

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

May 3, 2010

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:00 p.m., in the meeting hall of the Wood's Harbour Volunteer Fire Department, in Wood's Harbour, N.S., with the following members present:

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

- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

During the course of the meeting at various times there were also as many as eleven (11) members of the public present.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Year of the Lobster Committee.
- Budget Meetings.
- Tri-County Regional School Board.
- VON.
- Lighthouse Road.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Motion carried unanimously.

INTRODUCTIONS

The Councillors and Clerk introduced themselves to the members of the public who were present for the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by C. Stoddard and seconded by D. Messenger that the minutes of the last previous meeting held April 19, 2010 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

A period was set aside for members of the public to bring up any issues which they wished to discuss with members of Council.

Question was raised regarding the funding for fire departments, and in particular the Municipality paying for the funding of firefighter training. During discussion members were informed the Province had approved funding for a Fire Services Study for the Municipality up to 50% of the cost or \$20,000, whichever is least.

It was suggested that the Municipality investigate or address the matter of having the road from Barrington to Wood's Harbour repaired by the Department of Transportation.

Resolution COW100501

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to the Department of Transportation requesting that Highway No.3 between Barrington and Wood's Harbour be assessed and repaired by the Department, and that this letter be sent to the Minister of Transportation.

Motion carried unanimously.

The letter will also be copied to our MLA.

A member of the public indicated that they would like to see the sidewalk completed in Wood's Harbour.

It was also brought up at this time that there was a bump in Highway No. 3 near the RCMP Office, in Barrington.

Resolution COW100502

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. O'Donnell that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality offer to pay for the cost of a cement ring for the manhole near the RCMP Office so that the Department of Transportation can repair this bump, and a letter offering the payment for this ring be forwarded to the D.O.T. offices in Yarmouth and Shelburne and to the Minister.

Motion carried unanimously.

PROSECUTING SERVICES

Members were informed that the cost of prosecuting services received from the Department of Justice for the 2010/2011 fiscal year is \$3,000.00. This compares with the cost of \$4,700.00 the previous year.

DEFERRED MOTION RE: MEETING INFORMATION

This matter was deferred to the current meeting from the previous Committee of the Whole. The deferred motion is:

“Moved by C. O’Donnell and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that:

Whereas Council’s Code of Conduct encourages openness in dealing with public business;

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

And 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.”

There then followed some discussion regarding this motion and its practical implications when completing agendas for meetings.

Resolution COW100503

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. O’Donnell that the words in brackets “whenever possible” be removed.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution COW100504

Moved by C. Stoddard and seconded by M. Atkinson that words in brackets “fleshed out” be removed and replaced with the word “clearer”.

Motion carried unanimously.

The division was then taken on the amended motion.

The amended motion now reads:

Resolution COW100505

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that:

WHEREAS Council's Code of Conduct encourages openness in dealing with public business;

AND WHEREAS transparency is maximized when agenda items are "clearer" for the benefit of Council members, citizens and media;

AND 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 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.

Motion carried unanimously.

WEBCAST INFORMATION

Correspondence had previously been sent to Cyber Geek and Ocean Computer requesting them to provide additional webcast information, however, no response has been received from either business.

It was suggested that if all that is required is a record of the meeting then an audio/digital recording may be a suitable alternative.

Resolution COW100506

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by S. Hatfield that Municipal Staff determine the cost of an audio recording of Council and Committee meetings.

Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION RE: WOOD'S HARBOUR BALLFIELD

Mr. Craig Nickerson, President of the Wood's Harbour Athletic Association, appeared before the meeting for the purpose of requesting that the Municipality take over the property owned by the Wood's Harbour Athletic Association. Mr. Nickerson indicated that there is a distinct lack of volunteers to raise funds and to maintain the property in future. Mr. Nickerson indicated that the canteen roof is in need of repair but other than that the property is in good condition.

Resolution COW100507

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by M. Atkinson that the Municipality have the Property Services Supervisor inspect the property and discuss its condition with Mr. Nickerson and estimate the cost of repairs and maintenance.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Nickerson then provided copies of deeds and a plan of the property to the Municipal Clerk for further investigation.

WARDEN'S REPORT

A Warden's Report is due to be published again in the local newspaper. Members were reminded to provide information to the Municipal Office to be placed in this report. It was requested that this information be provided no later than Friday, May 7th so that it can be included in the next report which will be done approximately mid May.

SPCA SERVICES

Members were informed that the Municipality currently has an agreement with the Yarmouth SPCA for the provision of animal services. The annual cost of this agreement is \$1,200.00, plus fees. The SPCA provides services for animals for three days at a cost to the Municipality. After this time the SPCA then attempts to adopt out any animals that it has in its possession. The SPCA in Yarmouth has a minimum number of full-time employees and is run primarily by volunteers. These services are only available outside of regular working hours when volunteers are available.

CLOSED SESSION

Closed Sessions of council and committee meetings are usually held at the end of meetings due to the uncertain length of the closed session.

