

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

March 30, 2009

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, at 7:00 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
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- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Grant Request.
- C.S.I. Sewer Question.
- Official Opening of Hockey Tournament.
- Department of Transportation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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 16, 2009 be approved as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING WITH FIRE DEPARTMENTS

The following members of volunteer fire departments attended the meeting:

- Walter Scott, Island & Barrington Passage Volunteer Fire Department
- Eugene Stoddard, Island & Barrington Passage Volunteer Fire Department
- Gordie Ross, Wood's Harbour Volunteer Fire Department
- Shannon Newell, Wood's Harbour Volunteer Fire Department
- Paul Thomas, Barrington 7E Volunteer Fire Department
- John Nickerson, Barrington 7E Volunteer Fire Department
- Blanchard Chetwynd, Port LaTour Volunteer Fire Department
- Ian Hicks, Port Clyde Volunteer Fire Department
- Paul Smith, Port Clyde Volunteer Fire Department
- Ricky Banks, Shag Harbour/Bear Point Volunteer Fire Department
- Jason Shand, Shag Harbour/Bear Point Volunteer Fire Department
- David Kendrick, Nova Scotia Fire Services

Each of the fire departments in turn submitted reports for 2008 and for the first quarter of 2009. All of the fire departments with the exception of Port LaTour submitted a written report.

Having completed their reports, David Kendrick was then asked to make a presentation regarding trusses and I-beams in buildings. The emphasis of his report is that the trusses and I-beams are a modern construction method that is used in many new homes, especially since the 1980s. Although these construction methods are sound and acceptable for construction purposes, they present particular fire hazards once they are subjected to fires in homes and buildings. The purpose of this presentation was to illustrate to members the Fire Services' need for an aerial device to fight structural fires. This aerial device is a truck with a ladder and a pumper tank. By having an aerial device firefighters will be able to vent fires from the roof more safely and be able to attack structural fires more effectively. The nearest aerial device is located in Yarmouth and the next closest to that is located in Liverpool. The response time from Yarmouth is believed to be in excess of an hour, and longer from Liverpool. Information that was obtained on an aerial device indicates that a budget price is in the range of \$812,000.00. This price may be able to be reduced by as much as \$100,000.00 if it is actually tendered for purchase.

Members were informed that volunteer members in volunteer fire departments all across the province are dwindling and that better equipment is needed.

All six chiefs from the fire departments present indicated that they are in favor of the purchase of this aerial device.

It was also indicated that there are only two counties, Shelburne and Digby, that do not have such aerial devices in place.

It was also suggested that it may be possible to obtain funds from the province through the Emergency Services Provider Fund.

Members also indicated that they wish to have two more fire holes during the coming year. These fire holes are to be located, one in the Port Clyde and Port LaTour area, and one in the Shag Harbour area.

There has been some delay in construction of the fire holes from the previous year due to the lengthy period of time in getting Department of Environment approvals.

Resolution COW090339

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that the cost of two fire holes to be constructed in the Port Clyde and Port LaTour area, and the Shag Harbour area, be included in the 2009/2010 budget if possible.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution COW090340

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by S. Hatfield that it be recommended to Council that the fire holes also be completed in the Oak Park and Villagedale areas in the coming fiscal year if possible.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was also suggested that a meeting be held to discuss only fire department issues in future.

Having completed their discussion of these matters, the firefighters retired from the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

SOUTH WEST SHORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY CEO INTERVIEW

Mr. Frank Anderson, CEO of the South West Shore Development Authority, appeared before the meeting for the purpose of discussing the Shelburne Area Industrial Commission and other projects currently being done by the Development Authority.

Shelburne County Industrial Commission

Mr. Anderson was asked for his advice regarding the use of an Industrial Commission in Shelburne County. He illustrated to members how the Yarmouth Area Industrial Commission works with the South West Shore Development Authority to gain economic development in Yarmouth County, and suggested that the same type of relationship could be developed between an Industrial Commission in Shelburne County and the Authority. In order to do this the Industrial Commission must work cooperatively with councils, together with the Development Authority. The Industrial Commission should be chaired and lead by private members who can provide private business expertise to the organization. There is no need to have an additional administration, however, an officer should be put in place for the Commission, at least at the outset, to be part of the Development Authority.

