

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

July 19, 2010

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, at 6:30 p.m., in the Jury Room, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington, N.S., with the following members present:

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

CLOSED SESSION

Members entered in Closed Session for the purpose of discussing the Waste Collection Contract and the purchase of property for a sewage treatment plant site for the Cape Sable Island Sewer Project.

Having completed their discussion of these matters, members then relocated to the Council Chambers to enter into Open Session.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Crow's Neck Beach.
- Department of Transportation.
- Garbage.

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 G. El-Jakl and seconded by C. Stoddard that the minutes of the last previous meeting held July 5, 2010 be approved as circulated.

CAPE SABLE ISLAND SEWER

Resolution COW100706

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by M. Atkinson that an agreement be drafted for the purchase of property on Cape Sable Island for a sewage treatment plant site.

AFFIRMATIVE

Murray Atkinson
George El-Jakl
Louise Halliday
Shaun Hatfield
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
Cathy Stoddard

NEGATIVE

Cecil O'Donnell

Motion carried.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Barrington Regional Curling Club

Mr. Bob Cushing appeared before the meeting on behalf of the Barrington Regional Curling Club. He informed members that the grant from the Municipality has been received and the members are very appreciative of the support of the Municipality. This grant indicates the value that Council places on the Club in our community. Mr. Cushing indicated that the Club had raised approximately \$900.00 as a result of the recent trivia night that had been hosted at the Club and they will be hosting another trivia night on July 31st and all council members are invited to attend.

Having completed his report, Mr. Cushing then retired from the meeting.

RCMP Report

Sgt. Bob Forbes appeared before the meeting and circulated a written report of RCMP calls for the month of June 2010.

Sgt. Forbes indicated that Cst. Schmalz is on maternity leave until June 2011, and that Cst. Drenth is on parental leave until February of 2011. Cst. Mark Israel will be coming to the Municipality on August 11th and working out of the Detachment. Cst. Swim is also doing shifts in the Detachment during the summer months while school is not in session.

Sgt. Forbes informed members that no complaints have been received at the Detachment regarding the supply of towing services to the RCMP in the area. He indicated that he will be having a meeting with suppliers of towing services in order to discuss establishing a list from which these services will be obtained.

Sgt. Forbes also indicated that the Police Advisory Committee is scheduled to have their first meeting during the month of September.

It was noted that there was a significant number of false alarms reported during the month of June.

Resolution COW100707

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. Stoddard that Municipal Employees obtain information on a by-law related to false security alarms and it be brought back to committee for consideration.

Motion carried unanimously.

Having completed his discussion of these matters, Sgt. Forbes retired from the meeting at approximately 7:30 p.m.

MINISTER STERLING BELLIVEAU INTERVIEW

Our MLA, Minister Sterling Belliveau, appeared before the meeting with his Executive Assistant, Joy Knight, for the purpose of discussing municipal issues. A variety of municipal issues were brought up with Minister Belliveau, including the following:

- The Minister was informed that the old bridge in Clyde River near Quinn's Falls Road was in need of cleaning. This old bridge is maintained by the Department of Transportation and the area needs to be cleaned so that the water can flow more easily there and fish can pass as required.

The Minister will pass this information along to the Department of Transportation to be addressed.

- It was also brought to the attention of the Minister that property is now for sale that will provide access to Crow's Neck Beach in East Baccaro. It was suggested that the Province should purchase this property so that local residents will have access to Crow's Neck Beach.

The Minister informed members that this had been brought to his attention this afternoon by a local resident and he will be forwarding this concern to the Department of Natural Resources.

- The community roads were also discussed with the Minister.

The Minister informed members that his government has included a 50% increase in paving needed across the Province in the 2011/2012 fiscal budget for the Department of Transportation. He also indicated that there are now four tenders out for road repairs and paving in Shelburne County. These tenders have been issued within the last month. One of the tenders includes paving of the No. 3 highway from the Cape Sable Island Causeway to the first Bear Point turnoff.

The Minister also addressed the decision not to continue supporting the CAT ferry. He indicated that his government believed that this ferry service was not sustainable and should no longer be supported with taxpayer funding. As a result this boat was withdrawn.

- It was impressed upon the Minister that the Municipality has health care issues that need to be addressed. These include the recruitment of doctors to the area and the desire to have a local dialysis clinic in the Barrington area.
- Economic development was also emphasized with the Minister. Now that the Business Park in Barrington Passage is almost completed it will be necessary for the Department of Economic and Rural Development to help the Municipality find tenants for the park and to locate new businesses for Shelburne County.
- Worker's Compensation premiums was also brought to the Minister's attention.

The Minister was well aware of this issue and continues to bring it to the attention of the Federal Fisheries Minister as well as to the attention of the Workers Compensation Board. He informed the committee that a Safety Council is being formed in the fishing industry which will make the industry a safer workplace. He also suggested that it may be necessary to subdivide the fishing industry sector into smaller groups for Workers Compensation Board purposes.

