

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

January 5, 2009

The meeting was called to order by the Warden at 7:10 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
 - Cecil O'Donnell
 - Cathy Stoddard
 - Sean Strang
- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

Absent was Donna LeBlanc-Messenger due to family illness.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Christmas Lights.
- Community Grants.
- Walking Trails.
- Correspondence.
- Hiring Committee Meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by S. Strang that the minutes of the last previous meeting held December 15, 2008 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Resolution COW090101

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by C. Stoddard that discussion of this item be further deferred until after the special election to elect a councillor for District 5.

Motion carried unanimously.

FORMER PIZZA VILLA BUILDING

The former Pizza Villa building in the Lower Causeway Plaza, in Barrington Passage, was purchased by the Municipality at Tax Sale last summer. This property will now be put up for sale through a local real estate agent, East Bay Realty, in order to sell it and have it returned to private hands. It is proposed that the property be listed for sale under the MLS Listing Service at an asking price of \$9,500.00.

Resolution COW090102

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that the former Pizza Villa building which was purchased by the Municipality at Tax Sale during 2008 be listed for sale through a local real estate agent as an MLS Listing.

Motion carried unanimously.

BOTTLED WATER ACTION OPTIONS

Correspondence has been received from the Ecology Action Centre and the Council of Canadians regarding a campaign to reduce the use of bottled water. Part of this campaign is aimed at reducing the sale and use of bottled water in municipalities, towns and cities across the country. One of the options recommended to Nova Scotia municipalities is to prohibit the use of municipal government funds to purchase or distribute bottled water, by not using bottled water in municipally owned facilities and at municipally sponsored events.

Correspondence has also been received from Nestle Waters Canada regarding the use of bottled water. This correspondence from both sources has been circulated to members for their information and review.

Resolution COW090103

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality phase out the sale and distribution of bottled water in municipally owned facilities and municipally sponsored events where possible.

Motion carried unanimously.

R.C.M.P. MONTHLY REPORT

Sgt. Bob Forbes presented the R.C.M.P. Report for the month of December 2008. He provided a written statistical report for the month.

The total number of calls for the month had increased from 143 the previous year to 147 this year. Of that increase fourteen (14) were criminal record checks.

Sgt. Forbes indicated that the local detachment officers had been proactive in maintaining order during the demonstration that had occurred early in the month at the Cape Sable Island Causeway. The officers present tried to maintain order while at the same time satisfying the wishes of the local lobster fishermen regarding the inspection of vehicles leaving the Island. Sgt. Forbes also indicated that the local detachment officers have been working with the Department of Community Services regarding current economic conditions and resulting effects these conditions may have on the local residents.

Sgt. Forbes also indicated that this morning there had been sixteen (16) vehicles parked on the side of the road near the Barrington Municipal High School. This issue has not been satisfactorily resolved as yet and continues to be monitored closely by the R.C.M.P.

Sgt. Forbes will be away during early February, as will Cpl Brannen who will be pursuing additional training. As a result the next meeting to be held with the R.C.M.P. will be during the first week of March.

Sgt. Forbes has not yet had an opportunity to pursue the Police Advisory Board. This will be done in the near future as time permits.

Having completed his report and discussion of police matters, Sgt. Forbes then retired from the meeting.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Recreation Department

Recreation Director, Anna Kenney, appeared before the meeting for the purpose of presenting her report for the month of December.

Some suggestions have been made by the public regarding the potential for a mixed dart league to be held at the Recreation Centre. It was also suggested that recreation events may be held in different areas of the Municipality. The Recreation Directors' written report was circulated to members for their information and review.

Having completed her review of the report, Mrs. Kenney then retired from the meeting.

Building Inspection Department

A brief Building Inspection Report was provided by the Municipal Clerk as the Building Inspector was unavailable this evening due to the death of a relative.

During December there were three building permits issued. One was for an addition to a house and two were for storage buildings. There were 20 building inspections done during the month. The Building Inspector also attended a course on barrier free construction.

The Building Inspector continues to work on subdivision and zoning requests and regulations, in particular in relation to the local business park, and attended the Planning Advisory Committee meeting held during December.

The Building Inspector will be taking courses on fire inspection during the coming year and will finish the 3 courses remaining to provide for his certification to Level I Building Official and will also be pursuing the courses for Level II Building Official.