It was suggested that these be held in future at the beginning of the meetings.

Resolution COW100508

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by S. Hatfield that it be recommended to Council that all closed sessions of council and committee meetings be held at 6:30 p.m. prior to the regular time of meetings on a trial basis for a period of three (3) months pending any policy amendments that may be necessary.

Motion carried unanimously.

ANNUAL CADET REVIEW

The Unicorn 327 Sea Cadet Corps will be holding their annual review at the Barrington Municipal Arena on Sherose Island, at 10:45 a.m., on May 15th. Members are invited to attend.

It was agreed by consensus of members that Councillor Hatfield would address the Corps on behalf of the Municipality.

NORTH EAST POINT BEACH LIABILITY ISSUES

Five (5) councillors and the Municipal Clerk met with Mr. Art Lynds, an employee of the Department of Natural Resources, to discuss the development of a look-off platform for handicapped individuals, at North East Point Beach.

At this meeting Mr. Lynds indicated there is a significant liability issue on the beach that is posed by old wharf pillars and metal spikes that still remain from the wharf that was used when the ferry connected Cape Sable Island to the mainland. The Department of Natural Resources does not see this as a significant liability at the present time as they do not “invite” people to attend at this beach. Should a look-off point or boardwalk be built extending to the beach this would change the access to the public and would require elimination of the liability issue.

Resolution COW100509

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by S. Hatfield that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to the Department of Natural Resources and to the Department of Transportation, requesting that the liability issue be addressed, and invite Minister MacDonnell to view the old wharf piers at North East Point Beach for his information. It is believed that the Province has an obligation under Section 15 of the Municipal Government Act to address this dangerous condition on their property.

Motion carried unanimously.

POLICE ADVISORY BOARDS

Members were informed that training for the members of the Police Advisory Boards had taken place in Shelburne the previous Saturday. These boards are being set up by the Nova Scotia Department of Justice. It is proposed that the boards will meet quarterly.

Resolution COW100510

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by C. Stoddard that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to the Town and the local RCMP Sergeant recommending that the Police Advisory Board be set up as soon as possible and become active as soon as possible as this matter has been delayed for a considerable amount of time.

Motion carried unanimously.

BARRINGTON REGIONAL CURLING CLUB REQUEST

Members of the Barrington Regional Curling Club had appeared before the Committee at a previous meeting to present the financial results of the Club for the current operating season.

It is recommended by Municipal Staff that a grant of \$10,000.00 be provided to the Barrington Regional Curling Club for the purpose of reducing their operating costs and also that the Municipality invest \$4,200.00 in IREP Energy Project that will be completed at the Club in order to reduce future power costs.

Moved by M. Atkinson and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality provide a \$10,000.00 grant to the Barrington Regional Curling Club to be included in its budget for the coming fiscal year, 2010/2011.

Resolution COW100511

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded L. Halliday that the previous motion be deferred for consideration until the Club president can be consulted regarding the current financial situation at the Club.

Motion carried unanimously.

BUILDING INSPECTOR

Members were informed that the candidate selected had been offered the position of Building Inspector and he had declined to accept the position.

It was suggested that the position then be offered to the next most qualified candidate and that the Committee enter into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing the wage to be offered.

Members did not wish to enter into Closed Session at this time and therefore this matter has been deferred to the next Council meeting to be held on May 10, 2010.

VON TRI-COUNTY WALK-A-THON

Correspondence has been received indicating that the VON will be hosting their annual walk-a-thon at 10:00 a.m., on May 22nd, in Yarmouth. Members are asked to respond if they wish to attend.

KIDNEY DIALYSIS CLINIC

This matter was referred to the Committee from the previous meeting of Council. It was again reiterated that people from the area are travelling to Yarmouth for renal dialysis, and that Municipal Council should continue to pursue having a renal dialysis satellite clinic set up in the Municipality.

YEAR OF THE LOBSTER COMMITTEE

An email has been received from ACOA indicating that the application for funding of a radio advertisement program for the fall of the 2010 and the spring of 2011 has been turned down by the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. This matter will be further addressed at the next meeting of Council.

BUDGET MEETINGS

Meeting dates must be set for members to review a proposed budget for the 2010/2011 fiscal year.

It was agreed that members would begin their budget considerations on May 18th after the consideration of capital projects for the current year. It was also agreed that budget considerations would be continued at 10:00 a.m. on May 19th, and additional meetings would be set as required.

VON

Correspondence has been received requesting the declaration of VON week. This will be forwarded to Council.

TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD

Correspondence has been received requesting attendance of a representative at the Lieutenant Governor's Awards in early June.

This will be forwarded to Council.

LIGHTHOUSE ROAD

Members were informed that no response has been received from the Department of Transportation in regards to the Municipality's request for graveling of Lighthouse Road in Baccaro.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 9:46 p.m.

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting

On website May 4, 2010.