

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

September 21, 2009

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, at 7:00 p.m., in the Conference Room, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington, NS, 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:

- Restorative Justice.
- Halloween.
- Mink Farm Development.
- Hiring Committee.
- Special Council Meeting.
- Department of Transportation.
- Nova Scotia Power Inc.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by M. Atkinson that the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by D. Messenger that the minutes of the last previous meeting held September 14, 2009 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

BARRINGTON REGIONAL CURLING CLUB

Mr. Arthur O'Connell appeared before the meeting for the purpose of providing a report on the activities of the Barrington Regional Curling Club.

Mr. O'Connell reviewed the recent activities of the Club. He indicated that rentals during the summer had been "light" this year. There were 118 cyclists who stopped at Sherose Island and had a meal at the Curling Club. This is a fundraiser for the Curling Club that raises between \$1,500.00 and \$2,000.00 for the Club depending on the number of cyclists that arrive each year. The Fall Fling for the Curling Club is one of their major fundraisers. This event was held on September 19, 2009 and raised approximately \$7,000.00. This is a relatively good amount for this event. Mr. O'Connell indicated that there would be a wedding reception at the Club on October 3rd, and a baby shower on October 4th.

The ice plant will be started on October 5th and will take approximately two weeks to put ice in the Club and get prepared for the curling season. It is anticipated that there will be open curling from October 20 - 24, 2009, with a fun spiel on October 24th. The Curling Club is going to host an Icemaker's Course for curling on October 5th. At the present time the Club has approximately \$7,500.00 in the bank and has operated in the "black" during the off-season. The next Director's Meeting will be held on October 5th. The Club is continuing to earn revenues from the placement of signs in the building. The Club has a new website which has been created by David Langille. The website location is www.barringtonregionalcurlingclub.com. Mr. O'Connell indicated that the Club has received good cooperation from Arena Staff and this is producing savings for the Club.

There then followed some discussion regarding the membership of the Club and its operation during the previous year.

Having completed his presentation to members, Mr. O'Connell then retired from the meeting.

MUNICIPAL WEBCAST

Information was provided to members regarding the cost of webcasting municipal council and committee meetings. The information was obtained by Blair Mitchell through Eastlink. It is relatively expensive to provide a webcast of these meetings. Additional information will be obtained from local computer dealers, Cybergeek and Ocean Computer, and returned to Council for their consideration.

PROACTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IDEAS

An email which had been received by a councillor was circulated to members. The email suggested that a timer be placed on the lights at the boardwalk, that LED lights be used for street lights, and that exterior signs of businesses be turned off at night. It also requested that garbage bins be placed at both ends of the Causeway walkway.

Resolution COW090908

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by S. Hatfield that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to Nova Scotia Power Inc. asking them for an update on any projects they may have for the use of LED street lights.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution COW090909

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. O'Donnell that it be recommended to Council that a garbage bin be placed, and secured, at the Barrington Passage end of the Cape Sable Island Causeway.

Motion carried unanimously.

NOVA SCOTIA WETLAND CONSERVATION POLICY

A copy of the draft Nova Scotia Wetland Conservation Policy has been circulated to all members for their information and review. An email containing seven questions regarding this policy has also been circulated to all councillors.

Councillors briefly discussed the Wetland Conservation Policy.

It was the consensus of members that they can respond, individually, to the request of the Department of Environment, if they so wish.

DOG BY-LAW REQUEST

A letter has been received from Mrs. Sally Nickerson regarding a request to restrict the breeds of dogs and the size of dogs that are allowed to be in the Municipality.

There then followed some discussion regarding the Municipal Dog By-Law and the related requirements under that by-law.

Resolution COW090910

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. O'Donnell that it be recommended to Council that Municipal Staff draft proposed amendments to By-Law No. 12, "Dog By-Law", and obtain similar information from other municipalities regarding this matter. The amendments to be drafted will include the requirement for dogs to be on leashes when they are not on the owner's property, and for individuals to clean up after their dogs when they have been on public property.

Motion carried unanimously.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN

The Capital Investment Plan had previously been circulated to all members in August. Members have reviewed the Capital Investment Plan evaluating all of the projects on a priority basis. A summary of the list of priorities was circulated to councillors for their review and discussion. The Capital Investment Plan must be approved by Council and forwarded to Service Nova Scotia prior to September 30, 2009, in order for the Municipality to receive its portion of the gas tax funding for the current year.

It was agreed by consensus of members that a meeting would subsequently be held during the winter months to review all of the capital projects in this plan.

Resolution COW090911

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by C. O'Donnell that it be recommended to Council that the proposed Capital Investment Plan for the 2009/2010 fiscal year be approved and forwarded to Service Nova Scotia.

Motion carried unanimously.

SHELBURNE COUNTY SURVEY

A draft survey has been received from the Chair of the Shelburne County Recreation Society. This correspondence was received by email and is requesting input from councillors regarding this survey.

It was indicated that the survey is a telephone survey and that it appears to be very lengthy. It would be advantageous for the municipality to obtain results of this survey since this may help us as a municipality to determine what recreational activities are desired by the community.

Resolution COW090912

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by D. Messenger that a response be sent to the Shelburne County Recreation Society indicating:

1. that the survey appears to be too long and suggesting that it be no more than five (5) minutes in total; and
2. that responses to the survey be recorded by community or by area as there may be significant differences in the desired recreation programs and facilities in different areas of the County.

Motion carried unanimously.

GOOSE LAKE ROAD

Members were updated on the recent discussions with the Department of Environment regarding an unnamed watercourse on the Goose Lake Road. As a result of the Municipality installing a culvert without first obtaining a permit, the Municipality has been fined for diverting an unnamed watercourse on the Goose Lake Road while ditching along the sides of the road. The appropriate permit has since been applied for, and once it is obtained the culvert will be removed and replaced with the proper size culvert. In the interim, the ticket that has been issued has been paid by the Municipality.

MUNICIPAL BURSARY, POLICY NO. 16

It was suggested by a student at Barrington Municipal High School that this policy needs to be reviewed and updated. Many students did not apply for this bursary due to the conditions that are contained in the policy. It is suggested that the policy be revised to include volunteerism as one of the criteria of the policy, and to remove participation by applicants in student government. It is also suggested that one of the criteria for issuing a bursary be that students indicate their community involvement in the past, and their intention to pursue a career in some form of public service in the future.

Resolution COW090913

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that Municipal Staff draft amendments to Policy No. 16 “Municipal Bursary” for consideration of Council.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution COW090914

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. Stoddard that it be recommended to Council that Municipal Staff revise all policies and by-laws to be “gender inclusive”.

Motion carried unanimously.

LIBRARY CONFERENCE

The Nova Scotia Association of Library Boards will be hosting its annual conference from October 23-25, 2009, in Yarmouth. The Municipality’s representative on the Western Counties Regional Library Board is Deputy Warden Donna LeBlanc-Messenger. Deputy Warden Messenger wishes to attend the annual conference of the Library Board being held in Yarmouth.

Resolution COW090915

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by S. Hatfield that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality pay the expenses of the Deputy Warden to attend the Nova Scotia Library Boards Association Conference in Yarmouth from October 23rd to 25th.

Motion carried unanimously.

ERMES PLAYGROUND

The Evelyn Richardson Memorial Elementary School has received playground grants for the past two years in order to purchase equipment for their playground at the school. The total cost of this equipment is over \$10,000.00. The amount of the grant approved in 2008/2009 was \$2,500.00, and the amount of the grant approved in 2009/2010 is \$3,500.00. The equipment has been ordered but has not yet arrived, and therefore the grant from the previous year has not been expended as yet. The expiry date on the grant from last year is one year from the date that it is granted, which was in September of 2008. The school principal is asking that the grant be extended for a further period so that the equipment can be received and paid for in the very near future.

