

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

February 15, 2010

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:00 p.m., in the Conference Room, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington, N.S., with the following members present:

- Donna LeBlanc-Messenger, Chair
- Murray Atkinson
- George El-Jakl
- Louise Halliday
- Cecil O'Donnell
- Cathy Stoddard

Absent was member Shaun Hatfield who was away on vacation.

- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Nova Scotia Equalization Fairness.
- District Health Authority Meeting, Wednesday, February 17, 2010

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by C. O'Donnell that the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by G. El-Jakl that the minutes of the last previous meeting held February 1, 2010 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

BARRINGTON REGIONAL CURLING CLUB

Mr. Bob Cushing appeared before the meeting in order to bring members up to date on the activities of the Barrington Regional Curling Club. Mr. Cushing informed members that the curling club this year has 127 members. This is down slightly from previous years although the income from membership is virtually the same as the previous year. The Club is now projecting that they will have a satisfactory year in financial terms.

The Club is also participating in the Ice Rink Energy Program and wishes to install a low E ceiling. The total cost of the low E ceiling is expected to be in the range of \$21,000.00, of which approximately \$4,000.00 will come from either the Club or the Municipality. The Club recently held a Lobster Spiel in which 18 teams participated, and prior to that hosted a mixed spiel during the month of January. The Sweethearts Spiel was held this past weekend. Thirty-three people participated in this, of which approximately half were people new to curling. There are curling league activities every night of the week at the Club. The Club had approximately 400 children participants in day programs and he expects this to rise to 700 by the end of the season. The Club also has a team participating in the Senior Men's Provincials in Amherst in the very near future, and will be sending a mixed team to the 55+ Senior Games in Brockville, Ontario next summer.

Having completed his discussion of Curling Club matters, Mr. Cushing then retired from the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

NATIONAL FLAG DAY

Members were informed that today is National Flag Day and as a result flags and pins have been distributed for their use.

SHELBURNE COUNTY LOBSTER FESTIVAL

The Shelburne County Lobster Festival is held each year during the first week of June. The Municipality ordinarily makes a grant to this festival in the amount of \$250.00. Council is requested to approve this grant prior to the setting of the current years' budget.

Resolution COW100230

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by C. O'Donnell that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality include a grant of \$250.00 to the Shelburne County Lobster Festival 2010.

Motion carried unanimously.

KIDS FAIR PLAY FUND

The Kids Fair Play Fund is requesting a grant from each municipal unit in Shelburne County in the amount of \$250.00.

Resolution COW100231

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by M. Atkinson that the funding requested from the Kids Fair Play Fund be referred to the budget process for further consideration.

Motion carried unanimously.

TAX WRITE-OFF

The business occupancy taxes in the amount of \$654.00 are outstanding on the account of ESD Fisheries. ESD Fisheries was sold at Tax Sale in March of 2009 and therefore this amount is not collectible.

Resolution COW100232

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that the balance of business occupancy taxes, on Assessment Account #06365566, in the amount of approximately \$654.00 be written off as uncollectible.

Motion carried unanimously.

FCM CONFERENCE

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference will be held May 28 - 31, 2010, in Toronto. Information on the conference has been circulated to members by email. Members who wish to attend should contact the Municipal Office as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made.

WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

This matter had been referred to Committee by Council. Correspondence has been received from the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities requesting municipalities to submit Expressions of Interest for a Wind Energy Development Plan. This project will take approximately a year to complete and will define the conditions for public benefits and public engagement that the Municipality will request before permitting large wind energy developments, including options for municipally or community owned developments.

Subsequent to Councils' meeting, an addendum had been received indicating that they request municipal units greater than 1,000 square kilometers in size being the ideal choice for this plan. Our municipality is 631.94 square kilometers in size. It would also be required that the municipality which is chosen pay the cost of the development of this plan by consultants. The UNSM will contribute 50% of the cost of developing the plan up to a maximum of \$50,000.00.

At the present time members do not believe our municipality should become involved in this plan.

