

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

September 20, 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:

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

Absent was member Shaun Hatfield due to vacation.

- Dr. Kenneth Yee
- Pam Anderson
- Mayor Leigh Stoddart
- Deputy Mayor Cecil Brannen
  
- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

### CLOSED SESSION

#### Physician Recruitment - Dr. Yee

Members entered into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing the current circumstances of physician recruitment with Dr. Yee.

Members pursued this discussion with Dr. Yee, his secretary and the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of the Town of Clark's Harbour, for a brief time during which Dr. Yee informed members of his situation and how it affects the physician he is now mentoring in Barrington Passage.

Having completed this discussion, Dr. Yee, his secretary, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor then retired from the meeting.

#### Legal Advice

Members then were briefly informed of legal advice provided by the Municipal Solicitor regarding guarantees given by the Municipality to the Royal Bank for a portion of a line of credit for the South West Shore Development Authority.

Having completed their Closed Session, members then recessed to the Court Room for their regular committee meeting.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- EHS Award.
- Lobstering.
- Eastlink Re: High Speed Internet.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Moved** by G. El-Jakl and seconded by D. Messenger that the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Moved** by G. El-Jakl and seconded by C. Stoddard that minutes of the last previous meeting held September 7, 2010 to be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

BARRINGTON REGIONAL CURLING CLUB

Mr. Bob Cushing appeared before the meeting on behalf of the Barrington Regional Curling Club. He informed members that the low ceiling has now been installed under the Ice Rink Energy Program. In addition, fixtures have been changed. The Curling Club has been informed that the estimated annual savings in electrical power will be in the range of \$3,300.00. The Club held its Fall Fling fundraiser last Saturday and will be holding curling registration on October 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.

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

RCMP MONTHLY REPORT

Sgt. Forbes appeared before the meeting for the purpose of providing a monthly report on RCMP activities. He presented a monthly statistical report for the month of August 2010. Sgt. Forbes indicated that the Joint Police Advisory Committee will be having its first meeting this coming Thursday evening. He also indicated that the Crown Prosecution Service from Yarmouth has been providing more than adequate service to the RCMP Detachment in Barrington, and has been very cooperative in accommodating their requests.

Cst. Jonathan Saxby will be returning to the Detachment some time next week for an indefinite period.

Having completed his report Sgt. Forbes then retired from the meeting at approximately 7:20 p.m.

STRAY AND ABANDONED CATS

Resolution COW100917

**Moved** by G. El-Jakl and seconded by M. Atkinson that discussion of this matter be deferred until a future meeting when Ms. Minnie Atkinson will be available to attend.

Motion carried unanimously.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN

Prior to the meeting members had been provided with a copy of the Municipality's proposed Capital Investment Plan for the coming year. This plan must be submitted to Service Nova Scotia every year before the end of September so that the Municipality will qualify to receive the Gas Tax Funds. This plan is the result of priorities having been reviewed and assessed by councillors. The plan covers the fiscal years March 31, 2011 to March 31, 2015.

Resolution COW100918

**Moved** by G. El-Jakl and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that the proposed Capital Investment Plan be approved for the Municipality for this fiscal year.

Motion carried unanimously.

FRELICK PROPERTY

The Municipality is in the process of purchasing property from Mr. Bob Frelick in Stoney Island for the purpose of building a sewage treatment plant. It has been indicated that there may be graves of two infants on this property located close together in one section of it. As a result the Department of Environment and the Department of Education and Culture have been contacted to determine what action needs to be taken. As a result, archeological consultants have been contacted and have provided a work plan and an estimated cost of determining whether or not grave sites are located on the property and what should be done in the case that they are. The cost of carrying out this work is under \$10,000.00. The consulting firm presenting the work plan is Cultural Resource Management Group Ltd. who were referred to Municipal Staff by the Nova Scotia Archeological Society.

Resolution COW100919

**Moved** by C. Stoddard and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality engage Cultural Resource Management Group Ltd. for the purpose of evaluating any archeological artifacts located on the Frelick property and determining a future course of action for the Municipality in regards to them.

Motion carried unanimously.

NORTH EAST POINT BEACH SIGN

Members were informed that a price of \$600.00, plus H.S.T., has been obtained from John Smith, Signsmith, for the construction of an interpretive sign to be located at the North East Point Beach.

Resolution COW100920

**Moved** by G. El-Jakl and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality purchase and install an interpretive sign at the North East Point Beach at a cost of \$600.00, plus H.S.T.

Motion carried unanimously.

AIR CONDITIONING IN ADMINISTRATIVE CENTRE

A memo has been received from the Property Services Manager indicating alternatives to improve the air conditioning in the Administrative Centre.

It was the consensus of members that estimated prices need to be obtained prior to proceeding with any action on this matter. The Property Services Manager will be requested to provide estimates of the cost of this work.

COMMUNITY GRANT REQUEST

A Community Grant Request has been received from the Nova Scotia Boat Racers Association for \$300.00. It was indicated by a member that this \$300.00 is to cover the cost of purchasing insurance for the event that was held at the Causeway the previous weekend.

Resolution COW100921

**Moved** by G. El-Jakl and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that a grant of \$300.00 be provided from the uncommitted portion of Grants to Organizations to pay for the insurance premium, for this year only, as a one time grant, in order for the organization to get started.

Motion carried unanimously.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

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

EHS Award

It was noted by a member that Mr. James Currie has received an award for his services as a paramedic in Shelburne County.

Resolution COW100922

**Moved** by G. El-Jakl and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that a letter of congratulations be sent to Mr. James Currie thanking him for his services as a paramedic in this area.

Motion carried unanimously.

LOBSTERING ISSUE

Members were informed that a meeting had taken place in Yarmouth this past week suggesting that District LFA 34 be divided into smaller sections for the purpose of record keeping. The fishers in the area believe this is a further attempt to provide leverage for the purpose of putting in place quotas in the lobster fishery.

The Chairperson requested the Warden assume the chair for the purpose of discussion of this issue.

Warden El-Jakl then assumed the Chair.

Resolution COW100923

**Moved** by C. O'Donnell and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to the provincial and federal ministers of fisheries for information asking where they stand on the issue of quotas in the lobstering industry, and where does their government stand on this issue as well.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Warden returned the Chairmanship of the meeting to Councillor O'Donnell.

Resolution COW100924

**Moved** by D. Messenger and seconded by L. Halliday that this letter also be sent to the municipalities of Argyle, Shelburne and Yarmouth.

Motion carried unanimously.

ASSESSMENTS ON COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Concern was expressed by a member that commercial assessment on properties that were no longer being used commercially should be adjusted.

It was suggested that there be some type of alternative assessment, or alternative method of taxing these properties, since they are no longer being used commercially. At present, if this is not done, the properties are being demolished so that the taxes are lost on these buildings, with the exception of course of the property tax.

Resolution COW100925

**Moved** by L. Halliday and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality contact the Property Valuation Services Corporation to determine if there are alternative methods of assessment or taxation for properties that are no longer being actively used commercially.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 8:08 p.m.

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Chair

Secretary for the Meeting

**On website September 21, 2010.**