

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

April 19, 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, NS., with the following members present:

- Shaun Hatfield, Chair
 - Murray Atkinson
 - George El-Jakl
 - Louise Halliday
 - Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
 - Cecil O'Donnell
 - Cathy Stoddard
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- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following item was added to the agenda:

- Brook Island Fisheries Letter Re: Spring Clean-up.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by C. O'Donnell that the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINTUES

Moved by M. Atkinson and seconded by G. El-Jakl that the minutes of the last previous meeting held April 6, 2010 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

BARRINGTON REGIONAL CURLING CLUB

Mr. Bob Cushing and Mr. Elwin Smith appeared before the meeting in order to present a report on the operations of the Barrington Regional Curling Club, and the financial results expected for this season.

Mr. Cushing acted as spokesperson and informed members that the purpose of their attendance at the meeting this evening was to request financial assistance for the Club. Subsequent to the last report from the Club, they have learned that because the ferry will not be running to Yarmouth there will be no bicycle tour coming to the Curling Club this summer. This is a loss of approximately \$2,000.00 in revenue. There was also no closing bonspiel held at the Club which resulted in a further loss of \$1,500.00 in revenue. Nova Scotia Power had been estimating power costs at the Curling Club during the winter months and had only recently gained access to the building for the purpose of reading the meter. As a result, the last bill received for power was in the amount of \$6,732.00. This amount was much larger than what was expected, or anticipated, by the Club. It was also indicated that over the course of the summer months there will be some additional operating costs for power and maintenance such as blade sharpening which is done during the summer months and also approximately \$1,000.00 to install ice in the fall.

The Club is in need of a temporary advance of funds in order to cover operating costs until the Fall Fling. Their Fall Fling event is held on either September 18th or 19th. The Club is requesting short term assistance by way of one of three options:

1. A grant of \$6,000.00.
2. The Municipality paying the current power bill.
3. A loan of \$6,000.00 repayable by December 1, 2010.

It was indicated that membership has been down this year. If membership could be increased to 150 members that would be a level at which no financial assistance would be necessary.

It was indicated that since 2007 most recreational sporting activities have seen a decline in participation. The Club is also participating in the Ice Rink Energy Program which has several projects to be done at the curling rink which include installing a low ceiling which will result in substantial energy savings each year, and estimated to be in the range of \$4,000.00 to \$5,000.00. NSPI will also be changing all the lighting in the ice rink. NSPI will pay 80% of the cost of this change. The 20% being paid by the Club will be added to the power bill over the next two years. The brine pump is to be rewired so that it runs the same time as the ice cooling machinery which should put it on a 64% cycle. It is also anticipated that timers can be installed on the pumps which will reduce energy consumption further.

Resolution COW100406

Moved by L. Halliday and seconded by M. Atkinson that the most recent financial statements available from the Club be supplied to the Municipality, and that Municipal Staff review these statements together with any outstanding bills that are provided, and recommend one of the options suggested that are compatible with the requirements of the Municipal Government Act. In the interim, it is suggested that the Curling Club return to a committee meeting if they are unable to negotiate a satisfactory extension of their power supply with NSPI.

Motion carried unanimously.

Having completed their presentation, the members of the Curling Club then retired from the meeting at approximately 7:35 p.m.

NOTICE OF MOTION RE: MEETING INFORMATION

A notice of motion regarding provision of meeting information was then read to members.

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by M. Atkinson that:

“WHEREAS Council’s Code of Conduct encourages openness in dealing with public business (Sec. 11., b, ii, iii);

WHEREAS transparency is maximized when agenda items are “fleshed out” for the benefit of Council members, citizens and media;

WHEREAS it is good for members of Council to have easy and equal access to information prior to meetings;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT all information and/or correspondence related to agenda items for upcoming meetings of Council be attached to the web-agenda (whenever possible) or else forwarded to all Council members by email (or paper) prior to meetings, except for agenda items related to Section 22(2) of the Municipal Government Act.”

The intention of this notice of motion is to address all meetings of council and committees.

There then followed some discussion regarding the motion and its effects on agenda items posted on the website and circulated to members.

Resolution COW100407

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by D. Messenger that this motion be deferred to the next Committee of the Whole meeting, which is being held in Wood’s Harbour, for further discussion.

Motion carried unanimously.

MAY 3RD COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

Members are informed that the Committee of the Whole meeting to be scheduled for May 3rd will be held at the Wood’s Harbour Fire Hall at 7:00 p.m. The Warden will Chair that meeting as it is in his district.

COMMITTEE MEETING ROOM

It was suggested that all future Committee of the Whole meetings be held in the Council Chambers instead of the Conference Room.

There then followed some discussion of holding the meetings in a different location.

Resolution COW100408

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by D. Messenger that Committee of the Whole meetings be held in the Council Chambers over the next six months, whenever they are held in the Administration Building.

Motion carried unanimously.

SWSDA BOARD MEETING, APRIL 21ST

Members have previously been informed by email that the South West Shore Development Authority will be holding a Board Meeting on April 21st. There was some discussion whether or not the Municipality should have a member present.

Resolution COW100409

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by C. Stoddard that Donna LeBlanc-Messenger who is the designated alternate representative to the South West Shore Development Authority be authorized to attend the meeting on April 21st and her related expenses be paid by the Municipality.

Motion carried unanimously.