LOW INCOME PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

It is proposed to change the date of submission for applications to the Low Income Property Tax Exemption. The Municipality now bills twice a year, early in April and early in October. In order to have these exemptions placed on the equal billing, it is necessary for the application forms to be completed by March 31st of each year. The present date for the applications to be received is May 31st. This year is a transitional year and because of that it may be necessary to accept late applications.

Resolution COW100233

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by C. Stoddard that it be recommended to Council that the Low Income Property Tax Exemption Policy be amended to change the deadline date to March 31st, from May 31st, with the exception that this year late applications will be received until May 31st.

Motion carried unanimously.

EUGENE STODDARD RE: LADDER TRUCK

Eugene Stoddard, together with fire chiefs from the various fire departments, appeared before the meeting at approximately 7:38 p.m. in order to discuss the information they have been able to obtain regarding the purchase of a ladder truck for the Municipality. Information had been received from various departments and other areas of the province and fire department members who had viewed and operated trucks in both the towns of Bridgewater and Lunenburg. A binder with pertinent information was provided for councillors to review. This binder contains information on various vehicles that may be appropriate for this purpose. It was indicated that it would take approximately a year to tender for a truck and to have it delivered, and that the cost of the truck would be in the range of \$700,000.00 to \$750,000.00.

REGISTRATION OF FIRE DEPARTMENTS

A copy of the Fire and Emergency Services Guide that accompanies the Municipal Government Act was provided for all members of the Committee for their information and review. Members were asked what is the repercussion to fire departments and to the Municipality if the fire departments are unable to provide these services for which they are registered. It was suggested that the Municipal Solicitor be contacted and asked to provide an answer to this question.

Having gone past the time allowed for the presentation, it was:

Resolution COW100234

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by L. Halliday that the fire department representatives be allowed to continue his presentation until finished.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution COW100235

Moved by L. Halliday and seconded by C. Stoddard that the Municipal Solicitor be requested to attend the Semi-Annual Meeting of Fire Departments to be held on March 3, 2010 in order to discuss the provision of fire services by the Municipality, and in particular to respond to the previously listed questions.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was suggested that the registrations that have been submitted by all departments be circulated to the fire chiefs for their information.

There was also some question regarding the criteria for fire department registration.

It was also asked what is the life span of a fire truck. This is determined by NFPA Standards by Underwriters Laboratory or by some other standard. Information will be obtained as soon as possible to determine this.

Having completed their presentation, the members of the fire departments then retired from the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

ROBERT CHETWYND RE: MARINA

Mr. Chetwynd appeared before the meeting for the purpose of requesting money to start a marina in the Municipality, on municipal property. He is requesting the Municipality to invest \$50,000.00 for this purpose. Mr. Chetwynd indicated that a volunteer organization would be formed in the community, that although not presently registered, would be registered in the future. Mr. Chetwynd indicated that he had been involved with a similar operation in Liverpool.

Having completed his presentation and discussion with members, Mr. Chetwynd then retired from the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

PUBLIC SORTING STATION

Information regarding the deposit of waste at the Construction & Demolition Site was circulated to members. This information was reviewed in detail for members by the Municipal Clerk. The amounts and types of waste that are deposited at the C & D Landfill Site have a significant impact on the Diversion Credits received by the Municipality. In the fiscal year ended March 31, 2009, 3,061 tons of C & D waste were received at the Municipality. Approximately 1,600 tons was collected by the Municipal Waste Collector in the residential and commercial collection program. Of the 3,000 tons received at the C & D Site, approximately 1,531 tons, or approximately 50% ,was mixed C & D. Mixed C & D is deemed to be disposable waste and therefore the Municipality loses Diversion Credits on all this waste. It is proposed that the Municipality complete the construction of the Public Sorting Station at the C & D Landfill Site in order to better improve the sorting of waste at the site. It is proposed that the Municipality increase the funds that are available for this project by approximately \$20,000.00 so the project can be completed.

