

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

September 19, 2011

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:00 p.m., in the Conference Room, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington, N.S., with the following members present:

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

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Fire Chiefs Meeting.
- Dog By-Law.
- UNSM Report.
- District Planning Commission.
- Continuing Care Steering Committee.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by M. Atkinson and seconded by C. Stoddard that the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by C. O'Donnell that the minutes of the last previous meeting held September 6, 2011 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

RIVER HILLS GOLF CLUB

Mr. Dan Wilms and Mr. Sam El-Jakl appeared before the meeting for the purpose of making a request on behalf of the River Hills Golf & Country Club.

Conflict of Interest

Warden El-Jakl declared a conflict of interest and moved to the public gallery as Sam El-Jakl who is one of the members making the presentation is his brother.

Mr. Wilms acted as the main spokesperson in this presentation. He reviewed the history of the Golf & Country Club to date. The Golf & Country Club wishes to purchase point of sale and marketing software and hardware which will help them to promote their club. In order to do this the golf club is seeking funding from the Municipality of the District of Shelburne and the Municipality of the District of Barrington. The cost of this point of sale and marketing module software and hardware together is \$7,200.00. The Club is requesting that each of the two municipalities provide funding of \$3,000.00. The Municipality of Shelburne has already committed to providing this funding. A written presentation was circulated to all members for their information. Mr. Wilms emphasized that the Golf Club benefits all of Shelburne County and that many youths in the area participate at the Club. Upon suggestion, Mr. Wilms also indicated that he would be making this request also to the three (3) towns in the County.

Having reached the allotted time for his presentation it was:

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by C. Stoddard that the presenters be allowed to continue with their presentation until its conclusion.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Golf Club membership distribution across the county was requested. Mr. Wilms agreed that he could provide this information.

It was mentioned that the golf course is also used to raise funds locally for charitable organizations throughout the county.

Mr. Wilms also indicated to members that the provision of the funds can be spread out over two years, in equal amounts.

Resolution COW110907

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. O'Donnell that further consideration of the request of the River Hills Golf & Country Club be deferred to the Council meeting of September 26, 2011 for Council consideration.

Motion carried unanimously.

Having completed their presentation, the members of the Golf Club retired from the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

Member George El-Jakl returned to the meeting.

ANIMALS IN NEED REQUEST

Information that was obtained in regards to the regulation of cats in various municipal units throughout the province was circulated to members for their review. In general, municipalities do not regulate, directly, the cat populations in their area. The protection of animals, including cats, is provided for by the Province under the Animal Protection Act. Under this Act the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is established and is charged with the prevention of cruelty to animals in the province. The Yarmouth SPCA is the local branch of this organization that deals with animals, including cats in Shelburne County.

It was indicated by members that the cat population is a problem throughout Nova Scotia, and in fact, throughout Canada and North America.

Resolution COW110908

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. Stoddard that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to the local veterinary office requesting them to consider offering a reduced rate for spaying and neutering of feral and stray cats brought to them by members of the *Animals in Need* group.

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by C. Stoddard and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that a letter of request be sent to the Province, asking the Province to build a shelter for an SPCA branch in Shelburne County, and that this letter also be sent to the main office of the SPCA in Halifax.

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by M. Atkinson that the previous motion be amended to include a provision that the Municipality will consider offering municipal land for the purpose of an SPCA shelter.

Amendment carried unanimously.

The division was then requested on the motion as amended.

The amended motion now reads:

Resolution COW110909

“...that it be recommended to Council that a letter of request be sent to the Province asking the Province to build a shelter for an SPCA branch in Shelburne County, and that this letter also be sent to the main office of the SPCA in Halifax, and include a provision that the Municipality will consider offering municipal land for the purpose of an SPCA shelter.

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality determine its ability to provide municipal property for an SPCA location.

Resolution COW110910

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. O'Donnell that the previous motion be deferred until responses have been received from the Province and the main office of the SPCA.

Motion carried unanimously.

At this point Veronica Smith-Hopkins was allowed to speak and she inquired as to the provision of medications for the *Animals in Need* group to administer to cats in the area. As yet, no further information has been received in regards to this matter.

Members then discussed forwarding this issue to the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities for their consideration. The *Animals in Need* group is also requesting funding for spaying of feral cats once a month, and also request that a letter of summary be sent to the group.

Resolution COW110911

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to the *Animals in Need* group when responses have been received from the Provincial Government and the main office of the SPCA.

Motion carried unanimously.

