

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

March 16, 2009

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson at 7:02 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
 - Shaun Hatfield
 - Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
 - Cecil O'Donnell
 - Cathy Stoddard
 - Sean Strang (7:08 p.m.)
- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

At this time there were no additions to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by C. Stoddard that the agenda be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by C. O'Donnell that minutes of the last previous meeting held March 2, 2009 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

TERRY HAWKINS REQUEST

Terry Hawkins Industries has submitted a request for a letter of support from the Municipality to assist in his application to the provincial government for funding to expand his business. Mr. Hawkins wishes to expand his business so that he can make sign panels and sign posts for the Provincial Department of Transportation and for other departments of Transportation in various locations. He has provided a summarized prospectus for his company and is requesting Council's support.

Resolution COW090317

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality provide a letter of support to Terry Hawkins Industries to assist the company in obtaining additional funds from the Nova Scotia Department of Economic Development in order to further expand their business.

Motion carried unanimously.

RECREATION COMPLEX SOCIETY

The Municipality maintains the Barrington Municipal Recreation Complex Society. This is a charitable organization designed to accept donations. The Municipal Council forms the Board of Directors of this Society.

It will be necessary to schedule a meeting of the Recreation Complex Society in order to appoint new officers and to have their annual meeting. This will be done during the month of April at one of the regular meetings of the Committee of the Whole.

BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION REQUEST

Mr. George Nickerson has appeared at the Municipal Office requesting that a bridge be constructed over a brook on municipal property near Burrills's Road. Mr. Nickerson currently has an agreement for a campsite lease on municipal property.

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by S. Hatfield that information on the cost of providing the proposed bridge over the brook on municipal property be obtained by Municipal Staff and provided to the next meeting of the committee.

AFFIRMATIVE

Shaun Hatfield
Cecil O'Donnell

NEGATIVE

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

Motion defeated.

Resolution COW090318

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by C. Stoddard that Mr. Nickerson be informed that the agreement for lease of campsites on municipal property does not include any provision for access. Any access is to be provided by the lease holder and is not to include any alteration of municipal property.

AFFIRMATIVE

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

NEGATIVE

Shaun Hatfield
Cecil O'Donnell

Motion carried.

REGION 6 COMPOST STUDY

Members were informed by the Municipality's representative on the Region 6 Solid Waste Management Committee that the Compost Study has been completed by consultants and presented to the Committee. As a result of this study the Committee wishes to know from all member units if they are interested in constructing a central composting facility for the entire region which would be owned by a regional authority, and if the member units are interested in forming a Regional Authority for this purpose. The Compost Study that was completed by the consultants considered three options:

1. Having organic or compostable materials handled by existing facilities.
2. Expanding the current facility at Whycott's Settlement which is owned by the Lunenburg County municipal units.
3. Building a compost facility that would be owned by the entire region and service the entire region.

Resolution COW090319

Moved by C. Stoddard and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality does not wish to enter into any Authority for the purpose of owning a regional compost facility to be constructed and owned by Region 6 Solid Management Committee, nor is the Municipality interested in entering into any agreement to form a Regional Authority for this purpose.

Motion carried unanimously.

ECONOVA SCOTIA MUNICIPAL PROGRAM

The EcoNova Scotia Clean Air and Climate Change Municipal Program is a \$7.5 Million fund available to municipal units in Nova Scotia for projects that reduce greenhouse gas and air pollutant emissions. The first step in having projects approved by this program, and obtaining funds from this program, is to have a municipal audit done that will establish the basic inventory and identify the opportunities for reductions in energy consumption and the production of air emissions by municipal units. It is estimated that an audit will cost in the vicinity of \$10,000.00 and the EcoNova Scotia Municipal Program will provide funding of up to 80% of projects costs for such an audit.

It is suggested that the Municipality have an audit done in the coming year in order to determine what opportunities might be available to the Municipality for reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

Resolution COW090320

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality apply to the EcoNova Scotia Program for funding of a municipal audit to determine opportunities for energy savings and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Motion carried unanimously.

EMO PRESENTATION FOR COUNCILLORS

Steven Mills, the Emergency Planning Officer for the South Shore, will be conducting an EMO presentation for municipal elected officials for all of Shelburne County, at the Clark's Harbour Town Hall, at 7:00 p.m., on Wednesday, April 8, 2009.

All members of Council are encouraged to attend.