After consulting with the Municipal Solicitor, it is proposed that the Municipality go back to the low bidder from the previous tender and have him construct the public sorting station.

After much discussion members were not satisfied that this would be the best procedure. As a result the RRFB will be approached again and asked to provide more funds, and other alternatives would be explored to determine how the public sorting station can be completed. In addition, members were asked to change the manner in which the handling of construction and demolition waste is funded in the Municipality. The cost of operation of the Construction & Demolition Landfill Site is funded through the general tax rate.

It is proposed that user fees be put in place to cover the cost of the operation of this site in future. It is proposed that the user fees would be \$60.00 per ton for sorted waste and \$100.00 per ton for mixed waste, with a minimum fee of \$2.00. These fees are comparable to the fees that are charged by other municipal units on the South Shore which are adjacent to our municipality. The purpose of putting tipping fees in place are that they would be fairer for all in that only the user of the facility would pay for the facility. Individuals and companies who use the facility more would pay more for the use of the facility. The cost of operating this facility would be removed from the general tax rate so that taxpayers not using the site would not be required to pay for it. Residents from other municipal units who use the facility would then be required to pay the tipping fees so that those located in adjacent municipalities would be able to use the site. Individuals depositing C & D waste would have an incentive to sort waste as they would pay less for depositing waste at the site than those who do not sort it. The fees for this operation could be adjusted each year according to the amount of waste deposited and related costs. This system would require that waste be sorted prior to deposit, either on the site or before delivery to the site and that each type of waste be weighed as it is deposited. The public sorting station would still be required as it would be used on site for the sorting of waste. This will also require that depositors be able to make cash payments for deposit of waste at the site. One of the possible disadvantages of tipping fees is more enforcement of illegal dumping being required. It is proposed that implementation of tipping fees become effective April 1, 2010.

ONE COUNCIL MEETING PER MONTH AND CAO

A member suggested that it should be considered that Council revert back to one meeting per month and that a CAO be appointed for the Municipality.

A brief discussion then ensued.

It was the consensus of members that these matters be further considered at a later date.

TRADE AND LICENSING BY-LAW

A proposed amended Trade and Licensing By-Law was circulated to members for their information and review. This by-law was reviewed in detail for members.

After much discussion it was suggested that the amendments to the by-law should address the use of municipal property only, and that the appropriate change be made, and that the by-law be referred to a subsequent meeting for further consideration.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

At this time it was pointed out by a member that it was believed to be unnecessary for the department managers to attend Committee of the Whole meetings to present their monthly reports. These reports could be circulated to members by email rather than having to pay them for the inconvenience of attending a meeting.

Resolution COW100236

Moved by L. Halliday and seconded by C. O'Donnell that department managers no longer be required to attend Committee of the Whole meetings to present their monthly reports.

Motion carried unanimously.

POINT OF ORDER

Having reached the hour of 10:00 p.m., a point of order was raised.

Resolution COW100237

Moved by C. Stoddard and seconded by L. Halliday that members continue the meeting until the business of the meeting is completed.

Motion carried unanimously.

ARENA POLICY

A draft of proposed amendments to the Barrington Municipal Arena Policy was previously circulated to members. This policy was reviewed in detail indicating to members that various portions of the policy that are currently addressed in the Municipality's Personnel Policy will be removed.

Sections 5 and 30 will be reviewed so that all fees that are established for operation, rental and use of the Arena will be set by resolution of Council during the budget process.

Having completed their review of the Arena Policy it was agreed by consensus of members that once the appropriate revisions have been completed they will be provided to Council and notice of a reading will be given at Council.

DISTRICT HEALTH AUTHORITY MEETING

Members were informed that the Warden has been requested to attend a District Health Authority meeting at the Regional Hospital in Yarmouth for the purpose of discussing the Nurse Practitioner services in the community.

Resolution COW100238

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by C. Stoddard that the Wardens' expenses be paid for the purpose of attending the District Health Authority Meeting on Wednesday, February 17, 2010 in Yarmouth.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 10:06 p.m.

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting