

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Barrington Municipal Council held in the Council Chambers, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington, N.S., on Monday, September 13, 2010.

The meeting was called to order by the Warden at 7:00 p.m.

### ROLL CALL

The Clerk reported that all councillors representing all districts of the Municipality were present:

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

### WEBCAST

It was noted that Rick Davis was present this evening to carry out a trial webcast of the municipal council meeting.

### CLOSED SESSION

In advance to the meeting, at 6:30 p.m., a Closed Session of Council was held to deal with personnel matters.

### DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Moved** by C. O'Donnell and seconded by C. Stoddard that the minutes of the last meeting held August 23, 2010 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

### PRESENTATION TO BARRINGTON GROUND SEARCH & RESCUE GROUP

Mike Hopkins, President of the Barrington Ground Search & Rescue Group, along with other members of the group were present. The Warden presented Mr. Hopkins with the deed to the former Barrington Passage Fire Department property. The Search & Rescue Group were able to purchase this property through a cost-shared arrangement with all municipal units in Shelburne County.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Auditing Services

At a previous meeting of Council two tenders were received for auditing services for the next five year period. Tenders were received from Belliveau Veinotte and Redding CA. These tenders were reviewed and it is staff's recommendation that the tender received from Redding CA be approved.

Resolution C100901

**Moved** by C. Stoddard and seconded by M. Atkinson that the tender received from Redding CA for auditing services for the next five year period be approved as it was the lowest tender received.

Motion carried unanimously.

Cape Sable Light

Correspondence has been received from MLA Sterling Belliveau thanking Council for a copy of the letter we forwarded to the Honourable Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, regarding the divestiture of lighthouses and the future maintenance of the Cape Sable Light. Mr. Belliveau advised that his government has been working with the Federal Government to ensure that they are addressing any potential liabilities with sites, including environmental issues. He further advised that he wants to ensure that local communities are not burdened with unforeseen liabilities as a result of the Federal Governments' decision. In closing, Mr. Belliveau advised that as part of the joint Federal/Provincial lighthouse divestiture process he will be working closely with stakeholders in the Federal Department of Fisheries & Oceans.

The Clerk informed members that Mrs. Betty June Smith has provided a copy of a letter she has forwarded to the President of the Lighthouse Protection Committee and is asking that the Municipal Council join them in urging the Federal Government to restore all their lighthouse sites before divesting.

During discussion of this matter it was noted that during the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans' recent visit to the Municipality, she indicated that at no time did the Federal Government indicate they were divesting all lighthouses. The Federal Government would, however, allow community groups to take over lighthouses if they so wished.

During discussion of this matter many questions arose.

Resolution C100902

**Moved** by D. Messenger and seconded by C. Stoddard that a letter be written to MP Gerald Keddy asking what the Federal Governments' future plans are for the Cape Light.

Motion carried unanimously.

Duck Crossing Signs

At the last meeting of Council, staff was asked to obtain information from both the insurance company and the Municipal Solicitor regarding the Municipality's liability should Council decide to install "duck crossing" signs in the Barrington Passage area. The Municipal Solicitor has advised that the placing of "duck crossing" signs would be a high risk venture and cautioned that traffic and highway experts be involved before any signs are placed.

The insurance company advised that they cannot recommend for or against the signs. The risks associated are mostly with visual distractions or visual blind spots and the issues that would arise.

Resolution C100903

**Moved** by S. Hatfield and seconded by D. Messenger that the Municipal Clerk contact other municipal units to determine what process they followed when placing similar signs and that the Municipal Solicitor once again be contacted to determine what would be required from the Department of Transportation to lessen the Municipality's liability.

Motion carried unanimously.

Signage at Sand Hills and North East Point Beach Re: Drop-off

The Clerk informed members that a reply has now been received to Council's request for signs to be posted at the North East Point Beach and the Sand Hills Beach advising that there may be a significant drop-off at the end of the sand bar. The letter received is a copy of a letter addressed to MLA Sterling Belliveau from the Department of Natural Resources. The letter advises that the Department evaluates the need for signage in their provincial parks on a regular basis. The level of signage is monitored closely as too much signage actually creates a negative situation and diminishes the effectiveness when it is an issue. The Department will review its signage at Sand Hills to ensure that beach goers are aware of the tidal influences in the area. The letter further advised that the North East Point Beach is not a provincial park and suggested that the posting of warning signs would be the responsibility of the Municipality as the visitor infrastructure is on municipal property. This type of signage would not be posted on the beach area but would rather be posted at the beach access points.

