

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

October 19, 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, 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
- 
- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

### ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Warden's Report.
- Fire Chief's Committee Request.
- Leslie Chetwynd Request.
- Employee Resignation.
- Remembrance Day Service.
- Remembrance Day Wreaths.
- Department of Transportation.
- Council Presentations.
- Clyde Nickerson Presentation.
- High School.
- Community Grant Request.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Moved** by C. O'Donnell and seconded by S. Hatfield that the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Moved** by G. El-Jakl and seconded by M. Atkinson that minutes of the last previous meeting held October 5, 2009 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

### BARRINGTON REGIONAL CURLING CLUB

Mr. Elwin Smith appeared before the meeting on behalf of the Barrington Regional Curling Club. Mr. Smith answered questions related to the operation of the Club. He indicated that member registration was slow, however it was approximately the same as last year. They have approximately 50 members registered at present. The curling season is scheduled to start on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. There will be a Fun Spiel held this Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. It is anticipated that the ice will be ready for curling beginning Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. The first week of curling will be free in order to try and attract new members.

### PROPERTY TAX REDUCTION APPLICATION

A Property Tax Reduction Application has been received from Mr. Jamie Reynolds. This application has been submitted pursuant to Policy No. 46, "Tax Reduction Policy". Mr. Reynolds experienced a structure fire at his residence on this property on June 18, 2009. He will be unable to return to the residence until some time around Christmas 2009 or January 2010. As a result he is asking for an appropriate tax reduction as permitted by the Municipal Government Act.

### Resolution COW091004

**Moved** by S. Hatfield and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the taxes on Assessment Account #00135186, in the name of Jamie Reynolds, be reduced in proportion to the reduction in assessment provided by the Property Valuation Services Corporation for the period during which Mr. Reynolds is unable to occupy his home.

Motion carried unanimously.

### CAMPSITE LEASES

The Municipal Building Inspector has inspected 28 campsites that are currently being leased on municipal properties. At the present time there does not seem to be any significant environmental issues with these camps. The minor issues that have developed at a few sites are being addressed directly with the lessees. There is one location where pallets have been placed on a "swampy area" for 4-wheelers to travel across. This action will be investigated with the Department of Environment to determine its suitability.

### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

It is noted that there is much traffic, both pedestrian and vehicular, at and near the entry to the Cape Sable Island Causeway in Barrington Passage, especially near where the walking trail meets Highway 330.

Resolution COW091005

**Moved** by S. Hatfield and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that a request be sent to the Department of Transportation asking that a crosswalk be placed on Highway 330 somewhere in the area between the intersection with Highway #3 and the intersection of the Barrington Bay Trail.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution COW091006

**Moved** by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. O'Donnell that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to the Tri-County Regional School Board retracting former correspondence regarding the bus stop location in Stoney Island.

Motion carried unanimously.

DRAFT AMENDMENTS - POLICY NO. 12 "SALE OF MUNICIPAL PROPERTY"

A draft of proposed amendments to Policy No. 12, "Sale of Municipal Property", was circulated to all members. Copies were also provided to public members in attendance. The public had been invited by advertisement in the local newspaper to attend this meeting this evening in order to provide input into the proposed amendments to the policy.

The proposed amended policy was reviewed paragraph by paragraph. It was suggested that a definition of what is property under this policy should be included in the policy. An appropriate definition will be provided.

The phrase "except when it is deemed by Council to be in the best interest of the Municipality to do otherwise" will be deleted from paragraphs 3 and 4 so that general exceptions will not be made by Council. Exceptions to be made will be identified specifically and included in a revised draft of the policy. These exceptions will include such things as sale of property in business parks, and sale of property resulting from municipal ownership through tax sales.

The concern of the public in the sale of municipal property is primarily for the sale of large tracts of land that are owned by the Municipality.

Resolution COW091007

**Moved** by S. Hatfield and seconded by D. Messenger that the proposed draft be amended to remove the current "exception clause" and that any specific exceptions from holding a public hearing be identified specifically.

Motion carried unanimously.

In paragraph 5(b) it was also indicated that an appraisal can be completed by a Real Estate Agent or independent appraiser.

Resolution COW091008

**Moved** by G. El-Jakl and seconded by D. Messenger that the phrase “a Real Estate Agent or” be deleted from the policy.

Motion carried unanimously.

Due to the previous references to the exception clauses, paragraph 7 will be revised or deleted completely from the proposed policy.

Paragraphs 8 and 9 appear to be satisfactory, and in paragraph 10 it was suggested that a clause also be included requiring the restoration of property to its condition prior to development, or some similar restoration acceptable to Council.

It was also suggested that leasing of property should be included in this policy as well as the sale of property as it is included in Section 50 of the Municipal Government Act.

Resolution COW091009

**Moved** by S. Hatfield and seconded by M. Atkinson that amendments be included that will explore leasing accompanied with conditions before considering selling municipal property in order to protect the public interest.

Motion carried unanimously.

The proposed Policy 12 will be further revised to accommodate the aforementioned revisions.

CLYDE NICKERSON PRESENTATION

Members expressed a concern that the questions raised by Mr. Nickerson in his presentation to Council the previous Tuesday should be answered by the Municipality.

**Moved** by C. O’Donnell and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that an answer to Mr. Nickerson’s questions be provided.

**Moved** by S. Hatfield and seconded by D. Messenger that the previous motion be amended to add the phrase “that the Municipal Clerk ask for a summary of the questions from Mr. Nickerson”.

**AFFIRMATIVE**

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

**NEGATIVE**

George El-Jakl

Motion carried.

The previous motion as amended now reads:

Resolution COW091010

“...that it be recommended to Council that an answer be provided to Mr. Nickerson’s questions and that the Municipal Clerk ask Mr. Nickerson for a summary of the questions.”

Resolution COW091011

**Moved** by D. Messenger and seconded by C. Stoddard that it be recommended to Council that Municipal Staff draft a policy regarding the use of profanities at council and committee meetings.

**AFFIRMATIVE**

George El-Jakl  
Louise Halliday  
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger  
Cathy Stoddard

**NEGATIVE**

Murray Atkinson  
Shaun Hatfield  
Cecil O’Donnell

Motion carried.

NOVA SCOTIA COMMUNITY-BASED TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION

This matter was referred to the committee by council. Members were provided with copies of several pages from this Association’s website.

It was the consensus of members that they would review this information and further consider membership in the Association at their next committee meeting.

GUIDELINES FOR FUNDING AND AWARDING A BURSARY

Proposed amendments to Policy No. 6, “Guidelines for Funding and Awarding a Bursary”, were circulated to members for their information and review. It was suggested that the following amendments be made:

- Paragraph 1, Sentence 3, be changed to “pursuing a higher education with preference being given to students entering a field related to public services”.
- The sentences following in paragraph 1 would then be deleted and the additional criteria for the scoring system would be added which would include student government, volunteers and qualities of an exemplary citizen.
- A phrase would also be added at the end of the policy indicating that individuals having questions should contact the Municipal Office.

Resolution COW091012

**Moved** by G. El-Jakl and seconded by D. Messenger that this policy be further considered at the next meeting of Committee.

Motion carried unanimously.

WEBCAST

Information was obtained from additional local suppliers who may be able to set up a webcast of Municipal council and committee meetings.

It was also suggested that a simple audio recording of the meetings may be adequate.

Resolution COW091013

**Moved** by S. Hatfield and seconded by G. El-Jakl that Municipal Staff consult other municipal units to obtain further information regarding webcasting for municipal meetings and the cost of so doing.

Motion carried unanimously.

PHYSICIAN RECRUITMENT REQUEST

Correspondence has been received from the Shelburne County Physician Recruitment Committee asking the Municipality to contribute towards an incentive program for a doctor who is being recruited for the Emergency Room, in Shelburne, at the Roseway Hospital.

**Moved** by D. Messenger and seconded by C. Stoddard that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality respond by requesting to know what other units are contributing to this incentive program.

**Moved** by S. Hatfield and seconded by M. Atkinson that the previous motion be amended to include that the Committee will be asked what is the incentive target they wish to provide.

Amendment carried unanimously.

A division was then requested on the amended motion.

The amended motion now reads:

Resolution COW091014

“...that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality respond by requesting to know what is the incentive target they wish to provide and what other units are contributing to this incentive program.”

Motion carried unanimously.

FIRE CHIEF'S REQUEST

Email correspondence has been received from the Fire Chief's Committee requesting that the top priorities for a water hole at the present time be the one located in the Thomasville area.