DISTRICT PLANNING COMMISSION 2010/2011 BUDGET

This matter had been referred to the Committee by Council. The District Planning Commission has approved its 2010/2011 budget and now wishes councils of the individual municipal units to approve it. The budget that has been approved includes the employment of the ICSP Planner to the end of November 2010 which was originally agreed in her contract.

Resolution COW100410

Moved by L. Halliday and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that a letter be written to other District Planning Commission members asking if the time of the ICSP Planner can be reduced if at all possible. The Municipality is satisfied with the services of the ICSP Planner in the current contract to the end of November, but does not wish to extend the contract of employment beyond that time.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution COW100411

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by L. Halliday that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality approve the District Planning Commission budget which has been approved by the DPC without the addition of four months for the ICSP Planner.

Motion carried unanimously.

C & D LANDFILL TIPPING FEES

Conflict of Interest

Members Halliday and Messenger both declared conflict of interest for the discussion of this matter as their spouses are frequent users of the Landfill.

Mr. Paul Smith appeared before the meeting for the purpose of presenting his comments in regards to the proposed tipping fees. Mr. Smith provided a written document containing his comments which was circulated to members of the committee.

The consensus of members is that separation of waste is the most significant factor now affecting diversion at the C & D Landfill Site.

It was suggested that the Municipality only charge those people depositing waste at the Landfill who do not separate their waste.

Having completed his presentation, Mr. Smith then retired from the meeting table.

It was the consensus of members that the matter would be dealt with at the Council meeting when Council's deferred motion is brought forward, and that the motion at that time would be amended by Council, if appropriate.

Having completed discussion of this matter members Halliday and Messenger who had declared conflict of interest then returned to the meeting table.

FIREFIGHTER TRAINING

A request has been received from Eugene Stoddard, on behalf of the fire chiefs, requesting that the Arena parking lot be provided for firefighter training from May 6 - 9, 2010. This training will be done outside in the parking lot, however the firefighters will have access to the Arena for the purpose of using the washrooms. They have indicated that they will clean up before they leave.

Resolution COW100412

Moved by C. Stoddard and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that the volunteer fire departments be permitted to use the Arena parking lot and have access to the Arena to provide firefighter training from May 6 - 9, 2010.

Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Correspondence has been received from the Tri-County Women's Centre requesting space to have a community garden on municipal property at Sherose Island. Members were informed that there are deer on Sherose Island. There is also the summer day camp that is held on Sherose Island every year and there are also children playing at the playground and the tennis court on Sherose Island. As a result, placing a garden on Sherose Island may carry with it certain risks of intrusion.

It was suggested that those wishing to have a community garden property at Sherose Island should be aware of these risks prior to doing so.

Resolution COW100413

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that the request from the Tri-County Women's Centre to have a community vegetable garden on municipal property at Sherose Island be approved, providing the Tri-County Women's Centre can provide proof of liability insurance coverage.

Motion carried unanimously.

WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT OF LITTLE GOOSE CREEK

Members were informed that the water quality assessment of Little Goose Creek which has been conducted by Nova Scotia Environment was provided for municipal information. A copy of this information will be forwarded to the Clyde River Land Use Committee.

PROPERTY SERVICES DEPARTMENT SUMMER STUDENTS

It is proposed to hire two summer students in the Property Services Department again this year. The students were hired as of June 1st last year and it is proposed that the students be hired as of May 1st this year.

Resolution COW100414

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that two summer students be hired in the Property Services Department effective May 1, 2010.

Motion carried unanimously.

SURPLUS PROPERTY - SMITHSVILLE

Correspondence has been received from Public Works and Government Services Canada indicating that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans have declared a site near the Smithville wharf as surplus to their requirements due to declining commercial fishing activity in the area. They have notified the Municipality, by email, and wish to ask if the Municipality has any interest in the property, or would like to comment on it, or has any issues in regard to the property.

Resolution COW100415

Moved by L. Halliday and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality respond to Government Services Canada indicating that the Municipality has no interest in their surplus property in Smithville.

Motion carried unanimously.

YARMOUTH SPCA CONTRACT

The Municipality has contracted pound services for our animals from the Yarmouth SPCA for the last number of years at a cost of \$1,000.00. Yarmouth SPCA has indicated that the fee for the coming year will be increased to \$1,200.00.

Resolution COW100416

Moved by L. Halliday and seconded by C. O'Donnell that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality renew its contract with Yarmouth SPCA for pound services at a cost of \$1,200.00 for the coming year.

Motion carried unanimously.

CAO DISCUSSION

This matter was referred to the Committee of the Whole for further discussion as a result of Council's meeting with our Municipal Advisor, Mr. Paul Wills. Copies of the Organization Studies previously done in the Municipality of Shelburne and the Municipality of Argyle were circulated to members for their information and review.

Resolution COW100417

Moved by L. Halliday and seconded by C. O'Donnell that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality seek funding for the purposes of hiring consultants to conduct an Organizational Review.

AFFIRMATIVE

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

NEGATIVE

Murray Atkinson

Motion carried.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

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

LETTER FROM BROOK ISLAND FISHERIES RE: SPRING CLEAN-UP

A letter had been presented to the Warden and to Councillor Halliday prior to the meeting by Brook Island Fisheries expressing concerns about the Spring Clean-up. The letter has subsequently been copied and circulated to all members.

It is the consensus of members that the municipal waste collectors be invited to come to a meeting to discuss this matter. In the interim, the collection contract will be copied to all members.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 9:35 p.m.

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting

On website April 21, 2010.