Having completed their presentation, the members of the *Animals in Need* group retired from the meeting.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN

Information was provided for an estimated cost of completing sidewalks in Barrington Passage and the construction of an additional tennis court at the Sherose Island Recreation Centre. The estimated cost of the tennis court is believed to be in the range of \$46,000.00 as previously estimated. The estimated cost of completing two sections of sidewalk in Barrington Passage is in the range of \$650,000.00.

Resolution COW110912

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by C. O'Donnell that construction of a tennis court at the Sherose Island Recreation Complex be listed as the first priority in the Capital Investment Plan.

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by M. Atkinson and seconded by C. Stoddard that the second priority listed in the Capital Investment Plan be the construction of the sidewalks in Barrington Passage.

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by M. Atkinson that the previous motion have added to it "up to a cost of \$650,000.00".

Amendment carried unanimously.

The division was then taken on the amended motion.

The amended motion now reads:

Resolution COW110913

"...that the second priority listed in the Capital Investment Plan be the construction of the sidewalks in Barrington Passage up to a cost of \$650,000.00."

Motion carried unanimously.

CONSTRUCTION OF BIKE LANES ON CAPE SABLE ISLAND

It was suggested that the construction of bike lanes on the highway on Cape Sable Island be added to the Capital Investment Plan.

Resolution COW110914

Moved by C. Stoddard and seconded by S. Hatfield that the construction of a bike lane from the Town of Clark's Harbour to the Daniel's Head Road be included in the Municipality's Capital Investment Plan, and that an appropriate estimate be obtained for the cost of this project.

Motion carried unanimously.

Members then also discussed the Fort Creek gazebo which had previously been mentioned during discussions, and also discussed the possibility of a rest stop in the Thomasville area.

Resolution COW110915

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by C. Stoddard that the construction of a gazebo on public property at Crow's Neck Beach be added to the list together with an appropriate cost estimate.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution COW110916

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by C. O'Donnell that all other projects that are currently on the list be kept on the Capital Investment Program list.

Motion carried unanimously.

RIVERDALE CEMETERY REQUEST

A request for a Community Grant has been received from the Riverdale Cemetery.

Having reviewed the financial information provided, it was:

Resolution COW110917

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that correspondence be sent to the Riverdale Cemetery asking them why they are in need of a grant when they have significant funds available.

Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT

The cost shared agreement for the paving of "J" class subdivision streets is now up for renewal again. This is a three year agreement entered into by the Municipality with the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal for the province.

Resolution COW110918

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by S. Hatfield that it be recommended to Council that the Warden and Clerk-Treasurer be authorized to enter into the cost shared agreement for the paving of “J” class subdivision streets for a three year period beginning April 1, 2012 on behalf of the Municipality.

Motion carried unanimously.

TRI-COUNTY PREGNANCY CARE REQUEST

Correspondence has been received from a board member of the Tri-County Pregnancy Care Centre requesting an additional grant of \$700.00 from the Municipality. The Municipality had previously provided a \$2,000.00 grant to this organization in the current year.

Resolution COW110919

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that Community Grants of \$100.00 each be provided from the Community Grant Funds for Districts 4, 5 and 6.

Motion carried unanimously.

FIRE DEPARTMENT INSURANCE

Correspondence from Bell & Grant Limited, our insurance agents, has previously been circulated to the Fire Services Committee and the fire departments requesting them to pass a resolution that is required by the insurance company for the provision of insurance, and also requesting them to provide the master numbers for each of the fire departments. The only fire department that has provided the master number is the Island & Barrington Passage Volunteer Fire Department. None of the fire departments have provided a copy of a resolution passed by their department.

Resolution COW110920

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to the Fire Services Committee requesting the information be provided to the insurance company, and that one of the council members on the Fire Services Committee bring this matter up at the next meeting of the committee.

Motion carried unanimously.

DISTRICT OF SHELBURNE LETTER RE: MGA

This letter was circulated to members for their information and review. The letter addresses the interpretation and use of the Municipal Government Act by the Minister of Service Nova Scotia.

Resolution COW110921

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities supporting and endorsing the letter of the District of Shelburne, and the District of Barrington's letter also be copied to the other municipal units listed.

Motion carried unanimously.

LITTER BY-LAWS

Information concerning litter by-laws was presented to members. At the present time rural municipal units in Nova Scotia do not have anti-litter by-laws in place. There are litter regulations put in place by the Province of Nova Scotia regarding litter on public highways. Because municipalities do not own public highways, they do not have regulations on such.

It was suggested that a poster contest for all students in all schools in the Municipality be conducted in order to obtain posters that may be reproduced as signs to be placed in each district throughout the Municipality.

Resolution COW110922

Moved by C. Stoddard and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that a poster contest be conducted by the Municipal Recreation Director for all schools and all students in the Municipality, and that the Recreation Director determine the cost of conducting this contest, and that it take the place of the previously scheduled poster contest.