Resolution COW091015

**Moved** by S. Hatfield and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality make the Thomasville area water hole a priority to be done as soon as possible and before winter.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution COW091016

**Moved** by S. Hatfield and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality put priority on establishing minimum standards for fire departments. It is requested by the Fire Chief's Committee. The Municipal Fire Inspector is investigating this matter and will be contacting the Chair of the Fire Chief's Committee in regards to it.

Motion carried unanimously.

POINT OF ORDER

Having reached the hour of 10:00 p.m. members were then requested to determine whether or not to continue with the business of the meeting.

Resolution COW091017

**Moved** by C. O'Donnell and seconded by C. Stoddard that the members continue with the meeting until all business is finished.

**AFFIRMATIVE**

Murray Atkinson  
Louise Halliday  
Shaun Hatfield  
Cecil O'Donnell  
Cathy Stoddard

**NEGATIVE**

George El-Jakl  
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger

Motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS TO COUNCIL

Resolution COW091018

**Moved** by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. O'Donnell that it be recommended to Council that a table be used at the end of the councillor's seats in order for public representatives to make presentations to Council.

**AFFIRMATIVE**

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

**NEGATIVE**

George El-Jakl  
Louise Halliday

Motion carried.

WARDEN'S REPORT

Members were informed that it is now time to issue a new Warden's Report in the local newspaper. All members are requested to send in articles to be included in this report.

LESLIE CHETWYND REQUEST

Mr. Chetwynd has requested, by fax, to the Municipal Office, that he be permitted to have an Appraiser enter the building formerly owned by himself, which has become owned by the Municipality through Tax Sale, in order to have the building appraised.

Resolution COW091019

**Moved** by G. El-Jakl and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that an Appraiser be provided access to the property formerly owned by Mr. Chetwynd which is now owned by the Municipality in accompaniment with a municipal employee.

Motion carried unanimously.

There then followed some discussion of the purpose of this motion and the purpose of such an appraisal.

Resolution COW091020

**Moved** by S. Hatfield and seconded by M. Atkinson that the previous motion be rescinded.

**AFFIRMATIVE**

Murray Atkinson

Shaun Hatfield

**NEGATIVE**

George El-Jakl

Louise Halliday

Donna LeBlanc-Messenger

Cecil O'Donnell

Cathy Stoddard

Motion defeated.

Resolution COW091021

**Moved** by D. Messenger and seconded by G. El-Jakl that the Municipality obtain legal advice regarding the access of the Appraiser to this property from the Municipal Solicitor and that it be presented to Council prior to the motion being considered.

Motion carried unanimously.

**EMPLOYEE RESIGNATION**

Members were informed that Stephen Smith who has been working in the Property Services Department for more than a year has tendered his resignation. Stephen's last day of employment will be on Wednesday, October 28, 2009. Municipal Policy will be followed in order to hire a replacement.

**REMEMBRANCE DAY WREATHS**

Members agreed that the wreaths would be placed by the following members at the following locations:

- |                                    |                           |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| - Wood's Harbour                   | - Warden Halliday         |
| - Barrington                       | - Deputy Warden Messenger |
| - Stoney Island                    | - Councillor Hatfield     |
| - Town of Clark's Harbour          | - Councillor Stoddard     |
| - Barrington Municipal High School | - Councillor O'Donnell    |

**HIGH SCHOOL**

A member inquired whether a response had been received regarding Council's query concerning use of the propane burners in the chemistry lab at the High School.

A reply will be forthcoming to Council at their next meeting.

COMMUNITY GRANT REQUEST

A Community Grant request has been received from the Chapel Hill Historical Society. The Historical Society is requesting a grant in the amount of \$1,000.00 to help defray the cost of applying vinyl siding to the north wall of the Chapel Hill Museum.

Resolution COW09122

**Moved** by G. El-Jakl and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that \$1,000.00 be provided from the District 2 Community Grants Fund to the Chapel Hill Historical Society, pending the availability of funds. At the present time there are \$920.00 left in the District 2 Community Grants Fund, therefore the amount of the grant cannot exceed that amount.

Motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

Pursuant to Section 22(a) of the Municipal Government Act members then entered into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing the sale of municipal property and litigation.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 11:30 p.m.

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Chair

Secretary for the Meeting

**On website October 22, 2009.**