Resolution C100904

**Moved** by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. O'Donnell that a letter be written to MLA Sterling Belliveau advising that people enter the water from the Department of Natural Resources property, not the Municipal property, and therefore once again request that the Department of Natural Resources post the appropriate signage.

Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Federal Gas Tax

The Federal Gas Tax Program has been extended for an additional four years, 2010 - 2014. It is, therefore, necessary that the Municipality sign a new municipal funding agreement. Under this new agreement the Municipality is scheduled to receive \$342,864.00 in the first year.

Resolution C100905

**Moved** by C. O'Donnell and seconded by D. Messenger that the Warden and Clerk be authorized to sign the Federal Gas Tax Municipal Funding Agreement 2010/2014 on behalf of the Municipality of Barrington.

Motion carried unanimously.

RCMP Invitation

Correspondence has been received from Sgt. Bob Forbes of the Barrington RCMP Detachment advising that the Commanding Officer of "H" Division has invited mayors and wardens of communities policed by RCMP to join him for a visit to the RCMP training depot in Regina, Saskatchewan. The visit is scheduled from September 26 - 28, 2010 and will include a full tour of the training facility and witness a graduation ceremony of an RCMP Troop. The Municipality will be responsible for their air fare costs to attend and the RCMP would look after lodging and meal expenses while at Regina.

Resolution C100906

**Moved** by D. Messenger and seconded by C. Stoddard that the Warden be permitted to attend the graduation ceremony and to visit the RCMP training depot should he so desire, and that the Municipality be responsible for his air fare only.

**AFFIRMATIVE**

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

**NEGATIVE**

Murray Atkinson  
Shaun Hatfield  
Cecil O'Donnell

Motion carried.

Herring Roe Processing Season

In advance to the meeting each member was provided with a copy of a letter addressed to the Honourable Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, from the Municipality of Argyle. In the letter, the Municipality of Argyle expressed concern to the Minister that due to the lack of employment in the local fish plants many seasonal fish plant workers will not have enough hours to qualify for employment benefits. The Council of the Municipality of Argyle is, therefore, requesting the Minister to take immediate action to create community work projects that would allow these workers the ability to accumulate the required amount of hours needed to collect EI, and secondly they are requesting an assessment of the current herring fishery in Southwest Nova in an effort to determine if conditions such as increased water temperatures could continue to impact the fishery.

Resolution C100907

**Moved** by D. Messenger and seconded by C. O'Donnell that a letter be forwarded to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans supporting the request of the Municipality of Argyle and a letter be forwarded to the Municipality of Argyle commending them for taking this action and that these letters be copied to MLA Sterling Belliveau.

Motion carried unanimously.

Tri-County Pregnancy Care Centre

In advance to the meeting each member was provided with a copy of a letter received from the Tri-County Pregnancy Care Centre. The letter thanked Council for their recent contribution.

YEARLY INCREMENT - LAURA LEE GREENWOOD

As a result of the Closed Session held earlier in the meeting the following motion was made.

Resolution C100908

**Moved** by D. Messenger and seconded by M. Atkinson that Laura Lee Greenwood, Accountant, be granted her yearly increment.

Motion carried unanimously.

REPORT OF COUNCILLORS

Councillor Louise Halliday

Councillor Halliday gave a brief report on her activities since the last meeting of Council.

Committee of the Whole

Mink Farm

Resolution C100909

**Moved** by L. Halliday and seconded by C. O'Donnell that a letter be sent to the Minister of Environment requesting him to stop in and investigate the odor at the mink farm as soon as possible, and also that the Minister of Agriculture be asked to stop in and investigate this matter, in person, himself, as well.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution C100910

**Moved** by L. Halliday and seconded by C. O'Donnell that an offer be extended to the owner of the mink farm providing him an opportunity to explain to the committee, or to council, what is the cause of the odor and what is being done to address this matter.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Municipal Clerk informed members that he had received a call from Dennis Moerman of the Department of Agriculture advising that an engineer would be on site at the mink farm this Wednesday and would be making a proposal to the owners on how to address the matter.

