

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

July 6, 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

One member was absent due to a vacancy in District 6.

- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Warden's Report.
- Policy No. 52 Amendments.
- Wheelchair Accessibility.
- Post Office Parking.
- Tourism.
- Community Health Centre.
- Department of Natural Resources.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by S. Hatfield that minutes of the last previous meeting held June 29, 2009 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Building Inspection

Glen Muise, Municipal Building Inspector, appeared before the meeting and provided a written report for the month of June. Mr. Muise reviewed his activities and the number and amount of permits issued during the month.

Recreation Department

Anna Kenney, Recreation Director, appeared before the meeting for the purpose of providing a written report for the month of June. Mrs. Kenney also indicated that preparations are progressing well for the Nova Scotia Marathon which will be held on July 26th.

Barrington Municipal Arena

Shelly Atwood, Arena Manager, appeared before the meeting for the purpose of reviewing her written report for the month of June.

Property Services Department

A written report for the month of June for the Property Services Department was circulated to members. Mr. Whiteway was unable to appear this evening due to other commitments.

Having completed their reports to members, the department managers retired from the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

MLA INTERVIEW

Mr. Sterling Belliveau, the recently elected Member of the Legislative Assembly for Shelburne County, appeared before the meeting for the purpose of discussing various matters with members. Members congratulated Mr. Belliveau on his appointment as Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture and also as Minister of Environment.

The first matter that was discussed was the request for the declaration of the *Year of the Lobster* by the Federal Government, and of the *Month of the Lobster* by the Provincial Government. It was emphasized to our MLA the importance of the fishing industry and the importance of this request of the Provincial Government. It was also requested that our MLA extend an invitation to the Premier to attend a breakfast at the Island & Barrington Passage Fire Hall on the first day of the coming lobster season in November of 2009. It was also requested that the Province be asked what funding may be available in order to promote the *Year of the Lobster*. The Province is also being asked through the Minister to provide a request for support to the Federal Government for the declaration of the *Year of the Lobster* from December 2009 to, and including, November 2010.

The Minister was also asked if the Provincial Government would be willing to waive the fees for lobster selling licences that are now required at roadside. The Minister indicated that the Provincial staff is now looking into various options available in this regard.

The next matter that was discussed with the Minister was the renovation and retrofit of Cape Sable Island schools. Concerns regarding the Tri-County Regional School Boards' decision to renovate or retrofit the Town of Clark's Harbour School rather than the Cape Sable Island Elementary School were expressed to our MLA. Copies of the letters that have been sent to the Minister of Education had previously been copied to him for his information. Minister Belliveau informed members that he would be sure to bring these matters to the attention of the Minister of Education.

Other matters that were briefly discussed with the Minister included physician recruitment and health care issues. These are significant issues to the Provincial Government as well as to our Municipality.

The Minister stated that it is the intention of the Provincial Government to further deal with these matters once it has become oriented.

The matter of adding another ten (10) beds to Bay Side Home was also discussed. The Minister indicated that the Premier had stated that an additional ten (10) beds would be added providing it did not interfere with the construction schedule for Bay Side Home. This is yet to be determined.

The Minister also indicated that he had attended the B.M.H.S. Graduation held at the Arena. The building becomes very warm during the graduation ceremonies because there are so many people in attendance and the ceremonies take 3 hours or more. He suggested that something be done to cool the Arena down, if possible.

It was also brought to the attention of Minister Belliveau that the propane burners in the chemistry lab at B.M.H.S. are not being used. The Minister indicated he would bring this matter also to the attention of the Department of Education.

Having completed his discussion with members, Minister Belliveau retired from the meeting at approximately 8:20 p.m.

COMMERCIAL WASTE COLLECTION

A copy of a portion of By-Law No. 8 was circulated to members together with the agenda. This by-law indicates that two organic carts will be collected each week from businesses in the Municipality. The purpose of collecting these carts is so that businesses may dispose of waste from their lunch rooms and offices at their production facilities. It is also stated in paragraph (f) of the by-law that the Municipality is not responsible for the collection of production waste. It was recently brought to the attention of the councillor for the area that one of the fish plants in Wood's Harbour has been putting as many as six (6) organic green carts of waste from their lobster plant at roadside and expecting it to be collected. In fact, the collector informed the Municipal Clerk that this business had placed twenty (20) green carts at roadside for collection during the month of June. The collector has informed the lobster plant that no more than two (2) carts, per week, will be collected.