Any Industrial Commission for Shelburne County should be closely associated with the South West Shore Development Authority and should be closely cooperating with the municipalities, and not be an autonomous body trying to provide parallel services to the County.

Concerning other programs and initiatives taken in the County, Mr. Anderson informed members that there will be further action on cranberry farms in June of 2009.

Tourism Coordinator

The program under which an application for funding for a Tourism Coordinator had been made has been completed and no longer has funds. A new program will be put in place effective April 1, 2009, and an application has been made for funding under the new program .

An application has been made to the Community Development Trust Fund for funds to open a business park in Barrington Passage. As yet no reply has been made. It is suggested that Council correspond with the Minister of Economic Development to determine what action is being taken on the application.

Resolution COW090341

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by S. Hatfield that it be recommended to Council that a letter to be written to the Minister of Economic Development, Mr. Murray Scott, asking what action has been taken on the Municipality's application for funding under the Community Development Trust Program for funding for the Barrington Passage Business Park.

Motion carried unanimously.

Medical Clinic for Shelburne County

The medical clinics in Yarmouth and Clare are models that Shelburne County can use to establish their own medical clinic. A clinic is a tool that is very much needed for recruiting of newly graduated doctors to our communities. The South West Shore Development Authority is waiting for a letter from the Shelburne County Recruitment Committee so that it may get started on work on a medical clinic.

Shelburne Port Authority

Members were informed that letters of support have been received for the Shelburne Port Proposal. These letters have come from all five municipal units in the County. The South West Shore Development Authority is currently seeking funds for this project.

Barrington Business Park

It was suggested that the Municipality apply for funds for the construction of the Barrington Business Park under the Building Canada Fund. An application must be made no later than April 16, 2009.

Resolution COW090342

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality submit an application to the Building Canada Fund to obtain funding for the construction of the Business Park in Barrington Passage.

Motion carried unanimously.

Marine Centre of Excellence

A query was then made regarding the Marine Centre of Excellence project that had previously been researched by the South West Shore Development Authority. A feasibility study was completed by the Development Authority in 2001. It may now be a good time for this project to be proposed to other levels of government for funding as there is much concern related to development of offshore oil and gas in the marine area.

Mink Ranch

Members were informed that the private mink ranch being developed in the Clyde River area will be going forward. It is expected that buildings will be started to be built in June of 2009 and the project will be further developed after that time.

Having completed his discussion of matters, Mr. Anderson then retired from the meeting at approximately 9:40 p.m.

SALARY REVIEW

Discussion of previous motions that had been deferred to the Committee from Council followed.

There was much discussion regarding the various proposed increases and how they should be dealt with.

Resolution COW090343

Moved by C. Stoddard and seconded by D. Messenger that the committee continue to discuss the salary review until the review is completed or until 11:00 p.m., whichever arrives first.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution COW090344

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by S. Hatfield that it be recommended to Council that the Visitor Information Centre Manager's salary be raised to \$12.00 per hour.

AFFIRMATIVE

Louise Halliday
Shaun Hatfield
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
Cecil O'Donnell
Cathy Stoddard
Sean Strang

NEGATIVE

George El-Jakl

Motion carried.

Resolution COW090345

Moved by S. Hatfield and S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that the motion to change the salary range for the Secretary to the Building Inspector be amended to remove the amount \$2,000.00 and insert \$1,000.00.

AFFIRMATIVE

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

NEGATIVE

George El-Jakl
Sean Strang

Motion carried.

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that the motion altering the range of the Accountant's salary be changed to remove the amount \$2,000.00 and insert the amount \$1,500.00.

AFFIRMATIVE

Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
Louise Halliday

NEGATIVE

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

Motion defeated.