FIRE SERVICES POSITION PAPER

The Fire Services Association of Nova Scotia has circulated a Position Paper on the relationship between its Association and the Government of Nova Scotia. The Fire Services Association is requesting municipal units to support its initiative in regard to the provision of fire services throughout the province.

Resolution COW090321

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that Council respectfully request the indulgence of the Province of Nova Scotia to seriously engage with the leadership of the Fire Services of the province through the Fire Services Association of Nova Scotia to begin prioritizing and addressing issues noted by the Fire Services Association in order to sustain the delivery of service provided by the Fire Emergency Services of the province.

Motion carried unanimously.

ARENA MATTERS

Information was brought to Council regarding various matters at the Arena including a report provided by the Barrington Municipal High School security guard regarding the recent incident that occurred during a high school hockey game at the Arena, and also regarding the evidence of the consumption of alcohol in the dressing rooms of two teams who participated in the Recreational Hockey League; the Wood's Harbour team and the Newellton team.

This information was presented to members so that they would be aware of what is transpiring at the Arena and was duly noted by members.

UNSM INSURANCE COMMITTEE

The Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities has recently formed a Municipal Insurance Committee to review insurance coverage that is being paid by member units. The committee includes municipal administrators from the various municipal units in the province.

Our Clerk-Treasurer has submitted his name to be a member of this committee in reviewing municipal insurance coverages.

Resolution COW090322

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by C. Stoddard that it be recommended to Council that the Clerk-Treasurer serve on the UNSM Municipal Insurance Review Committee.

Motion carried unanimously.

C.S.I. SEWER PUBLIC MEETING

The public meeting to discuss the C.S.I. Sewer System and other municipal matters has been scheduled for March 24th at the Island & Barrington Passage Volunteer Fire Department. Items that may be discussed at the meeting include:

- information on the necessity and cost of hook-up to a municipal sewer system
- the annual sewer charge for the municipal sewer system
- the proximity of residences to the sewer system
- distribution of a survey regarding the sewer system.

It was suggested that the sewer survey that is being sent out be summarized or identified by district, that a deadline be set for the return of this survey, and that the public be informed that the information obtained from this survey would be used by Council to assist in making decisions regarding the construction and implementation of the municipal sewer system.

Resolution COW090323

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by S. Strang that the proposed survey be sent to residents of Cape Sable Island with information to include two questions to the residents being:

1. Do you want a municipal sewer system?
2. Are you willing to pay an annual sewer charge of \$300.00 per sewer unit?

The survey will include information regarding the cost of providing power to grinder pumps and estimated costs of cleaning out remaining on-site septic facilities, and removing on-site septic facilities; and thirdly, the initial cost of hook-up. Those surveyed will be required to provide a response within two weeks, in a postage pre-paid return envelope, and responses will only be received in these envelopes.

It will also be indicated that the sewer system is anticipated to begin in the Stoney Island area.

Motion carried unanimously.

There then followed much discussion regarding the sewer survey and the public meeting to be held on March 24th.

Members were informed that correspondence has been received from the Canada/Nova Scotia Infrastructure Secretariat informing the municipalities that round two of the call for applications for projects under the Building Canada Fund has now been issued. The deadline for round two applications is April 16, 2009. Members were also informed that the current year's portion of Gas Tax Funds was received on March 9th. The amount of the current years Gas Tax Funds is \$180,025.00. These funds have been deposited in reserves and are being held for use in the C.S.I. Sewer Project. The total amount of funding available to 2010 from Gas Tax Funds, including interest to date, is \$930,700.00. Of this amount, \$42,660.00 has already been spent on the Spruce Drive road project, and \$866,218.00 is committed to the C.S.I. Sewer Project. This leaves a balance of \$14,452.00 of the Gas Tax money for other projects in the Municipality.

SHELBURNE COUNTY INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

Correspondence has been received from the Chair of the Shelburne County Industrial Commission requesting that the Municipality answer five different questions concerning the Commission.

Resolution COW090324

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by D. Messenger that a letter be sent to the Shelburne County Industrial Commission thanking them for their correspondence and indicating that more time is required for the committee to consider providing a response.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution COW090325

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by D. Messenger that the committee invite the CEO of the South West Shore Development Authority to attend the next Committee of the Whole meeting in order to discuss economic development projects in the Municipality.

Motion carried unanimously.