Resolution COW090701

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by S. Hatfield that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to the lobster plant involved explaining the current policy of the Municipality in regards to waste collection and indicating that the Municipal Waste Collector is trying to do the job properly as required by Municipal Policy.

Motion carried unanimously.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REQUEST

At their Semi-Annual Meeting the fire department chiefs had requested the Municipality look into the purchase of a "ladder truck". A report has been prepared by Municipal Staff for the information of members regarding this matter. This report has also been sent to Walter Scott, the Chief of the Island & Barrington Passage Fire Department, as per his request. This matter will be further discussed by members with the fire chiefs. The information provided to members will also be sent to the fire chiefs and they will be asked to discuss this matter and respond to Council.

LOW INCOME PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

Information has been obtained from Statistics Canada indicating that the low income cutoff level for the most recent year available, which is 2007, for one adult, is estimated to be \$18,178.00.

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality raise the level of its low income property tax exemption to \$20,000.00 per year for the fiscal year 2010/2011 and that there only be one level of reduction of taxes at \$150.00.

There then followed some discussion regarding the affect of this increase in income level on the Municipality's budget. It is possible that Municipal Staff can provide an estimate of the affect of this change on the Municipal Budget.

Resolution COW090702

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by C. O'Donnell that further consideration of this motion be deferred until an estimated effect on the Municipal Budget can be provided to members.

AFFIRMATIVE

George El-Jakl
Louise Halliday
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
Cecil O'Donnell
Cathy Stoddard

NEGATIVE

Shaun Hatfield.

Motion carried.

DATE FOR COMMUNITY GRANTS POLICY REVIEW

After some discussion it was the consensus of members that the Community Grants Policy would not be further reviewed, instead it will remain as is.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Information was provided to members regarding the Tourism Development Officer position. A letter has been received from Discover Shelburne County indicating that a representative is required from the Municipality of Barrington to sit on the Tourism Committee that will be overseeing this position.

Councillor Stoddard volunteered to serve on this committee.

Resolution COW090703

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that Councillor Stoddard serve on the Tourism Committee for the purpose of overseeing the work of the Tourism Development Officer for Shelburne County and that her expenses be paid accordingly.

Motion carried unanimously.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

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

WARDEN'S REPORT

A draft Warden's Report was circulated to members for their information and review. It was suggested that the following items be added to the report: littering fines and aboriginal cultural centre. It was also suggested that the section on 2009 tax expenditures be omitted as these are published elsewhere both on the internet and in the brochures that are being distributed to the public.

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by C. Stoddard that the Warden's Report as amended be approved.

Motion carried unanimously.

POLICY NO. 52 - COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES

It was suggested that the proposed policy in paragraph 8(6)(d) may provide for some difficulties in conducting public meetings. It was suggested that this section is unnecessary in the policy.

Resolution COW090704

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by G. El-Jakl that paragraph 8(6)(d) be removed from the proposed policy to be considered by Council.

Motion carried unanimously.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSABILITY

Wheelchair accessability is being investigated for the front entry of the Municipal Administration building. It is necessary first to obtain an estimate of the cost of installing automatic door openers and then an application must be made to Service Nova Scotia for funding. This process will take two to three months. In response to a query of members, all members were informed that the Barrington Municipal Library is already wheelchair accessible.

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

It was indicated by a member that there was no answer to telephone calls at the Community Health Centre during Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of last week. It was suggested that the phones at the Community Health Centre are not answered satisfactorily.

This is a matter that is not under the control of the Municipal Council.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

It was noted that in a recent article in the newspaper that video cameras are being used by the Department of Natural Resources. Members were informed that the local supervisor for the Department had already indicated that video cameras have been installed in our area in an attempt to identify those doing illegally dumping on Natural Resources property.

POST OFFICE PARKING

It was indicated by a member that parking in the area of the Barrington Passage Post Office is a continuing issue that is being unsatisfactorily dealt with by Canada Post.

Resolution COW090705

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that Canada Post be requested to provide access to a meter and a half of their property and to cost share in relocating the sidewalk closer to the Barrington Passage Post Office.

Motion carried unanimously.

TOURISM

It was suggested that the Municipality obtain information regarding the construction of a giant lobster near the highway.

CLOSED SESSION

Members then entered into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing the sale of municipal property.

Having completed their discussion of the sale of municipal property, members then resumed Open Session.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 11:30 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary for the Meeting

On website July 7, 2009.