Motion carried unanimously.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

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

CROWELL'S POST OFFICE

Members were informed that the Deputy Warden and the Clerk-Treasurer had met with two representatives from Canada Post. The Canada Post representatives informed the Municipality that Crowell's Post Office will be closing, effective Friday, September 23, 2011. The post office will be closing as a result of the Crowell's Convenience Store closing their business. Canada Post will be informing post office patrons that they may pick up their mail at the Barrington Passage Post Office in the interim. Canada Post will also be conducting a survey with their patrons to determine where they would prefer to pick up their mail, either by community mailbox or at the Barrington Passage post office.

Resolution COW110923

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by S. Hatfield that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to Canada Post reminding them of the parking situation at the Barrington Passage Post Office which is very busy.

Motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF RECREATION POLICIES AND RENTAL AGREEMENT

Three motions that were brought up at Council had been deferred to this meeting for further consideration along with the Recreation Policies and Rental Agreement.

Resolution COW110924

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by S. Hatfield that it be recommended to Council that Municipal Staff determine how other municipal units in the area deal with similar situations prior to dealing with this matter further.

Motion carried unanimously.

INVITATION FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF ARGYLE

The Municipality of Argyle will be officially opening their upgraded sewage treatment plant and have extended an invitation to the warden and councillors in Barrington to attend. The Official Opening will be held on Saturday, September 24th, at 11:00 a.m., at the treatment plant in Lower West Pubnico.

No members indicated that they would be attending this function.

CHIEF'S COMMITTEE

It was noted in the minutes of the Chief's Committee that a motion had been passed requesting that their semi-annual meeting be held at the first Committee of the Whole meeting in October.

It was suggested by members that since the Fire Chief's Committee ordinarily meets on the second Wednesday of the month that that would be an opportune time to have the semi-annual meeting with the fire departments.

Resolution COW110925

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by C. O'Donnell that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to the Fire Chief's Committee requesting that the semi-annual meeting be held at 8:00 p.m., on October 12, 2011, in the Conference Room, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington, N.S., and that they provide a list of topics which they wish to discuss at the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

DOG BY-LAW

The Warden reported on an incident that occurred in the Municipality regarding an aggressive dog in a local residence.

Members expressed concern regarding potentially aggressive dogs in the area.

Resolution COW110926

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that Municipal Staff obtain information from the Town of Clark's Harbour and other municipal units regarding the banning of various breeds of dogs.

Motion carried unanimously.

UNION OF NOVA SCOTIA MUNICIPALITIES

Correspondence has been received from the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities asking councillors what are their three main priorities for municipal government.

It was suggested that dealing with the cat population might be one of these priorities that should be addressed by the UNSM.

Resolution COW110927

Moved by L. Halliday and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that because local councils are being approached repeatedly in regards to cat population problems throughout the Province, and that this is a problem that is not unique to any one municipal unit, but is common to many, that this matter be referred to the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities seeking solutions which may be available to address this problem.

Motion carried unanimously.

DISTRICT PLANNING COMMISSION

Correspondence has been received by the PAC Chair from the Senior Planner regarding the present situation at the District Planning Commission. In his correspondence, the Senior Planner has indicated that the secretary for the District Planning Commission is now off on sick leave for a period of six weeks. As a result of the previous resignation of the GIS Technician, there is now only one employee at the District Planning Commission, the Senior Planner. The Senior Planner has made attempts to have the District Planning Commission call a meeting in order to address this matter to no avail.

Resolution COW110928

Moved by L. Halliday and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to the District Planning Commission requesting them to call a meeting in order to deal with the staffing issues at the Commission.

Motion carried unanimously.

CONTINUING CARE STEERING COMMITTEE

The Continuing Care Steering Committee was originally set up with a mandate to develop senior citizens housing in the Municipality of Barrington, which eventually developed into the expansion of Bay Side Home. Now that the expansion of Bay Side Home has been completed, and the grand opening will be held on Friday, September 23, 2011, the mandate of the committee has been fulfilled.

Resolution COW110929

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. O'Donnell that it be recommended to Council that with the completion of the Bay Side Home expansion, a thank you letter be sent to all members of the Continuing Care Steering Committee, and that the committee having fulfilled its mandate, be dissolved.

Motion carried unanimously.

FIREARMS CORRESPONDENCE

The Warden indicated that he has this evening received correspondence regarding firearms by-laws that may be instituted by municipal units in Nova Scotia. This information will be circulated to all members.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 11:00 p.m.

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting

On website September 21, 2011.