

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

November 29, 2010

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 6:30 p.m., in the Conference Room, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington, 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

CLOSED SESSION

Members entered into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing the purchase of land at Sherose Island. An Agreement of Sale has been received from Public Works and Government Services Canada for the purchase of this property. The Agreement of Sale was read, paragraph by paragraph, to the meeting, for the information and review of members. The Agreement of Sale had previously been forwarded to the Municipal Solicitor for his comments. Members will further consider this Agreement of Sale once the Solicitor's comments have been provided.

After a brief break, members then entered into the regular session of committee at 7:00 p.m.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Louise Halliday indicated that she would declare conflict of interest when the JEPP Funding application matter was being discussed by the committee.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Herring Workers Program Update.
- Warden's Report.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by M. Atkinson that the minutes of the last previous meeting held November 15, 2010 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

C.S.I. SCHOOL SITE

Correspondence has been received from Edward and Mary Allen, by email, indicating that they wished to inform the SAC, the Tri-County Regional School Board, and the Municipality of the District of Barrington, that they would be pleased to offer enough land for sale to provide for modern day requirements for centrally located, state of the art school/community facility, at the Centreville site, providing sufficient space for currently perceived requirements as well as room for future expansion if such need should arise.

Members then discussed the availability of this land for future expansion of the Cape Sable Island Elementary School.

Resolution COW101126

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to the Tri-County Regional School Board and the School Advisory Committee indicating that the Municipality would consider purchase of additional property from Edward and Mary Allen for use of the Cape Sable Island Elementary School, if necessary.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution COW101127

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to the Allens thanking them for their offer to sell property and asking them to indicate the size of the property which they will provide and at what price.

Motion carried unanimously.

TAX REDUCTION RE: LORIMER NICKERSON

The home of Mr. Lorimer Nickerson was recently destroyed by fire. This property is located at 793 Stoney Island Road, Clam Point. Mr. Nickerson has applied under the Tax Reduction Policy of the Municipality for a reduction in the taxes on his property. The Assessment Office has been asked to reassess the property and has provided the appropriate reassessment.

Resolution COW101128

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. O'Donnell that it be recommended to Council that the taxes on the property of Mr. Lorimer Nickerson at 793 Stoney Island Road, Clam Point, be reduced proportionately to the reduction in assessment as a result of destruction of the property by fire.

Motion carried unanimously.

TAX REDUCTION APPLICATION - SANDRA SYMONDS

Sandra Symonds who is formerly Sandra Goreham has made application under the Tax Reduction Policy to have the property taxes reduced on property she owns at #6576, Highway No. 3, Lower Wood's Harbour. This property was gutted by fire on January 27, 2009.

Resolution COW101129

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by C. O'Donnell that it be recommended to Council that a proportional tax reduction be provided on property owned by Sandra Symonds (Goreham) at #6576, Highway No. 3, Lower Wood's Harbour.

Motion carried unanimously.

CHRISTMAS BREAK

Members were informed that it is proposed that the Municipal Office be closed for 3 ½ days during the Christmas holidays. This will include the Building Inspection Office. The Municipal Office and the Building Inspection Office will close at noon, on Friday, December 24, 2010 and re-open at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 4, 2011. All employees who will be off during these hours will use vacation time.

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by S. Hatfield that it be recommended to Council that a cost of living increase to staff be paid as the Christmas bonus.

After some discussion regarding this motion the Chair ruled the motion out of order as it was not pertinent to Christmas break and had not been added to the agenda previously.

Moved by S. Hatfield that cost of living increase be added to the agenda.

The Warden ruled this addition out of order as it had not been added earlier in the meeting at the appropriate time.

Resolution COW101130

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that the Municipal Office and Building Inspection Office close for the 3 ½ days required to provide a Christmas break, from noon on December 24, 2010 with the offices opening again at 8:30 a.m., on Tuesday, January 4, 2010.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution COW101131

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by C. O'Donnell that it be recommended to Council that the Municipal Personnel Policy be amended to deal with the Christmas break on an ongoing basis.

AFFIRMATIVE

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

NEGATIVE

Cecil O'Donnell

Motion carried.

MUNICIPAL PHYSICAL ACTIVITY LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Attached to the agenda is a proposal for the Municipal Physical Activity Leadership Program prepared by the Recreation Coordinator. This program would be funded 50% by the Municipality and 50% by the Nova Scotia Office of Health Promotion and Protection.

It is proposed by the Recreation Director that a Physical Activity Coordinator be hired in order to develop a Municipal Physical Activity Strategy and to provide programs and activities under the MPAL initiative. It is also proposed that the Town of Clark's Harbour be requested to participate in this program as this will increase the funding from the Province by an additional \$5,000.00.

There then followed some discussion regarding the activities of the Recreation Director and of the proposed Physical Activity Coordinator.

There also was some query regarding the funding of this program for the remainder of the current fiscal year.

It was agreed by consensus of members that the Recreation Director be invited to make her presentation regarding this program at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

FIRE DEPARTMENTS SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

It was previously agreed by members that the fire departments semi-annual meeting not be held until after the final Fire Services Report had been received and reviewed.

It is anticipated that the final report will be received some time in the coming week.