SHELBURNE PHYSIOTHERAPY REQUEST

Correspondence has been received from Shelburne Physiotherapy requesting assistance in relocating a new physiotherapist to the Municipality. Additional information has been received from Shelburne Physiotherapy concerning the number of clients serviced by the physiotherapist in the Barrington Office.

In summary, the information indicates that in the 4th quarter of 2006 there were 400 treatment visits, in the 4th quarter of 2007 there were 483 treatment visits, and in the 4th quarter of 2008 there were 513 treatment visits. It is anticipated that in the 4th quarter of 2009 there will 917 treatment visits providing the new physiotherapist is available at that time.

Councillor Strang was excused from the meeting for a brief period.

Resolution COW090326

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality provide an incentive of \$1,000.00 towards the expenses of moving a new physiotherapist to the Municipality, and that Shelburne Physiotherapy be encouraged to also request support from the Town of Clark's Harbour and the Municipality of Argyle since their residents are also receiving the benefits of this service.

Motion carried unanimously.

Councillor Strang then returned to the meeting.

BARRINGTON REGIONAL CURLING CLUB LIAISON

Council had previously appointed a member to the Board of Directors of the Barrington Regional Curling Club to act as a liaison between the Club and Council. Unfortunately, the Curling Club Board meetings have always been held on the first Monday of the month which is also a meeting night for Barrington Municipal Council.

Resolution COW090327

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by C. Stoddard that it be recommended to Council that since the Board of Directors meet on the same night as Barrington Municipal Council, that one of their members be requested to attend a monthly Committee of the Whole meeting in order to report their activities to the Municipality.

AFFIRMATIVE

George El-Jakl
Louise Halliday
Shaun Hatfield
Cecil O'Donnell
Cathy Stoddard
Sean Strang

NEGATIVE

Donna LeBlanc-Messenger

Motion carried.

REQUEST FOR RIGHT-OF-WAY

Members were informed that a letter had been delivered to the Municipal Office by Mr. George Salisbury indicating that he has requested a right-of-way, in writing, from Mr. Wilford Smith. This letter was read to members for their information.

Resolution COW090328

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to Mr. Salisbury indicating that the Municipality does not wish to act, and will not act, as mediators in this matter, as it is a matter that should be negotiated between family members, and that this letter be copied to Mr. Smith.

AFFIRMATIVE

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

NEGATIVE

Cecil O'Donnell
Shaun Hatfield

Motion carried.

LOCAL VOLUNTEER BANQUET

The local volunteer banquet will be held at 6:30 p.m., on April 21, 2009, at the Island & Barrington Passage Volunteer Fire Department Hall, in Centreville, C.S.I.

TAX SALE RESULTS

Members were informed of the results of the Tax Sale which was held on Monday, March 9, 2009, in the Court Room, in the Barrington Municipal Administrative Centre.

Twenty-three (23) properties were offered for sale during this Tax Sale. Of these properties, eleven (11) have been purchased by the Municipality, and twelve (12) purchased by private individuals. One of the properties sold at Tax Sale to a private individual has since been redeemed. There are indications that at least three of the properties that have been purchased by the Municipality will be redeemed within the six month redemption period.

STRATEGIC PLANNING SEMINAR

The Clerk-Treasurer, Warden, Councillor El-Jakl and Councillor Hatfield have been registered for a Strategic Planning Seminar to be held in Halifax on May 1st.

NOVA SCOTIA RECYCLES HONORARIUM DINNER

An Honorarium Dinner is to be held at 5:00 p.m. on April 8, 2009. There is already a meeting scheduled for municipal business on that evening, therefore members will not be able to attend. Correspondence has been received by email indicating that there will be a dinner held in Liverpool to present awards for the Region 6 Nova Scotia Recycles Contest. A teacher at the Evelyn Richardson Memorial Elementary School will be receiving an award at this dinner.

Resolution COW090329

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by S. Hatfield that it be recommended to Council that a letter of congratulations be sent to Ms. Dixon, the Grade I teacher at the Evelyn Richardson Memorial Elementary School whose class is receiving a runner-up award at the Honorarium Dinner.

Motion carried unanimously.

BY-LAW NO 8 AMENDMENTS

It is proposed that By-Law No. 8 be amended in order to provide for the collection of bulky items in the regular municipal waste collection each week.