Members were informed that for the third quarter of the year, October, November and December, the total value of building permits issued was \$327,800.00. This is the lowest value for any third quarter in the last nine years.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION INTERVIEW

Mr. Benny Acker, the local Department of Transportation Supervisor, appeared before the meeting for the purpose of discussing local road and highway issues. Some of the items that were discussed are as follows:

1. Mr. Acker was thanked for having the Department cut brush back along the Brown's Pit Road and the Port LaTour Road.
2. It was indicated to Mr. Acker that the yellow line that had been painted at Exit 29 on Highway 103 had faded and was causing a dangerous situation for motorists. This matter will be addressed in the early spring, weather permitting.
3. It was also indicated that Lighthouse Road at Baccaro Point is in need of upgrading. There is a need for gravel to be placed on this road in the spring. It was suggested that when there is rough weather the roadway is washed out somewhat by the sea.
The Supervisor suggested that the Department of Natural Resources would be responsible for placing any sea wall along the edge of the roadway in that location.
4. It was pointed out that there is a gap at the bridge in Clyde River along Highway 103. This section of the highway had been paved last summer, nevertheless, a gap has been left.
Mr. Acker indicated that this gap between the bridge and the pavement is actually a gutter. He has pointed out to D.O.T.'s Construction Manager that the gutter is weak and that the pavement has been "eaten out" by traffic. This matter will again be brought to the attention of the Construction Manager.
5. The sign at the Cemetery Road in Wood's Harbour is gone and needs to be replaced.
6. The speed sign in Barrington Passage near Dooleys is hidden by a tree which has grown up in front of it. This tree needs to be either removed or cut back.
7. There is shouldering needed at various locations on Cape Sable Island.
8. The wooden culvert on Highway 330 before the Greenwood Boat Shop on Cape Sable Island appears to be sagging over the top.
Mr. Acker indicated this occurs every winter and will resolve itself.
9. There was some discussion regarding a guardrail in Newellton. This matter is yet to be determined.
10. The Symond's Lane sign is down.
Mr. Acker indicated that this sign has been ordered and will be replaced when it comes in.
11. There has been some discussion regarding the snow plowing routes on Cape Sable Island and the logic behind these routes.
Mr. Acker provided a written listing of the snow plowing requirements of the Department.

12. It was also indicated that the merging lane at Exit 29 sometimes causes problems with vehicles entering Highway 103, or not braking properly.
13. It was also indicated that shouldering is needed along the South Side Road on Cape Sable Island.
14. Mr. Acker indicated that McGray Avenue had been graded on December 29th and that that road was in good condition at the present time.
15. It was pointed out to Mr. Acker that the end of Cemetery Road in Wood's Harbour is in poor condition and requires some fill. He will assess this situation.
16. Mr. Acker has also been in touch with Shirley and Joseph Nickerson at The Hawk regarding the snow plows turning on their road which may be a right of way on their property. He is trying to determine who actually owns this particular road and will be in further discussion with the Nickersons.

Having completed his discussion of D.O.T. matters, Mr. Acker retired from the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

FISHING INDUSTRY ISSUES

This matter was deferred to the end of the meeting for further discussion.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

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

INFRASTRUCTURE

Correspondence has been received from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities requesting municipal units to develop a short list of infrastructure projects including small and medium sized repair, rehabilitation projects which are currently unfunded. This additional funding could begin in 2009. The purpose of providing this list of infrastructure projects is to provide a means by which the federal government can create jobs and stimulate the economy during the coming year.

It was suggested that the Municipality provide a listing that would include the paving of the Villagedale Road, construction of the business park in Barrington Passage, the completion of the sidewalk in Wood's Harbour, and possibly the completion of the sidewalk in Barrington Passage.

There was much discussion regarding the number of projects that should be put forward.

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by C. O'Donnell that it be recommended to Council that three projects be put forward including the construction of the business park in Barrington Passage, the paving of the Villagedale Road and the completion of the sidewalk in Wood's Harbour.

AFFIRMATIVE

George El-Jakl

NEGATIVE

Louise Halliday
Cecil O'Donnell
Cathy Stoddard
Sean Strang

Motion defeated.

Resolution COW090104

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by C. Stoddard that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality submit a list to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, including the paving of the Villagedale Road and the construction of a business park in Barrington Passage, as infrastructure projects that will help create jobs and to stimulate the economy in 2009.

Motion carried unanimously.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Members were informed that the Christmas lights that were installed during December will be removed in the very near future.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

During the recent power outages experienced in the local area, it was noted that various fire halls in the Municipality do not have adequate generator capacity to accommodate comfort centres for local residents. It was suggested that the Municipality help provide funds for generators for local fire halls and that these be provided through the Community Grants Policy.

Members then discussed the provision of generators to local fire halls and to other local community halls which may be used as "comfort centres" during power outages.

