

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

April 20, 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
- 
- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

### ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following item was added to the agenda:

- McDonalds' Litter.

### 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 S. Strang and seconded by C. O'Donnell that the minutes of the last previous meeting held April 6, 2009 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

### R.C.M.P. MONTHLY REPORT

Sgt. Bob Forbes appeared before the Committee for the purpose of delivering the R.C.M.P.'s monthly report. Also attending was Cst. Michael Drenth who has recently been stationed at the local detachment.

Sgt. Forbes circulated a monthly statistics report for the month of March 2009. The number of calls for March of this year is 181 compared to 155 for the same month in 2008.

Sgt. Forbes indicated that the R.C.M.P. is now waiting on the Department of Justice for more information and training in regards to proposed Police Advisory Committee.

The local detachment will have a full complement of members once the replacement is received for Cst. Swim.

In the very near future Cpl. Brannen will be taking parental leave.

Sgt. Forbes indicated that he had met with Joe Crowell from the Department of Transportation regarding the posting of “no parking” signs on the Oak Park Road near Barrington Municipal High School. Litter along the road has been cleaned somewhat in the last few days.

Sgt. Forbes also asked members for priorities for R.C.M.P.’s Annual Performance Plan for the next year. The priorities indicated included B.M.H.S. issues along the Oak Park Road, Halloween, police visibility, traffic control in the area and drug issues in the area.

Sgt. Forbes was thanked for the presence of the R.C.M.P. during the recent play-offs at the Arena and during the recent tournament held at the Arena. The presence of the R.C.M.P. is much appreciated and proved to be very effective in keeping these events under control.

Having completed his report to Council, Sgt. Forbes and Cst. Drenth retired from the meeting.

### C.S.I. SEWER

Members then discussed the C.S.I. Sewer Survey results as well as the advantages and disadvantages of completing the sewer system on Cape Sable Island. In particular, Phase I of the C.S.I. Sewer Project was discussed at length.

Some discussion centered around seeking more funds from other levels of government for the project in order to defray the cost to municipal taxpayers.

It was the consensus of members that funding be sought from all levels of government through whatever sources possible. It was the general consensus of members that the environmental benefits of the project outweigh the economic cost of the project. There were still some questions that needed to be directed to the engineers.

### Resolution COW090413

**Moved** by S. Hatfield and seconded by D. Messenger that the Project Manager be requested to answer the following questions:

1. What effect will the construction of the sewer system on Cape Sable Island have on the water table or aquifer of the island?
2. Is the small diameter size of the pipe adequate for the operation of the system on the island?
3. What experience has there been with the maintenance and useful life of the grinder pumps?

### AFFIRMATIVE

George El-Jakl  
Louise Halliday  
Shaun Hatfield  
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger  
Cecil O’Donnell  
Cathy Stoddard

### NEGATIVE

Sean Strang

Motion carried.

Resolution COW090414

**Moved** by C. Stoddard and seconded by C. O'Donnell that it be recommended to Council that the Project Manager now be instructed to issue the tender for the design of the Cape Sable Island sewer system.

**AFFIRMATIVE**

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

**NEGATIVE**

George El-Jakl

Motion carried.

Resolution COW090415

**Moved** by G. El-Jakl and seconded by S. Hatfield that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality request funding in the form of a grant from the Green Municipal Fund and also request additional funds for this project from the Minister for Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations and from our Member of Parliament for the area.

Motion carried unanimously.

**RULES OF ORDER**

A summary of various suggested changes to the Council and Committee Rules of Order was circulated to members for their consideration at a previous meeting. Council now reviewed twelve (12) matters brought up under these Rules of Order.

1. It was the consensus of members that consensus could be used for general matters to be decided upon by council and committee rather than requiring a motion and a division on the motion or the matter. Consensus would only be used for matters of general interest.

- 2 & 8 **Moved** by S. Hatfield and seconded by D. Messenger that the name of the mover and seconder is not required to be recorded in the minutes, and that if someone wishes to

change the motion the mover and seconder do not have to be asked regarding that change since the motion is now the groups motion.

**AFFIRMATIVE**

Donna LeBlanc-Messenger

**NEGATIVE**

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

Motion defeated.

3. It was the consensus of members that the mover of a motion cannot speak against their own motion, however, they may wish to explain why they have changed their mind in regards to the motion.

**Resolution COW090416**

4. **Moved** by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. Stoddard that if a motion is made and withdrawn it does not need to be recorded in the minutes.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. It was the consensus of members that Item 5 regarding closing of debate be omitted as this is currently dealt with satisfactorily in the current rules.