Resolution COW090916

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the time for the playground grant for the Evelyn Richardson Memorial Elementary School be extended in order to pay for the equipment which will be arriving in the very near future.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution COW090917

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended that the Municipality accrue any payments for approved playground grants at the end of each year in the case that they have not been paid out during the year so that the monies are put aside to be used when the playgrounds are constructed.

Motion carried unanimously.

C.S.I. SEWER

At the present time the Municipality is waiting for information from the Project Manager regarding the possible use of the sewage treatment plant in Clark's Harbour as a possible next step in the process.

Resolution COW090918

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that all of the councillors from Cape Sable Island participate in any consultation with the Town regarding the use of their sewage treatment plant by the Municipality.

Motion carried unanimously.

UNSM CONFERENCE

The Annual Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities Conference will be held at the Westin Hotel in Halifax from November 4th to 7th. The following members wish to attend the conference: Warden Halliday, Deputy Warden Messenger, Councillors Hatfield, Atkinson and Stoddard. The Clerk-Treasurer will also attend the Conference.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

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

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

A member indicated that the School Board representative, Andrea Huskilson-Newell, and the Barrington Municipal High School principal, Mr. David Buckland, would like to attend the presentation on Restorative Justice being made to Council. They would also like to indicate to Council how this system is being used in the School.

Resolution COW090919

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that Andrea Huskilson-Newell and Mr. David Buckland be invited to attend the presentation on Restorative Justice which is tentatively scheduled for October 26th, and that they also be invited at the same time to relate to Council how this system is being used at B.M.H.S.

Motion carried unanimously.

HALLOWEEN

Members were informed that any enforcement activities that are being done during Halloween should be directed through the R.C.M.P.

MINK FARM DEVELOPMENT

A memo was circulated to members recommending various responses to concerns of the Clyde River Land Use Committee. It is suggested to members that they review this memo and that it be further discussed at the next meeting of Council.

HIRING COMMITTEE MEETING AND SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

The Municipality has advertised for a vacancy which exists in the Municipal Office for the Tax Clerk. As a result, 16 applications have been received to date. It is proposed that all applications will be copied for members of the Hiring Committee on Friday, September 25th, and that they will pick them up that afternoon along with an evaluation sheet. Members will shortlist the applications to indicate a preference of five candidates to be interviewed. The shortlisting forms will be returned to the Municipal Office on Monday, September 28th by the members of the committee. Interviews will then be arranged with the top five applicants as a result of the shortlisting procedures. A Hiring Committee meeting will be held on Friday afternoon, October 2nd, at 1:30 p.m., at which time the applicants will be interviewed. The Hiring Committee will then make a recommendation to Council. A Special Council meeting will be held prior to the Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, October 5th at 7:00 p.m. At that meeting, Council will receive the recommendation from the Hiring Committee and decide whether or not to hire one of applicants for the position of Tax Clerk.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Resolution COW090920

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that the Department of Transportation be requested to grade Petticoat Lane.

Motion carried unanimously.

NOVA SCOTIA POWER INC.

It was indicated by a member that Nova Scotia Power has a program for reduction of power charges and evaluations for energy savings in residences for low income owners. The evaluation will be done free of charge for those deemed to be low income by NSPI. Those interested in this program may contact Anne Marie Curtis, at 428-6770, who is a representative of NSPI who may find further information on the Power Corporations website.

CLOSED SESSION

Members then entered into Closed Session for discussion of the possible purchase of Carroll Knowles property, for the purpose of discussing legal advice received regarding the public sorting station tenders, and for the purpose of reviewing tax sale properties that have been purchased by the Municipality.

Councillor El-Jakl retired from the meeting at 10:15 p.m. due to his ill health.

Having completed their discussion of these matters, members then returned to Open Session.

Resolution COW090921

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that the tender submitted by Gardiner Allen Excavation, for the construction of a public sorting station at the Municipal Landfill, be accepted as it is the lowest tender.

AFFIRMATIVE

Murray Atkinson
Louise Halliday
Shaun Hatfield
Cecil O'Donnell

NEGATIVE

Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
Cathy Stoddard

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 11:03 p.m.

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting

On website September 23, 2009.