It was the general consensus of members that community grants were not for the purpose of purchasing generators and that these should be purchased through the Emergency Measures Organization or through funding to fire departments.

Additional information will be obtained on the cost of generators and will be reviewed by the committee at a later meeting, when available.

WALKING TRAIL

It was suggested that the Municipality consider the construction of a walking trail along the former CNR right of way between Port Clyde and Clement's Pond, in the spring.

Resolution COW090105

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality consider construction of a walking trail along the former CNR right of way between Port Clyde and Clement's Pond in the spring of 2009.

Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following matters of correspondence were brought forward to the meeting by the Warden.

1. Various Christmas cards that were received after Christmas were circulated to members for their information.
2. Correspondence has been received from Special Olympics Nova Scotia inviting the Warden to attend the 2009 Provincial Winter Games which will be held in Yarmouth, N.S. on February 20th to 22nd and will be held at the Mariners Centre.
3. Correspondence has also been received from the 2009 Special Olympics Winter Games Committee requesting a financial donation from the Municipality. Sponsorship levels are available in the categories of platinum, gold, silver and bronze; platinum for a \$2,000 sponsorship, gold \$1,000, silver \$500 and bronze \$250.00. These various sponsorships will provide advertisement to the Municipality at different levels. The silver sponsorship level provides the Municipality's name to be placed on the games sponsor banner and on the games programs and recognition will be given in the local media.

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by C. Stoddard that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality make a \$500.00 donation to the 2009 Special Olympic Winter Games.

After much discussion of this motion the motion was withdrawn.

Resolution COW090106

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by C. Stoddard that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality inform the 2009 Special Olympic Winter Games Committee that:

WHEREAS the Municipality has previously made a donation of \$500.00 to the local Special Olympics Group for them to attend special Olympic Games the previous year;

AND WHEREAS this group will most likely be requesting funds to attend the 2009 Special Olympic Games;

AND WHEREAS the Winter Games Committee has missed the application deadline for Grants to Organizations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipality regrets that it will not be able to provide a financial contribution as requested.

AFFIRMATIVE

Louise Halliday
Cecil O'Donnell
Cathy Stoddard
Sean Strang

NEGATIVE

George El-Jakl

Motion carried.

A similar response will be provided to Special Olympics Nova Scotia regarding the invitation for the Warden to attend the opening ceremonies and the medal presentations.

SHELBURNE COUNTY PHYSICIAN RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE

Correspondence has also been received informing the Warden that a meeting of the Shelburne County Physician Recruitment Committee will be held on Wednesday, January 14, 2009 at Roseway Hospital.

Resolution COW090107

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by C. O'Donnell that the Warden be authorized to attend the meeting of the Shelburne County Physician Recruitment Committee on behalf of the Municipality, and that the Wardens' expenses be paid accordingly.

Motion carried unanimously.

HIRING COMMITTEE MEETING

It will be necessary to conduct a Hiring Committee Meeting in order to interview applicants for the position of Arena Manager and Property Services Manager which were duly advertised internally for the previous two weeks.

Councillors El-Jakl, Stoddard and Strang agreed to attend a Hiring Committee Meeting for this purpose to be held on Wednesday, January 7, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.

FISHING INDUSTRY ISSUES

Members discussed various fishing industry issues including the latest development in the lobster fishing industry.

Concern was expressed that Municipal Council was too slow in reacting to the lobster industry issues in our area. Sentiment was expressed that the lobster industry needs solutions that will address their pricing issues.

Resolution COW090108

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by C. O'Donnell that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality declare 2009 the year of the lobster in the Municipality of the District of Barrington.

Motion carried unanimously.

Much discussion then followed regarding drilling on Georges Bank and the Oceans First Task Force which has been established by the South West Shore Development Authority.

It was suggested that each councillor invite a fisher to a Council meeting to discuss the drilling on Georges Bank issue with Council.

The Oceans First Task Force is a group that has been set up to conduct public consultations in southwestern Nova Scotia. This group has been set up through the South West Shore Development Authority with funding from the provincial government. It will conduct public consultations in Southwestern Nova Scotia over the next two years to gain information that will help assess the economic, social and environmental benefits and risks to communities from the exploration and drilling of oil and gas on Georges Bank. The Chairman of this committee is Mr. Clifford Hood of Yarmouth. The Oceans First Task Force is still in the process of being set up and will subsequently conduct its public consultations. Further information will be obtained on this matter prior to additional discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 9:56 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary for the Meeting

On website January 9, 2009.