**Resolution COW090417**

6. **Moved** by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. O'Donnell that each member of council or committee be given two opportunities to speak to any motion for a period not to exceed five (5) minutes each time, and that additional opportunities to speak to the motion or to discuss a motion be granted only with unanimous consent or that the time for debate be extended only by the unanimous consent of members.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution COW090418**

7. **Moved** by S. Hatfield and seconded by D. Messenger that it not be necessary for the Chairman to vacate the Chair in order to debate a motion. The Chair will be permitted to debate a motion following the same rules as other councillors.

Motion carried unanimously.

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9. This matter is omitted as it was already dealt with adequately in the current rules.

**Resolution COW090419**

10. **Moved** by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. Stoddard that unanimous consent can be used

to amend a motion if it is not changing the intent of the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

11. The number of presentations permitted at council and committee meetings was discussed at length. It was the consensus of members that the current rules not be changed, and that a general guideline be established that there would be no more than one additional presentation made on the first Monday of each month when department managers are making reports to Committee of the Whole, and that the maximum number of presentations to be accepted in any evening be limited to two. It was also the general consensus of members that presentations be limited to 15 or 30 minute periods.
12. It was the consensus of members that there be no additions to the agenda unless these items do not require any additional research or unless they are of an urgent nature.

These revisions that are proposed by committee will be incorporated into amendments to the Committees and Councils Policy and will be brought forward to council for its consideration.

#### HILL ROAD

Mr. Randolph Nickerson has provided the Municipal Office with a brief petition from the residents of Hill Road requesting upgrade to that property. In their petition they agree that they will pay a portion of the cost of paving the road. This petition is being brought forward under the Municipality's Local Improvement By-Law. Members are being informed of this petition being brought forward and the next step is now to have the Department of Transportation determine the approximate cost of the requested paving. Mr. Stuart Clare has been contacted at the Department of Transportation and has indicated that he would view the road next week and further communicate regarding the cost of upgrading the road.

#### TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD

A response has been received from the Tri-County Regional School Board concerning Council's question regarding the decision to expand the Clark's Harbour Elementary School rather than the Cape Sable Island Elementary School. The response has proven to be unsatisfactory as there appears to have been no public consultation prior to making this decision, and there was no consultation with the Municipality. The Municipality had previously asked Steven Stoddart and Andrea Huskilson-Newell to discuss this matter with Council. It has been indicated in the letter that this is the response to the request to Mr. Stoddart. To date no response has been received from the Tri-County Regional School Board member, Andrea Huskilson-Newell.

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#### Resolution COW090420

**Moved** by G. El-Jakl and seconded by S. Hatfield that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to the Minister of Education and to the Tri-County Regional School Board requesting them to explain how the decision has been made to choose the Clark's Harbour Elementary School for an addition/alteration without public consultation. A copy of the letter is also to be sent to the MLA, and also requesting of the MLA whether or not he supports this decision being

made without public consultation.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### PROCLAMATION PROCEDURE

It was the consensus of members that the present procedure for making proclamations requested of the Municipality be continued.

#### INTEREST ON PROPERTY TAXES

The Municipality has recently sent out interim tax bills to property owners. As a result low income property owners have expressed much concern regarding interest being charged on the interim billings as of May 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### Resolution COW090421

**Moved** by G. El-Jakl and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that no interest be charged on interim tax bills being sent to low income property tax owners for this year only and that interest will be applied to all outstanding amounts when the full tax bill is sent in October.

#### AFFIRMATIVE

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

#### NEGATIVE

Louise Halliday  
Sean Strang

Motion carried.

#### PROPERTY AT SHEROSE ISLAND

This matter has been deferred to the next meeting of the committee.

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#### INTEREST ON OUTSTANDING TAXES

Due to a computer error the assessment on property of Mr. Troy Flemming has been incorrect for more than a year. A computer error was made at the offices of the Property Valuation Services Corporation and has subsequently been corrected. As a result interest has been incorrectly charged on Mr. Flemming's outstanding taxes.

#### Resolution COW090422

**Moved** by G. El-Jakl and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the interest in the amount of \$100.00 be written off the account of Mr. Troy Flemming as it has been incorrectly applied due to a computer error in the PVSC offices.

**AFFIRMATIVE**

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

**NEGATIVE**

George El-Jakl  
Louise Halliday

Motion carried.

**SCHEDULE OF FEES**

The Schedule of Fees for the last two weeks was circulated to members for their review.

**MCDONALD'S LITTER**

It was suggested that litter be picked up in the area near the McDonalds Restaurant in Barrington Passage as this is where the marthon/half marthon ends and should be cleaned up prior to the race.

This matter will be referred to the By-Law Enforcement Officer for further action.

**CLOSED SESSION RE: FORMER B.M.H.S. PROPERTY**

Members then entered into Closed Session to discuss a legal matter relating to the former B.M.H.S. property.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 11:27 p.m.

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Chairperson

Secretary for the Meeting

**On website April 23, 2009.**