

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

May 16, 2011

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 6:00 p.m., in the Conference Room, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington, N.S., with the following members present:

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

- Don Harding, Municipal Solicitor
- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

CLOSED SESSION

Members then entered into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing the South West Shore Development Authority Guarantee and the Arena Manager certification.

Having completed their discussion of these matters, members then entered into Open Session at 7:00 p.m.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Clerk's Evaluation.
- Audit Committee.
- Website Policy.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by G. El-Jakl 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 May 2, 2011 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

BIOSOLIDS PRESENTATION

Dr. Marilyn Cameron appeared before the meeting together with her associate Pauline Ravin for the purpose of making a presentation regarding the use of biosolids on agricultural land. A written presentation was provided and circulated to members with the agenda.

Dr. Cameron then went through the written presentation and elaborated on some topics. She is requesting support of the Municipality for a moratorium on the use of biosolids in Nova Scotia.

Having reached the hour of 7:15 p.m., it was:

Resolution COW110507

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by C. O'Donnell that Dr. Cameron be permitted to continue with her presentation until it was completed.

Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Cameron then continued her presentation and discussed it with members until 7:30 p.m., at which time she retired from the meeting.

SC TRANSPORTATION SOCIETY

Mr. David Meyer, along with Wanda Mood and Mary Ann Joudrey, appeared before the meeting for the purpose of making a presentation regarding the progress being made by the SC Transportation Society. This society is attempting to get a form of public transportation started in Shelburne County.

Mr. Meyer reviewed the presentation together with a proposed budget for the 2011/2012 year. It is the intention of the society to provide drives to seniors and low income residents of the County as they are needed to make trips to doctors and other destinations. It is expected this society will start with volunteer drivers who will use their own cars and be paid a mileage rate. Once the service has been established, it will advance further in an attempt to provide regular transportation routes.

Having completed his presentation, the members of the society retired from the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

BARRINGTON REGIONAL CURLING CLUB MONTHLY REPORT

Mr. Elwin Smith, President of the Barrington Regional Curling Club, appeared before the meeting for the purpose of giving his annual report.

Mr. Smith indicated that the curling season is now over. The Club has a rental scheduled for June 11th which will be an “Antler Night” sponsored by the Shelburne County Fish & Game Association. Overall summer rentals are down this year compared to last year. Mr. Smith indicated that the estimated savings in electrical usage is approximately 47,000 kilowatt hours, which is about a \$5,700.00 saving in cost. The financial statements for the Curling Club will be completed in June and forwarded to the Municipal Office. The Club is expecting to have good financial results for the year.

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

JAMES MOOD RE: MUNICIPAL PROPERITES

James Mood appeared before the meeting together with Mr. Steven Goreham and was subsequently joined by Cecil Newell, Jr., and Michael Newell. He appeared on behalf of a group of people which also included Gilbert Devine, Becky Brannen and Ronna Kenney. This group is having a business plan prepared for the establishment of a fish plant which is anticipated to be located in the Municipality of Barrington.

Mr. Mood wished to address members in regards to the use of municipal land for this purpose. Mr. Mood indicated that this plant would handle anything fishermen can catch and that it would be very versatile. He indicated there are 20 crab licences in the area not presently being fished, as well as one clam licence and one mussel licence. He also indicated there are three levels of job creation attached to this plant including the retraining some members of the current labour force in the area as well as increasing the competitiveness of fishery product in the area. He indicated the Municipality will need to meet with the MLA and that the MLA has indicated to him that the Province will fund 80% of this venture. Mr. Mood indicated that the plant will need a large and continuous supply of both salt and fresh water in order to process fish. In order to determine whether land is adequate for the location of this plant it is necessary to do water testing. It was indicated that the corporation being formed to own this plant will sell 35% of its shares to the public. It is anticipated that this plant will make a profit and will put money back into the community. This group is asking essentially three (3) things:

1. The land from the Municipality on which the plant could be located. The land which the group is interested in is property owned by the Municipality on the Forbes Point Road. This land has been owned by the Municipality for quite some time.
2. No property taxes be charged on this property to the corporation for its first five years of existence.
3. The group has indicated that if this venture makes money, part of it will go back to the Municipality.

Mr. Mood indicated the organizers would like to have this plant operational this fall and that they may also need bridge financing from the Municipality in order to get the project started. He has been in discussion with our MP, Gerald Keddy, in regards to this project, but Mr. Keddy has not committed to anything as yet. The group is hoping to obtain 20% of the funding required for this project from the federal government. It is anticipated that this plant will employ a lot of people in the area.