- It was also brought to the attention of members that more funding is required to complete the multi-purpose trail in the Wood's Harbour area.
- Economic development was further discussed in relation to an agency being established for Shelburne County. Although funding for an Economic Development Coordinator has been suggested in the short term for one year, it is necessary to have a longer term approach to the economic development needs of the County. This can be done by putting a proper agency in place.
- The paving of the lower portion of McGray Avenue was also brought to the attention of the Minister. This section of road is used by local residents and tourists for recreation purposes for the purpose of accessing the North East Point Beach. It is also used by the fishing industry for commercial purposes to access the wharfs along McGray Avenue during the fishing and lobster seasons.
- It was also suggested to the Minister that the guardrail along the Cape Sable Island Causeway should be replaced with a stronger guardrail.
- The Minister was informed that members are very concerned with job losses in the fishing industry. There is much concern regarding licences being sold outside the community and the potential for a quota system being introduced in this industry.

The Minister informed members that consultation is now taking place with the industry to develop various alternatives for lobster fishing regulation.

- It was impressed upon the Minister that there is much need for nurses and nurse practitioners in the area as well as doctors.
- It was also suggested that a ferry connecting to Shelburne County may be an alternative to the previous ferry.

The Minister informed members that this consideration would be passed along to the Department of Economic and Rural Development.

- The matter of having a rock wall constructed along Lighthouse Road in Baccaro was also brought to the attention of the Minister.
- Minister Belliveau was also informed that the previous Regional Development Authority had been in discussions with cranberry farmers regarding the project in the Municipality of Barrington. Since there is no Economic Development Agency serving our area at the present time it was suggested that the Department of Economic Development further investigate this matter.

Having completed the discussion of various subjects with members, the Minister then retired from the meeting at approximately 8:30 p.m.

GRANT REQUESTS

Several grant requests previously brought forward to committee have not been dealt with as a result of the need for further information and consideration.

Shag Harbour Temperance Hall

Applications have been received for both an Organization Grant and a Community Grant for electrical repairs to the Shag Harbour Temperance Hall.

Resolution COW100708

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by C. Stoddard that it be recommended to Council that \$500.00 be granted from the District 2 Community Grants Fund to the Chapel Hill Historical Society in order to carry out electrical repairs to the Shag Harbour Temperance Hall where the Historical Society ordinarily meets.

Motion carried unanimously.

Seal Island Light

An application has been received from the Seal Island Light Museum requesting funding for the completion of a walkway at the Seal Island Light Museum. It is unclear from the application where this walkway is located. More information will be obtained from the Cape Sable Historical Society before further consideration of this request.

Wood's Harbour Do For Others Club

The Do for Others Club is requesting funding from the Municipality for the maintenance of the Greenwood Cemetery.

Resolution COW100709

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by S. Hatfield that it be recommended to Council that a grant of \$500.00 be provided from the District 1 Community Grants Fund for cemetery maintenance at Greenwood Cemetery in Wood's Harbour to be done by the Wood's Harbour Do for Others Club.

AFFIRMATIVE

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

NEGATIVE

Murray Atkinson
Louise Halliday

Motion carried.

Sou'West Nova Metis Council

The Sou'West Nova Metis Council has submitted a Community Grant Request for the purpose of deferring the cost of their annual gathering to be held on Cape Sable Island. The Metis Council is requesting a grant of \$812.00.

After some discussion it was agreed that a grant would be provided in equal amounts from five different Community Grant Funds.

Resolution COW100710

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that a total of \$812.00 be provided from the Community Grant Funds of Districts 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7 for the purpose of deferring the cost of the Sou'West Nova Metis Council gathering to be held on Cape Sable Island this summer.

Motion carried unanimously.

DRAFT MUNICIPAL GRANTS POLICY

Consideration of replacing the Community Grants Policy and Grants to Organizations Policy with a Municipal Grants Policy was deferred to this meeting from a previous meeting of the committee.

Members then discussed the various aspects of the proposed policy.

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by D. Messenger that further consideration of this policy include a per capita distribution of the grants to the various districts of the Municipality, and that consideration of this policy be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

AFFIRMATIVE

Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
Cecil O'Donnell
Cathy Stoddard

NEGATIVE

Murray Atkinson
George El-Jakl
Louise Halliday
Shaun Hatfield

Motion defeated.

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by M. Atkinson that the policies currently in place remain as they exist without change.

AFFIRMATIVE

Murray Atkinson
Shaun Hatfield
Cecil O'Donnell

NEGATIVE

George El-Jakl
Louise Halliday
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
Cathy Stoddard

Motion defeated.

Resolution COW100711

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by D. Messenger that Municipal Staff redraft the proposed Municipal Grants Policy omitting paragraph 11 in the new policy and deferring further consideration of the policy to the next meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

AFFIRMATIVE

George El-Jakl
Louise Halliday
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
Cathy Stoddard

NEGATIVE

Murray Atkinson
Shaun Hatfield
Cecil O'Donnell

Motion carried

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO POLICY 22, "USE OF MUNICIPAL VEHICLES POLICY"

Members were informed that this policy is being amended to include a new paragraph "E" that provides for a "no idling" policy for municipal vehicles.