Resolution COW090346

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by C. Stoddard that it be recommended to Council that the motion increasing wages of municipal employees by the increase in the Consumer Price Index be amended to indicate that salaries of employees be increased by the Consumer Price Index of 1.4% for all employees who have not received other increases in the current review or whose wages have been established at current levels within the last six months.

AFFIRMATIVE

Louise Halliday
Shaun Hatfield
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
Cathy Stoddard

NEGATIVE

George El-Jakl
Cecil O'Donnell
Sean Strang

Motion carried.

Resolution COW090347

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by C. Stoddard that the motion to change the range of the Accountant's salary have the amount \$2,000.00 removed and replaced by the amount \$1,000.00.

AFFIRMATIVE

Louise Halliday
Shaun Hatfield
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
Cathy Stoddard

NEGATIVE

George El-Jakl
Cecil O'Donnell
Sean Strang

Motion carried.

Conflict of Interest

Councillor O'Donnell then declared conflict of interest and left the meeting room since he is related to the Deputy Clerk

Moved by C. Stoddard and seconded by G. El-Jakl that the motion changing the range of the Deputy Clerk's salary have the amount \$3,000.00 removed and the amount \$2,000.00 inserted.

AFFIRMATIVE

Louise Halliday
Shaun Hatfield
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger

NEGATIVE

George El-Jakl
Cathy Stoddard
Sean Strang

Motion defeated.

Resolution COW090348

Moved by C. Stoddard and seconded by D. Messenger that the motion changing the Deputy Clerk's salary range have the amount \$3,000.00 removed and the amount \$1,500.00 inserted.

AFFIRMATIVE

Louise Halliday
Shaun Hatfield
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
Cathy Stoddard

NEGATIVE

George El-Jakl
Sean Strang

Motion carried.

Councillor O'Donnell then returned to the meeting.

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by C. Stoddard that the motion changing the Clerk-Treasurer's salary range be amended to delete the amount \$5,000.00 and insert the amount \$2,500.00.

AFFIRMATIVE

George El-Jakl
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
Cathy Stoddard

NEGATIVE

Louise Halliday
Shaun Hatfield
Cecil O'Donnell
Sean Strang

Motion defeated.

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. Stoddard that the motion changing the Clerk-Treasurer's salary range be amended by deleting the amount \$5,000.00 and replacing it with the amount \$1,500.00.

AFFIRMATIVE

Shaun Hatfield
Cathy Stoddard
Louise Halliday

NEGATIVE

George El-Jakl
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
Cecil O'Donnell
Sean Strang

Motion defeated.

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by C. O'Donnell that the motion changing the Clerk-Treasurer's salary range be amended by deleting the amount \$5,000.00 and inserting the amount \$3,000.00.

AFFIRMATIVE

Donna LeBlanc-Messenger

NEGATIVE

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

Motion defeated.

Resolution COW090349

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by S. Hatfield that the motion changing the Clerk-Treasurer's salary range be amended by deleting the amount \$5,000.00 and inserting the amount \$2,000.00.

AFFIRMATIVE

Louise Halliday
Shaun Hatfield
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
Cathy Stoddard

NEGATIVE

George El-Jakl
Cecil O'Donnell
Sean Strang

Motion carried.

Resolution COW090350

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. Stoddard that having reached the hour of 11:00 p.m. that the meeting continue until the business of the agenda is completed.

AFFIRMATIVE

George El-Jakl
Louise Halliday
Shaun Hatfield
Cathy Stoddard

NEGATIVE

Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
Cecil O'Donnell
Sean Strang

Motion carried.

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM

Members were informed that this program had been conducted during the previous summer by employees of the Property Valuation Services Corporation. As a result of this program 1450 accounts were reviewed by the two employees. There were data corrections and adjustments made on 853 of these accounts which resulted in an increase in assessment of \$5.7Million.