Private Roads and Civic Numbering Signs

Resolution C100911

**Moved** by L. Halliday and seconded by S. Hatfield that Municipal Staff draft a policy making the placing of civic addressing signs mandatory in the Municipality.

Motion carried unanimously.

Certificates of Recognition

**Moved** by L. Halliday and seconded by C. O'Donnell that a Certificate of Recognition be prepared for the Island & Barrington Passage Volunteer Fire Department Extrication Team that competed in the Atlantic Regional Vehicle Extrication competition in Halifax recently. This team received the best Incident Commander Award, the top safety award and placed second in the unlimited pit and were judged second place overall in the competition.

**Moved** by C. O'Donnell and seconded by S. Hatfield that the above motion be amended to provide one certificate for the team and separate certificates for each team member.

Motion carried unanimously.

The original motion as amended was then put to a vote and carried.

Resolution C100912

The original motion now reads:

“...that one certificate be prepared for the Island & Barrington Passage Volunteer Fire Department Extrication Team and that separate certificates be provided for each team member that competed in the Atlantic Regional Vehicle Extrication competition in Halifax recently. This team received the best Incident Commander Award, the top safety award and placed second in the unlimited pit, and were judged second place overall in the competition.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution C100913

**Moved** by L. Halliday and seconded by D. Messenger that a letter be sent to the Emergency Management Organization thanking them for their commitment during Hurricane Earl which recently passed through the Municipality.

Motion carried unanimously.

Fire Chief's Committee

Resolution C100914

**Moved** by L. Halliday and seconded by C. O'Donnell that Councillor Hatfield now sit on the Planning Advisory Committee and that Warden El-Jakl sit on the Fire Chief's Committee so that the Municipality will continue to be represented on both committees.

Motion carried unanimously.

Department of Transportation Signage

Resolution C100915

**Moved** by L. Halliday and seconded by M. Atkinson that a letter be sent to the Department of Transportation requesting that a sign be placed in Barrington Passage near the Cape Sable Island Causeway intersection directing the public to the communities further west along Highway #3, including Wood's Harbour and Shag Harbour.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution C100916

**Moved** by L. Halliday and seconded by C. Stoddard that a letter be sent to the Department of Transportation requesting that a guardrail be placed along the highway, at Twinkie's Corner, in Shag Harbour.

Motion carried unanimously.

Physician Recruitment

Resolution C100917

**Moved** by L. Halliday and seconded by D. Messenger that a letter of thanks be sent to Dr. Abud expressing the community's gratitude for her service over the past four years.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was noted that Dr. Abud's contract will expire January 2011.

During discussion of this matter it was noted that Dr. Gilmore and her husband will be visiting the area on Wednesday. She will meet with other doctors in the area and a tour of the communities has been scheduled. All councillors available to meet with her on Wednesday are asked to be at the Municipal Office at 2:30 p.m.

Resolution C100918

**Moved** by L. Halliday and seconded by S. Hatfield that the Warden and Clerk put information together for Dr. Gilmore explaining incentives currently offered by the Municipality.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was noted that Dr. Gilmore will also be visiting Shelburne, Digby and Weymouth.

Wind Farms

Resolution C100919

**Moved** by L. Halliday and seconded by S. Hatfield that Atlantic Wind Power be contacted in order to request what are their requirements regarding the location of wind turbine generators.

Motion carried unanimously.

Stray Cats

Resolution C100920

**Moved** by L. Halliday and seconded by M. Atkinson that a letter be sent to Mrs. Minnie Atkinson thanking her for her suggestions which were reported in the local newspaper and asking her for potential locations for additional signs throughout the Municipality.

Motion carried unanimously.

Waste Collection Contract

Resolution C100921

**Moved** by L. Halliday and seconded by C. O'Donnell that the Clerk and Solicitor meet with the Waste Collector to negotiate terms of reconciliation on contract matters.

Motion carried unanimously.

Barrington Passage Business Park

Resolution C100922

**Moved** by L. Halliday and seconded by C. Stoddard that the Solicitor contact the MacDonnell Group to finalize the engineering requirements on the Barrington Passage Business Park.