Mr. Mood also indicated that it was anticipated that the business plan would be completed by the first of July. He also indicated that time is of the essence in this venture.

Resolution COW110508

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that pending clear and positive confirmation, in writing, of financial support from our MLA and MP, as well as provision of a viable business plan, that the Municipality of Barrington look further into the viability of supporting this seafood project, as presented to the Committee of the Whole by James Mood on May 16, 2011, for the sake of bringing jobs to our community.

Motion carried unanimously.

No private investors have been determined for this project as yet.

Mr. Mood also indicated that the group is in need of a name for the plant and a brand name for its operations, and encouraged councillors to offer names for those purposes.

Resolution COW110509

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that pending legal advice the Municipality give permission to the development group to do the necessary water testing on municipal property in Forbes Point.

Motion carried unanimously.

Having completed their presentation, this group then retired from the meeting at approximately 8:27 p.m.

DRAFT NOISE BY-LAW

A revised Noise By-Law was circulated to members for their information. This is the most current draft of the proposed by-law.

Portions of the by-law were reviewed with members for their information. They were encouraged to take it home and read it again.

It was the consensus of members that they would again review the draft Noise By-Law and then would consider it again at the next meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

WESTERN COUNTIES REGIONAL LIBRARY

Correspondence has been received from the Western Counties Regional Library requesting that the Municipality provide funding in the same amount as was provided in the previous fiscal year, that being \$43,946.00. The correspondence did not provide adequate information. Further information is required indicating the estimated population of the Municipality and the other municipal units in the area and the contributions being required from the municipal units as well as from the Province of Nova Scotia.

Resolution COW110510

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by G. El-Jakl that the Executive Director, Erin Comeau, together with the Board Chair, Gary Archibald, from the Western Counties Regional Library, be invited to a Committee of the Whole meeting to further discuss this matter.

Motion carried unanimously.

SURPLUS FEDERAL PROPERTY

Members were informed that the environmental information on the surplus federal property known as the Loran Site in East Baccaro has not yet been provided. An email has been received from Public Works and Government Services Canada indicating that there are three other properties which are considered surplus by the federal government and the Municipality is being asked if they have an interest in purchasing these properties.

FIRE SERVICES COORDINATOR

Correspondence has been received from the Barrington Municipal Fire Service Advisory Committee reinforcing their request for a Fire Services Coordinator to be hired by the Municipality. In this correspondence the Advisory Committee states the reasons for requesting this position to be established.

It was suggested that Mr. David Kendrick be called to obtain further information.

Resolution COW110511

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by S. Hatfield that Municipal Staff be requested to call David Kendrick in order to obtain further information on the cost and approach to be taken for establishing a Fire Services Coordinator position in the Municipality.

Motion carried unanimously.

COOKE AQUACULTURE

Correspondence has been received regarding the establishment of Cooke aquacultural operations in Shelburne Harbour.

This information was circulated to members for their information and review.

B.M.H.S. ENVIRONMENT CLUB

Correspondence has been received from the B.M.H.S. Environment Club. The students along with community volunteers have established a restorative, environmentally aware, landscape in a memorial interpretive garden at Barrington Municipal High School. During the past year the Municipality assisted with the placement of trees and plants in this garden. The Environment Club is again requesting the assistance of Municipal Staff in further developing this garden this year. The assistance that is being required is renting a mini excavator and someone to run it for a short period in order to plant trees and do landscaping.

Resolution COW110512

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality assist the B.M.H.S. Environment Club with their environmental project again this year.

Motion carried unanimously.

LOBSTER FESTIVAL OPENING

The Lobster Festival opening this year will be held on Friday, June 3rd, at 7:00 p.m., at the Barrington Municipal Arena. The Warden will be unable to attend this opening as he will be at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference, in Halifax.

It was the consensus of members that Councillor Murray Atkinson would attend on behalf of the Municipality.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

The Schedule of Fees for the previous two weeks was circulated to members for their information.

CLERK'S EVALUATION

It was agreed that the Clerk's evaluation would be completed on Tuesday, May 24th, during a one hour closed session after the Council meeting.

AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING

The members of the Audit Committee are the Warden, the Deputy Warden and Councillor Stoddard. They agreed to meet with the auditors at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 24th, in order to discuss the audit approach and the new risk based approach to auditing.

WEBSITE POLICY

Resolution COW110513

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that Municipal Staff draft a website policy to ensure that the municipal website is revisited on a regular basis.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 9:47 p.m.

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting

On website May 20, 2011.