YARMOUTH-ARGYLE-BARRINGTON-CLARE DISTRICT PLANNING COMMISSION BUDGET

Members had been provided with a copy of a proposed budget for the District Planning Commission. This budget shows that costs of operating the Commission will rise significantly during the coming year as a result of adding an ICSP Planner to the Commission. It is estimated that the Municipality's contribution to the Commission will rise from \$35,000 in the previous year to approximately \$72,500 in the 2009/2010 fiscal year.

Resolution COW090351

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. Stoddard that it be recommended to Council that the District Planning Commission be requested to review its budget and attempt to reduce costs contained in the budget wherever possible and then to resubmit it to municipal units for approval.

Motion carried unanimously.

EMPLOYEE SATISFACTION SURVEY

This matter had been referred to the Committee by Council. It was indicated by the Administrators of our Employee Assistance Program that they can conduct an Employee Satisfaction Survey free of charge as part of that program. The Account Manager has suggested that Council identify the purpose of the survey, and be prepared to take action from the results, and that they make this commitment prior to conducting the survey.

Resolution COW090352

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. O'Donnell that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality complete an Employee Satisfaction Survey.

AFFIRMATIVE

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

NEGATIVE

George El-Jakl
Louise Halliday
Sean Strang

Motion carried.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Members were provided with a Notice of Motion regarding the establishment of an Environmental Advisory Committee. The Notice of Motion was provided to councillors by email and reads:

“...that Council consider the value of establishing an Environmental Advisory Committee which would allow for public members, including the possibility of representation from the B.M.H.S. Environmental Club, and that such consideration of establishing an EAC also include exploring the purposes and benefits that such a committee might bring to the Municipality of Barrington.”

It was agreed that members would consider this proposed motion and that it would be deferred for discussion until the next subsequent meeting of the Committee.

C.S.I. SEWER

It was suggested that local contractors who have installed on-site septic systems in the area be invited to attend a meeting of the Committee to provide information relative to the condition of on-site septic systems on Cape Sable Island.

It was suggested that Mr. Bud Nickerson and Mr. Robbie Newell, who have been installers in the area for many years, be invited to discuss the matter with the Committee.

Members agreed by consensus that this would not be necessary as both individuals had attended the previous public meeting and had an opportunity at that meeting to provide their input to councillors.

OFFICIAL OPENING OF HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

The Maritime North Junior “C” Hockey Championship will be held at the Barrington Municipal Arena beginning on Thursday, April 2, 2009. The opening ceremonies will be held at 8:00 p.m. that evening and the Warden has been invited to welcome participants on behalf of the Municipality.

GRANT REQUESTS

White Lily Cemetery

The White Lily Cemetery Association is requesting a grant to help to defray the cost of installing new fencing around the cemetery. The old fence is rusted and in need of replacement. The estimated cost of replacing the old fence is \$13,270.00 and a copy of the bank statement for the Cemetery Association has been received indicating they have \$4,633.00 in the bank. The Cemetery Association wishes to submit this application for a Community Grant for this year since the year is coming to an end and for next year which will soon be starting.

Resolution COW090353

Moved by C. Stoddard and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that a grant of \$150.00 be provided to White Lily Cemetery from the District 7 Community Grants Fund for the purpose of defraying the cost of installing new fencing.

Motion carried unanimously.

An application has also been received from a group of interested citizens for the construction of a parking area on the Daniel's Head Road in South Side. This parking area will be provided for those who attend at the South Side Beach. It will be located in an area that has frequently been used by both local people and tourists to access the beach for the purposes of recreation and bird watching. The group estimates that the cost of constructing and enlarging the parking area, and adding a boardwalk to the beach, with a guardrail, will be in the vicinity of \$20,000.00. They will be approaching the Department of Natural Resources in the very near future to obtain an approval for this construction.

It was the consensus of members that this grant request be referred along with other grant applications for consideration during the budget process.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Resolution COW090354

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that the Department of Transportation be informed that the signs at Cemetery Road and Post Office Road in Wood's Harbour have been knocked down and are in need of replacement.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 11:48 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary for the Meeting

On website April 2, 2009.