Motion carried unanimously.

Councillor Murray Atkinson

Councillor Atkinson gave a brief report on his activities since the last meeting of Council.

Councillor Shaun Hatfield

Councillor Hatfield gave a brief report on his activities since the last meeting of Council.

Councillor Cecil O'Donnell

Councillor O'Donnell gave a brief report on his activities since the last meeting of Council.

Fire Chief's Committee

Councillor O'Donnell reported on concerns expressed at the last Fire Chief's Committee meeting regarding the water hole in Port LaTour. It was suggested that the roadway is not wide enough to allow trucks to load from the side.

Fire Prevention Week

Councillor O'Donnell informed members that Fire Prevention Week will be held October 3<sup>rd</sup> through to Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. The fire departments are planning a display at Wilson's Shopping Centre on October 9, 2010. The Fire Chief's Committee is requesting that the Municipality place an advertisement in the paper advising the public of this event.

Councillor Cathy Stoddard

Councillor Stoddard gave a brief report on her activities since the last meeting of Council.

Deputy Warden Donna LeBlanc-Messenger

Deputy Warden Messenger gave a brief report on her activities since the last meeting of Council.

## REPORT OF WARDEN

The Warden gave a brief report on his activities since the last meeting of Council.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Electrical Tenders

The Clerk informed members that an advertisement was placed in the Coast Guard Newspaper inviting tenders for electrical services for the next three year period commencing October 1, 2010. One tender was received which was then opened by the Warden. The tender was from Brannen's Electric Ltd., Barrington.

### Resolution C100923

**Moved** by C. O'Donnell and seconded by C. Stoddard that the tender received from Brannen's Electric Ltd. be approved as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

### Warden's Office

The Warden informed members that he is planning to have office hours two days per week in the Administrative Centre.

### Resolution C100924

**Moved** by L. Halliday and seconded by S. Hatfield that the Warden be provided office space to meet with constituents.

Motion carried unanimously.

### Library Report

The Clerk informed members that the Annual Report of the Western Counties Regional Library has been received. A copy will be kept at the Office should anyone wish to review it.

### V.I.C. Report

In advance to the meeting each member was provided with a copy of the Barrington Visitor Information Centre stats for the period May 21, 2010 to August 31, 2010. The report showed that at the end of August 2,485 visitors were received as compared to 2,546 visitors for the same period last year. This results in a decrease of 9%. The majority of visitors were from Nova Scotia looking for information about the local area. The Hawk and Cape Sable Island were the main interests.

No Drilling on Georges

Councillor O'Donnell informed members that he had this item added to the agenda and requested councillors to review this issue since he will be requesting that this matter be placed on the agenda again in a couple of weeks for further discussion by Council.

Signing of Certificates

Councillor O'Donnell informed members that he requested that this item be added to the agenda. In the past the Warden signed all certificates; birthday, anniversary, etc. Councillor O'Donnell is suggesting that the councillor for the area be permitted to sign certificates for their constituents.

Resolution C100925

**Moved** by L. Halliday and seconded by C. O'Donnell that certificates issued under Policy 57, "Certificates of Recognition Policy", be signed by the councillor for the district or the warden and that Policy 57 be amended to reflect this change.

Motion carried unanimously.

Notice of Consideration

The Clerk informed members that notice is given this evening that amendments to Policy No. 57, "Certificates of Recognition Policy", will be considered at the next meeting of Council. Proposed amendments will allow certificates of recognition to be awarded to members of fire department auxiliaries. Proposed amendments will also be made to the policy to address the signing of certificates.

Notice of Consideration - Policy No. 52, "Council Meetings and Proceedings Policy"

The Clerk informed members that notice is given tonight that consideration of amendments to Policy No. 52 will take place at the next meeting of Council.

It is proposed that a new section be added to the policy which will read as follows:

*Section 6(4) Councillors shall take turns presenting committee recommendations to Council. The Chair shall request a mover and seconder for each recommendation put forth.*

ADJOURNMENT

**Moved** by L. Halliday and seconded by C. O'Donnell that the meeting adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

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Warden

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Clerk

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Secretary for the Meeting

**On website September 17, 2010.**