It was the consensus of members that the fire chiefs be contacted and asked to provide an appropriate meeting date during the month of January 2011 for the semi-annual meeting.

ME TO WE TRI-COUNTY REQUEST

The Me to We Tri-County Group is requesting permission to raise funds at the Barrington Municipal Arena. This group wishes to conduct their "One Brick at a Time" campaign at the Arena in order to raise funds so that they may travel to Kenya, Africa, in March of 2012 to build a school for underprivileged children. Their campaign to raise funds is entitled "One Brick at a Time Campaign".

Members were informed that the Arena Manager has telephoned a representative of the Ice Dogs, Junior "C" hockey team and a representative of Shelburne County Minor Hockey. Both of these representatives indicated that their organizations would have no objection to this fundraising campaign.

Resolution COW101132

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by C. Stoddard that it be recommended to Council that permission be given to the Me to We Tri-County to conduct a fundraiser entitled "One Brick at a Time" campaign at the Barrington Municipal Arena until December 24, 2010.

Motion carried unanimously.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ENFORCEMENT

Members are informed that the Region 6 Solid Waste Management Steering Committee will be receiving a report of consultations on Solid Waste Management Enforcement. This report will be received by the Steering Committee at their meeting on Friday, December 3, 2010, in Bridgewater. Councillor Atkinson is the Municipality's representative on the Steering Committee and will return with further information regarding this report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT POLICY PURSUANT TO SECTION 57 OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT ACT

As a result of the report recently received from the Ombudsman's Office, an Economic Development Grant Policy has been drafted for review of the committee and recommendation to Council. This policy was reviewed in detail, paragraph by paragraph, indicating appropriate amendments.

It was suggested that an accountability clause be added to the policy so that the Municipality could confirm that grants issued were used for the purpose intended, and were subsequently reported on by the organizations receiving the grant.

The appropriate revisions will be made to the policy and it will be returned to committee for further consideration.

HIGHWAY BEACH SIGNS

A quote has been received from John Smith for the supply of 8' X 10' and 8' X 12' signs to be erected on Highway 103 displaying a local white sandy beach.

Resolution COW101133

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality purchase and install two 8' X 12' signs on Highway 103 near the appropriate boundaries to the Municipality.

Motion carried unanimously.

COOKE'S AQUACULTURE

Correspondence had been received at Council from the Town of Shelburne regarding the development of fish farms in Shelburne Harbour. This correspondence was referred to Committee of the Whole for further discussion and consideration. The Town of Shelburne has requested a letter of support.

Resolution COW101134

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. O'Donnell that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to the Town of Shelburne wishing them well with their project and also indicating to the Town that the Municipality wishes to remain neutral in regards to this development.

Motion carried unanimously.

JEPP APPLICATION

Conflict of Interest

Councillor Halliday declared conflict of interest for the discussion of this matter as her husband sells diesel powered generators. Councillor Halliday vacated the room during this discussion.

There then followed some discussion of the need for a generator at the Barrington Ground Search & Rescue building. This building is now being used by the Emergency Management Planning Committee as an Emergency Operations Centre.

After some discussion it was the consensus of members that the Emergency Management Coordinator and his Assistant both be asked to attend at the next Committee of the Whole meeting in order to explain their request for a generator and also to discuss the relocation of the Emergency Operations Centre to the Barrington Ground Search & Rescue building.

Councillor Halliday then returned to the meeting room.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

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

HERRING WORKERS PROGRAM UPDATE

Members were informed that twelve (12) herring workers had been employed by the Municipality under this program. To date, nine (9) of these workers have completed the required hours to qualify for employment insurance. The two other workers will complete their hours some time between now and Christmas.

Resolution COW101135

Moved by L. Halliday and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to the MLA thanking him for instituting this program.

Motion carried unanimously.

WARDEN'S REPORT

A draft of a Warden's Report to be published in the local newspaper was circulated to members for their information and review.

It was the consensus of members that the section addressing the business park be removed and replaced with a section indicating that it anticipated that Bay Side Home will be completed and opened in the spring of 2011. It was also suggested that the Seasons' Greeting also make reference to the new year as well as the Christmas season and some reference be made to enjoying Nova Scotia lobster also on the report.

ORGANIZATIONAL STUDY

Members then discussed the final Organizational Study Report which had been presented by Mr. Jack Novack of Dalhousie University. The final report was discussed by Mr. Novack at a meeting with Council and then at a separate meeting with managers of the municipal departments. It was suggested that members should proceed cautiously and they need to "think this through". It was suggested that the department managers discuss the report with the committee.

There then ensued some discussion of councillors reporting at council meetings, when was this practice started, and is it in the municipal policy. There was also some query as to what funds can be used from reserves for the payment of a recruiter to hire a CAO.

Resolution COW101136

Moved by L. Halliday and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to the Minister of Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations requesting funding to hire a recruiter for searching for a CAO for the Municipality.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was also consensus of members that Mr. Paul Wills, the Municipal Advisor, be requested to meet with the committee for the purpose of discussing this report further. Mr. Wills will be contacted in order to arrange such a meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 9:07 p.m.

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting

On website December 1, 2010.