There then followed some discussion regarding this policy amendment.

Resolution COW100712

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. Stoddard that paragraph 3 in Section E be amended by removing the word "vehicle" and inserting the word "employee".

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution COW100713

Moved by C. Stoddard and seconded by S. Hatfield that members continue this evening's meeting until all matters on the agenda are fully dealt with.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution COW100714

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. Stoddard that notice be given at the next subsequent council meeting of amendments to Policy No. 22, "Use of Municipal Vehicles Policy".

Motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF BY-LAW NO. 9, "PEACE, ORDER, MISCHIEF NUISANCES"

Resolution COW100715

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by C. O'Donnell that consideration of amendments to By-Law No. 9 be deferred to the next Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

ELECTRICAL TENDERS

Members were informed that the Municipality's current electrical tender will expire at the end of September. It is proposed that a new tender be published to cover the next three (3) year period beginning October 1, 2010.

Resolution COW100716

Moved by C. Stoddard and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality issue a new tender for electrical services for the next three year period beginning October 1, 2010.

Motion carried unanimously.

COST SHARED PAVING OF HILL ROAD AND MCGRAY AVENUE

Conflict of Interest

Councillor Hatfield declared a conflict of interest for the discussion of this matter as he is a resident of McGray Avenue. He retired from the discussion table to the gallery.

Members were informed that residents of Hill Road were concerned that the information received from the Department of Transportation regarding the cost of paving Hill Road is an estimated amount. They are concerned that if the cost exceeds the estimated amount, their share for paving may increase.

Resolution COW`00717

Moved by C. Stoddard and seconded by C. O'Donnell that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality cover any excess costs over and above the estimated cost of paving both Hill Road and McGray Avenue.

Motion carried unanimously.

Councillor Hatfield then returned to the meeting table.

EASTLINK

Members were informed that the Warden and Clerk had met with representatives from Eastlink Cable Television to discuss the broadcast of council and committee meetings.

Eastlink has laid off most of its community production staff in Nova Scotia. As a result they are not able to produce any local programming. Eastlink will provide access to their network to show local community programming but will not produce this programming. As a result of these discussions, Eastlink was requested to provide an estimate of the cost of purchasing the equipment necessary to produce local council meetings to be aired on Eastlink Cable at a later date. The minimum approximate cost of the programming was in the range of \$10,000.00.

Resolution COW100718

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality not accept the proposal made by Eastlink Television regarding the production of council meetings for telecast.

AFFIRMATIVE

Murray Atkinson
Louise Halliday
Shaun Hatfield
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
Cecil O'Donnell
Cathy Stoddard

NEGATIVE

George El-Jakl

Motion carried.

CBDC RE CLIMATE DATA PROJECT

The Community Business Development Corporation has made application to the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency for funding for a Climate Data Project along the South Shore of Nova Scotia. The purpose of this project will be to determine the areas that have the climate that is suitable for establishing commercial berry crops, including highbush blueberries and cranberries. In order to do this it is necessary to monitor climate conditions over a three year period. The preliminary application to ACOA has been approved. A contribution from various municipalities who will be hosting this climate data instrumentation will be required. It may be necessary for the Municipality to make a contribution of \$1,000.00 towards this project at the time that the final approval is received from ACOA.

SPCA AGREEMENT

The Municipality has an agreement with the Yarmouth Office of the SPCA to accept cats, dogs and other animals from the Municipality when necessary.

Correspondence has been received from the SPCA Office in Yarmouth indicating that because they had in place a “no kill” philosophy since last fall, the number of cats they now have in their facility is overwhelming. The SPCA indicates they have capacity for 59 animals, and as of July 15, 2010 have 112 animals in their care. As a result they will not be accepting cats from the Municipality in the immediate future. Once this over capacity has been resolved, they will again accept cats from the Municipality. This does not affect the acceptance of other animals.

This matter will be further discussed at a subsequent meeting of Council.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

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

CROW’S NECK BEACH

This matter was addressed by Minister Belliveau during his discussion.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

It was suggested that the Department of Transportation be contacted to determine if grass could be cut along the shoulder of the road on Cape Sable Island prior to the marathon being held this Sunday.

This will be done by Municipal Staff.

GARBAGE

There are Red Cross donation bins located next to the Subway parking lot in Barrington Passage. There is much garbage littered around the front of these bins as a result of green bags of waste being placed there for collection.

It was suggested that Shoppers Drug Mart be called and asked to clean up this garbage in front of the bins. (It was noted by the Clerk the next morning that this garbage had already been cleaned up.)

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 10:40 p.m.

_____ Chair Secretary for the Meeting

On website July 21, 2010.