

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL

August 10, 2011

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:00 p.m., in the meeting room, at the Island & Barrington Passage Fire Hall, in Centreville, 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
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- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

Members of the Fire Services Advisory Committee present included:

- Eugene Stoddard, Chair
- John Nickerson, Fire Chief, Barrington Volunteer Fire Department
- Paul Thomas, Deputy Chief, Barrington Volunteer Fire Department
- Troy Perry, Port LaTour Volunteer Fire Department
- Ricky Banks, Fire Chief, Shag Harbour/Bear Point Volunteer Fire Department
- Gordie Ross, Fire Chief, Wood's Harbour Volunteer Fire Department
- Jody Goreham, Deputy Chief, Wood's Harbour Volunteer Fire Department
- Shannon Newell, Secretary of the Committee, Wood's Harbour Volunteer Fire Department
- Graham Dixon, Wood's Harbour Volunteer Fire Department
- Ian Hicks, Port Clyde Volunteer Fire Department

All six fire departments were represented.

### PURPOSE OF MEETING

The purpose of this meeting was for the Committee of the Whole members to discuss the Fire Services Coordinator position with the Fire Services Advisory Committee. The list of duties provided, by email, by the Fire Services Committee, was reviewed in detail.

The various aspects of the duties of the Fire Services Coordinator were discussed, including a flexible work schedule usually encompassing 40 hours per week, priority being given to the fire services and secondary consideration being given to other services such as fire inspections and possibly EMO.

There was much discussion regarding the term being provided for this position, whether it be a one (1) year, three (3) year or five (5) year term. There was also discussion regarding the amount of training this individual would be able to do, and the amount of time it would take this person to do training for firefighters.

It was also suggested that the Fire Services Coordinator would have to inform Council of fire services issues and advise how they should be dealt with.

There was much concern expressed regarding the goals to be put in place for a Fire Services Coordinator to achieve in order to ensure that the position would be productive.

There was also some discussion regarding amalgamation of fire departments and how this might be affected by the Fire Services Coordinator. The general consensus was that there would be one fire service with one fire rate for the Municipality, one set of equipment to be used by the Fire Services across the Municipality, with one budget and one plan for the fire services.

There then arose the question of how this individual would be hired, and whether or not it would be permissible for the Advisory Committee to have members conducting interviews as part of the Hiring Committee.

It was agreed that the Advisory Committee would further discuss this matter amongst themselves.

The requirements of the Fire Response and Emergency Services Policy were brought up to the Advisory Committee members. Not all of the information required under the policy has been completed.

It was the consensus of Committee of the Whole members that funding be withheld from the departments that have not as yet provided the necessary information.

Members then discussed the possibility of a two year probationary period for the Fire Services Coordinator with evaluations being done every six (6) months. It was also suggested that the salary range for this position would be in the area of \$45,000 to \$55,000 per year.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Having completed their discussion of these matters, the meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 8:45 p.m.

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\_\_\_\_\_ Chair

\_\_\_\_\_ Secretary for the Meeting

**On website August 11, 2011.**