Club in Newellton for funding to maintain and expand the cemetery.

Resolution COW090812

Moved by M. Atkinson and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that a grant of \$1,200.00 be provided from the District 6 Community Grants Fund to the Seaside Cemetery Club in Newellton.

Motion carried unanimously.

Archelaus Smith Museum

Correspondence has been received from the Archelaus Smith Historical Society indicating that they are requesting a grant to assist with the cost of painting the museum. The estimated cost of painting the museum is \$3,759.00.

Resolution COW090813

Moved by M. Atkinson and seconded by S. Hatfield that it be recommended to Council that a grant of \$1,000.00 from the District 6 Community Grants Fund be provided to the Archelaus Smith Historical Society for the purpose of painting the museum.

Motion carried unanimously.

Newellton Community Hall

The Newellton Community Hall is doing maintenance to their building and is replacing three windows; one in the kitchen, one in the bathroom and one in the porch, and is requesting funds to pay for this project.

Resolution COW090814

Moved by M. Atkinson and seconded by C. Stoddard that it be recommended to Council that a grant of \$950.00 be provided from the District 6 Community Grants Fund to the Newellton Community Hall for the purpose of replacing windows.

Motion carried unanimously.

Atlantic Cemetery Club

The Atlantic Cemetery Club is requesting a grant of \$3,000.00 to assist in the cost of repairs to centre portions of the cemetery, to fill in between the lots with class A gravel and loam, and to reseed them. The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$4,500.00 to \$5,000.00.

Some discussion regarding the providing of funds to the Atlantic Cemetery Club, the Stoney Island Cemetery Club and the Stoney Island Community Club then followed.

Resolution COW090815

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. O'Donnell that it be recommended to Council that the request of the Atlantic Cemetery Club be denied, and a letter be sent to this organization indicating that \$2,000.00 has already been approved in the current years' Community Grants, to the Stoney Island Community Club.

AFFIRMATIVE

Murray Atkinson
Louise Halliday
Shaun Hatfield
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
Cecil O'Donnell
Cathy Stoddard

NEGATIVE

George El-Jakl

Motion carried.

BLOOD COLLECTION CLINICS

Information regarding the charges being made at the local blood collection clinic was obtained from the Communications Director for South West Health, and has been forwarded to members.

Clients to the Barrington Blood Collection Clinic pay \$7.00 per visit. There is a reduced rate for some repeat clients with blood work on a "frequent, once or twice a week", ongoing basis, such as those on warfarin or PT/INR. In cases like this the fee could be \$5.00. Staff will charge the reduced rate of \$5.00 to a client who has a reoccurring requisition. This is a requisition a client keeps and brings back when they come. If someone comes in with a new requisition each time they will likely be charged the full \$7.00.

Resolution COW090716

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that the South West Health Authority be asked if they would reduce the blood collection service rate for seniors and those on fixed incomes, and if they do not, then would they consider putting a reduction in place for these people.

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC SORTING STATION

Members were provided with an update regarding the public sorting station to be built at the Construction and Demolition Landfill Site. The tenders previously received for this project were well in excess of the budgeted amount for the project. As a result, Municipal employees will reduce the overall cost of the project by reducing the size of the public sorting station and doing as much, if not all, of the required groundwork themselves.

Resolution COW090817

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by C. O'Donnell that it be recommended to Council that the two proponents who submitted tenders for the public sorting station be informed of the action now being taken by the Municipality to reduce the cost of this project, and that they be asked to resubmit tenders on the new project once it is defined.

Motion carried unanimously.

LOW INCOME PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

Additional information was provided to members, by email, regarding the Municipality's Low Income Property Tax Exemption. The amounts of tax reduction and the maximum incomes for adjacent rural municipalities in Shelburne and Yarmouth were obtained and provided to members as well as additional information on the affect of deed transfer taxes.

It was suggested that more time be provided for the members to consider this information.

Resolution COW090818

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. O'Donnell that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality amend its Low Income Property Tax Exemption Policy by raising the limits and the reduction as follows:

- \$125.00, \$19,000.00 and under
- \$150.00, \$16,000.00 and under

AFFIRMATIVE

Murray Atkinson
Shaun Hatfield
Cecil O'Donnell
Cathy Stoddard

NEGATIVE

George El-Jakl
Louise Halliday
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger

Motion carried.

SPRUCE COVE ENTERPRISES RE: C.S.I. SEWER

Resolution COW090819

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by M. Atkinson that this item be further deferred for consideration pending the Municipality securing a site for the sewage treatment plant on Cape Sable Island.

Motion carried unanimously.

BUSINESS PARK UPDATE

Members were informed that the Warden and Clerk had met with the CEO of the South West Shore Development Authority, and with MP Gerald Keddy, the previous week seeking funding for the business park project in Barrington Passage.

The Municipality is still attempting to get funding for this project from various sources and will continue to pursue funding.

It was suggested that it may be possible to do this project in phases so that funding could be obtained, at least for the first phase.

Members agreed that if this was required, the project should be broken down and completed in phases.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

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

BARRINGTON MUNICIPAL HIGH SCHOOL

When Committee had previously met with the MLA for Shelburne County, Mr. Sterling Belliveau, he had indicated he would further investigate why propane is not being used in the chemistry lab at the High School. To date, no response has been received either from our MLA, or from the Minister of Education.

Resolution COW090820

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by S. Hatfield that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to our MLA, to the Minister of Education, and to the Tri-County Regional School Board, with a copy to our local School Board representative, inquiring why the propane burners are not allowed to be used at the chemistry lab in the new Barrington Municipal High School.

Motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

A Closed Session was scheduled to discuss the purchase of property by the Municipality, however this session will be further deferred as members have not had an opportunity to view the property.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 10:14 p.m.

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting

On website August 20, 2009.