Resolution COW090330

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by C. Stoddard that it be recommended to Council that amendments to By-Law No. 8 "Collection, Storage and Disposal of Waste" providing for the collection of bulky waste in the weekly regular municipal waste collection be forwarded to Council for first reading at the next subsequent Council meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

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

The following two items were added to the agenda with unanimous agreement of members.

- Community Grant Request
- Meeting Re: Schools on Cape Sable

COMMUNITY GRANT REQUEST

A Community Grant request has been received from the Wood's Harbour Fisherman's Memorial Association. This group maintains the fisherman's memorial in the community of Wood's Harbour. They are requesting assistance for the upkeep and maintenance of this property. They have provided a statement of receipts and disbursements for the group.

Resolution COW090331

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that a grant of \$250.00 be provided from the District 1 Community Grants Fund to the Wood's Harbour Fisherman's Memorial Association.

Motion carried unanimously.

MEETING RE: SCHOOLS ON CAPE SABLE ISLAND

A meeting was held last week concerning the schools on Cape Sable Island. No notice was given to the Municipality regarding this meeting. At the meeting discussion was held regarding the possible expansion or consolidation of the schools on Cape Sable Island, which include Cape Sable Island Elementary and Clark's Harbour Elementary schools.

Resolution COW090332

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. Stoddard that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to the Tri-County Regional School Board, and copied to the local board member, Andrea Huskison-Newell, expressing Council's concern regarding the "lack of public process" included in the decision to expand the Clark's Harbour Elementary School, and expressing concern that parents on Cape Sable Island should have the opportunity to provide input and should be given information in order that they may form an opinion regarding the consolidation or expansion of these schools, and that Municipal Council be notified if there are any further meetings being held by the School Board regarding this topic. Council also requests the School Board to indicate how they have arrived at the decision that the Clark's Harbour Elementary School would be the location of first choice for any further expansion or consolidation of the schools on Cape Sable Island.

Motion carried unanimously.

SALARY REVIEW

Council is required to complete a salary review every three years according to the Municipality's Personnel Policy. This review should be completed prior to March 31, 2009 in order to be implemented in the coming fiscal year. Information comparing salaries of various municipal units throughout Nova Scotia, and in particular Southwestern Nova Scotia, has been circulated to councillors well in advance of the meeting for their information and review. In addition, Council is required each year by Personnel Policy to determine whether or not a general increase in wages of municipal employees equivalent to the Consumer Price Index will be approved or not.

Resolution COW09033

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by S. Hatfield that it be recommended to Council that all wages of municipal employees receive an increase equivalent to the Consumer Price Index as determined by Statistics Canada for the period indicated in the Municipal Personnel Policy.

Motion carried unanimously.

There then followed discussion regarding the three year review of municipal salaries and wages.

Conflict of Interest

Councillor O'Donnell declared conflict of interest at this time in the meeting because of his familial relationship with the current Deputy Clerk.

Resolution COW090334

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that the Deputy Clerk's salary range be increased by \$3,000.00 in all ranges and that the current Deputy Clerk be paid at the maximum scale on the new range.

Motion carried unanimously.

Councillor O'Donnell returned to the meeting.

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. Stoddard that it be recommended to Council that the Clerk-Treasurer's salary range be increased by \$3,000.00 and that the current Clerk-Treasurer be paid at the maximum scale on the new range.

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by D. Messenger that the previous motion be amended to delete \$3,000.00 and insert \$5,000.00.

Amendment carried unanimously.

The division was then requested on the amended motion.

The above motion, as amended, now reads:

Resolution COW090335

“...that the Clerk-Treasurer’s salary range be increased by \$5,000.00 and that the current Clerk-Treasurer be paid at the maximum scale on the new range.”

Amended motion carried unanimously.

Resolution COW090336

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the range of the Accountant’s salary be increased by \$2,000.00 and that the current Accountant be paid at the maximum scale on the new range.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution COW090337

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. O’Donnell that it be recommended to Council that the salary range for the Secretary to the Building Inspector be increased by \$2,000.00 and that the current Secretary be paid at the maximum scale at the new range.

Motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

Members then entered into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing building inspections being done by the Municipality.

Members then returned to Open Session.

Appointment of Building Inspector, Fire Inspector and Development Officer

Resolution COW090338

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that Carl Smith be reappointed as Building Inspector/Fire Inspector and Development Officer for the Municipality.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 11:50 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary for the Meeting

On website March 18, 2009.