

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

May 4, 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:

- Bay Side Home Update.
- Summer Students for Property Services.

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 C. O'Donnell and seconded by S. Hatfield that the minutes of the last previous meeting held April 20, 2009 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Building Inspector

The Municipal Building Inspector, Glen Muise, presented his written report for the month of April.

Property Services

The Property Services Manager, Cameron Whiteway, presented his written report for the month of April.

Mr. Whiteway indicated that the running track will be “dragged” tomorrow and will be set up for use for the coming season. He also indicated that the fountain will be placed in the pond in front of the library as soon as a transformer is received and installed to operate the lights.

Recreation

The Recreation Director, Anna Kenney, presented a written report for the month of April.

Barrington Municipal Arena

A written report was submitted by the Arena Manager, Shelly Atwood, although she was not present for the meeting.

All of the department managers retired from the meeting at approximately 7:25 p.m. having completed their reports.

RETURNING OFFICER

An advertisement has been placed for a Returning Officer for the coming special election. It is proposed to pay the Returning Officer \$2,000.00. It is also proposed to hire two enumerators and pay them \$90.00 plus \$0.75 per elector.

Resolution COW090501

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that the fees for the Returning Officer be \$2,000.00 for the upcoming special election, and that the fees for two enumerators for this special election be \$90.00 each plus \$0.75 per elector.

Motion carried unanimously.

WARM ROOM AT ARENA

This matter had been brought up by the Arena Fundraising Committee. The committee wishes to know if Council wishes to pursue this enhancement to the Arena, and wishes to know if they would like to discuss it further.

Resolution COW090502

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that Municipal Staff obtain further information regarding the construction of a “warm room” at the Barrington Municipal Arena.

Motion carried unanimously.

R.C.M.P. REPORT FOR APRIL

Cst. Shauna Schmalz appeared before the meeting in order to present a written report on the R.C.M.P. statistics for the month of April 2009. The Statistical Report showed that there were 154 calls in April of 2009 compared to 145 calls in April of 2008. The number of provincial traffic offences had increased from 10 to 27 during the month of April.

Having completed her report to the committee, Cst. Schmalz then retired from the meeting.

ANGUS ATKINSON INTERVIEW

Mr. Atkinson appeared before the Committee for the purpose of bringing up several matters which are currently under Council's consideration. These matters included:

1. C.S.I. Sewer

Mr. Atkinson suggested that Council might consider expanding the sewer further back from the road, and that Council might consider putting all of the cost of the sewer on the general tax rate.

2. Aerial Fire Truck

Mr. Atkinson expressed his concern that this is a lot of money and questioned whether the Municipality really needs this vehicle. He also questioned whether or not there is already duplication in the number of fire vehicles available in the Municipality. Mr. Atkinson also suggested that there is potential for the amalgamation of fire departments in various areas of the Municipality.

3. Wages and Salaries

Mr. Atkinson appreciated, from having read the minutes, that Council took much consideration in the establishment of salaries and wages for the coming three years.

4. Arena Fundraising Committee

Mr. Atkinson questioned whether or not the Fundraising Committee should be supplied with funds to finance the upcoming Arena dance and questioned whether or not this should actually be done.

5. Stoney Island Beach

Mr. Atkinson agreed that it may be desirable to raise the fine for littering within the Municipality, however doubted that this would have an effect on littering because the fine is rarely enforced. He suggested that the Municipality should pick up the litter.

Having completed his presentation to Council, Mr. Atkinson was thanked for his valuable comments.

Resolution COW090503

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by S. Strang that these matters be placed on the agenda for the next Committee of the Whole for further discussion and consideration.

Motion carried unanimously.

SHELBURNE COUNTY RECREATION SOCIETY

Jennifer Spencer appeared before the meeting for the purpose of making a presentation on behalf of the Shelburne County Recreation Society.

Mrs. Spencer made her presentation in favor of building a covered or enclosed pool somewhere in Shelburne County. At the present time this association is requesting \$3,000.00 from the Municipality of Barrington to finance a Needs Assessment.

Resolution COW090504

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by D. Messenger that this matter be deferred to the next Committee of the Whole meeting for further consideration.

Motion carried unanimously.

ABORIGINAL DAY

Members were informed that a local group is proposing to put a display of aboriginal artifacts at the space used by the Cape Sable Historical Society at the Old Court House in Barrington. They also wish to erect a teepee at the property owned by the Municipality next to the Barrington River on June 21st for their celebration of Aboriginal Day.

Resolution COW090505

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that a local group be permitted to use municipal property next to the Barrington River on June 21st, Aboriginal Day, pending the provision of the proper insurance certificate and waiver of indemnity for the Municipality by that group.

Motion carried unanimously.

JOINT EMO BUDGET

A draft of the Joint EMO Budget was provided to members and reviewed for their information.

Resolution COW090506

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality approve the proposed Joint EMO Budget for the 2009/2010 fiscal year.

AFFIRMATIVE

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

NEGATIVE

George El-Jakl

Motion carried.

BUY BACK NOVA SCOTIA

Correspondence has been received by email from Buy Back Nova Scotia requesting that the Municipality appoint a councillor to their group. The purpose of appointing a councillor to their group would be to keep municipalities who have offered their support informed of the groups activities.

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that Shaun Hatfield serve on this committee.

After some discussion regarding the purpose of having a member on this committee, this motion was withdrawn.

Resolution COW090507

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to the Buy Back Nova Scotia Steering Committee requesting them to keep the Municipal Council informed by sending information to the Municipal Office to be circulated to them, and that if it is necessary for someone to attend meetings in the future, that will be determined by Council at that time.

Motion carried unanimously.

MONTH OF THE LOBSTER

This matter was referred to the Committee by Council.

Discussion ensued regarding which month should be requested to be declared “Month of the Lobster”.

Resolution COW090508

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the provincial government be requested to declare the month of December 2009 as the official “Month of the Lobster”.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was also agreed by consensus of members that the Premier be invited to attend the breakfast that is held annually at the Island & Barrington Passage Fire Hall on the first day of the lobster season.

PROPERTY AT SHEROSE ISLAND

Members were informed of the report that had been prepared by the Department of Transportation and Public Works regarding the property at Sherose Island. It was the consensus of members that since this may involve some legal issues that this matter be deferred for further consideration to a Closed Session at the end of the meeting.

C.S.I. SEWER EXEMPTIONS

It had been previously suggested that exemptions be made to the annual sewer charge which will be required by property owners in the area covered by the proposed Cape Sable Island sewer system.

It is proposed that low income property owners be exempted from the sewer charge and that the property owners who have had on-site septic systems installed in the last five (5) years also be exempted.

Members were informed that the following on-site sewer system permits have been issued over the past five years:

District 5	-	21
District 6	-	10
District 7	-	2

Members were also informed that the following low income applications had been received last year:

District 5	-	31
District 6	-	27
District 7	-	22

There then followed much discussion regarding the possibility of exemptions for both of these types of property owners. Motions have already been made at Council regarding this matter and will be further considered at Council at a subsequent meeting.

TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD

Correspondence has been received from the Tri-County Regional School Board on two occasions as a result of Council requesting a representative from the School Board to come to a Council meeting to discuss issues related to the Cape Sable Island Elementary School. The most recent letter was received from Mr. Phil Landry, Superintendent of Schools, dated April 30, 2009. In this letter Mr. Landry is suggesting that Council may wish to send representatives to the School Board to address their concerns.

Much discussion then ensued regarding the request of Council to have a representative from the School Board come to Council to hear the concerns of local residents.

Resolution COW090509

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by G. El-Jakl :

WHEREAS many residents of Cape Sable Island have expressed their concerns to councillors concerning the choice of the School Board to designate the Clark's Harbour Elementary School as the number one choice for future expansion instead of the Cape Sable Island Elementary School;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Nova Scotia has designated \$3.48 Million for this purpose as a result of the School Board's choice;

AND WHEREAS the representatives from the Tri-County Regional School Board, including Mr. Robie Atkinson the local representative, had previously come to Council to hear concerns related to the School Board;

AND WHEREAS representatives from the School Board including the Superintendent, the Chair, and the local representative, Mrs. Newell, together with other members of the School Board had attended a Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss issues regarding the new high school in Oak Park;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT it is recommended to Council that the Chairperson of the TCRSB, the Superintendent of the TCRSB and the local elected representative on the TCRSB be invited to attend a Council or Committee meeting as soon as possible for the purpose of discussing the future of the elementary schools on Cape Sable Island;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Tri-County Regional School Board be informed that if they do not come to Council to hear the concerns of residents expressed to councillors, that Council will unfortunately have no other recourse but to schedule a public meeting for the purpose of hearing and discussing these concerns with residents.

Motion carried unanimously.

PHYSICIAN RECRUITMENT - MEDICAL CLINIC

Members were provided with information regarding the anticipated deficit that would be realized in operating a medical clinic in Shelburne next to the Roseway Hospital. The Municipality has been requested by the Physician Recruitment Committee to consider funding the cost of an engineering design for a medical clinic. The Physician Recruitment Committee believes that upgrading the medical clinic is necessary in order to attract doctors at Roseway Hospital and provide services in the emergency room.

Resolution COW090510

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by S. Strang that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality provide 25% of the cost of the proposed engineering design up to a maximum of \$5,000.00.

AFFIRMATIVE

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

NEGATIVE

Shaun Hatfield
Cathy Stoddard

Motion carried.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

The Schedule of Fees was circulated to all members for their information and review.

CLOSED SESSION - SHEROSE ISLAND PROPERTY & RECREATION SOCIETY MEETING

Resolution COW090511

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by G. El-Jakl that due to the lateness of the hour these two matters be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee for further consideration.

Motion carried unanimously.

BAY SIDE HOME UPDATE

An update was received from the Chair of the Bay Side Home Building Committee indicating that he has been in discussion with Mr. Darrell Dexter, the leader of the Opposition in the Provincial Legislature. Mr. Dexter has informed the Chair of the Building Committee that the official opposition is committed to the expansion of Bay Side Home.

SUMMER STUDENTS FOR PROPERTY SERVICES

It is proposed that two summer students be hired in the Property Services Department for the purpose of providing lawn and yard maintenance and doing general labour work throughout the Municipality during the summer months.

Resolution COW090512

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by C. Stoddard that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality hire two summer students for the summer months to assist in the Property Services Department.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 11:16 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary for the Meeting