

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Barrington Municipal Council held in the Council Chambers, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington, N.S., on Monday, January 10, 2011.

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 (6:40 p.m.)
- Councillor Louise Halliday
- Councillor Shaun Hatfield
- Councillor Cecil O'Donnell
- Councillor Cathy Stoddard

- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk
- Lesa Rossetti, Deputy Clerk

CLOSED SESSION

At 6:30 p.m. a Closed Session of Council was held to deal with personnel matters and legal matters - Business Park, former BMHS property and SWSDA.

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by C O'Donnell that the minutes of the last meeting held December 13, 2010 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION - MOTIONS

Bankruptcy of SWSDA

Resolution C110101

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by S. Hatfield that a claim be filed with Grant Thornton in regards to the bankruptcy of the South West Shore Development Authority for monies owed to the Municipality of Barrington.

Motion carried unanimously.

Darren Brown - Yearly Increment

Resolution C110102

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by M. Atkinson that Darren Brown receive his yearly increment effective December 21, 2010.

Motion carried unanimously.

David Andrews - Probationary Period

Resolution C110103

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by C. O'Donnell that David Andrews, Building Inspector/Development Officer be approved as a full-time employee having completed his probationary period.

Motion carried unanimously.

Cameron Whiteway - Yearly Increment

Resolution C110104

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by L. Halliday that Cameron Whiteway receive his yearly increment effective January 30, 2011.

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING - DE-REGISTRATION OF HERITAGE PROPERTY

At 7:05 p.m. the Warden convened a public hearing regarding the de-registration of the former Herbert R. Banks' house located at 3547 Highway #3, Barrington Passage as a municipal heritage property. A request to have this property de-registered has been received from the current property owner, Ann Buckingham.

The Warden at this time invited comments from the public concerning the de-registration of this property. Sally Nickerson of the Barrington Township Museum Association expressed opposition to the de-registration of this property. She indicated that she felt that the historical buildings located in Barrington Passage should be preserved.

It was reported that the present owner, Ann Buckingham, has indicated that she wishes the property to be de-registered due to the high cost of insurance for registered heritage properties.

After hearing comments from the public, the public hearing was closed.

Resolution C110105

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by C. Stoddard that the de-registration of the former Herbert R. Banks house, located at 3547 Highway #3, Barrington Passage, as a municipal heritage property, be approved as requested by the property owner, Ann Buckingham.

Motion carried unanimously.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Tabled Motion Re: CSI Sewer

The Clerk informed members that at the December 13, 2010 Council meeting it was reported that “offers to sell land” for the siting of small wastewater treatment systems for three proposed wastewater service areas on Cape Sable Island were received from the following:

1. Jody Crook
2. Alva Blades
3. Gerald Hunt
4. Elizabeth & Gregory Malone
5. Wayne Nickerson
6. Richard A. Newell
7. Edward Allen

The Clerk further advised that the following motion was tabled at that meeting:

Resolution C110106

“Moved by M. Atkinson and seconded by C. Stoddard that all submissions received be forwarded to the Project Manager for review.”

The above motion was put to a vote and carried unanimously.

Second Reading - By-Law No. 25 “Tax Exemption By-Law”

The Clerk reported that proposed amendments to By-Law No. 25, “Tax Exemption By-Law”, has been duly advertised in the Coast Guard Newspaper. The proposed amendments will provide a tax exemption to the Barrington Ground Search & Rescue Group for their property located in Barrington Passage. Non profit, community and charitable organizations will be exempt of the responsibility for payments of rates and taxes, exclusive of area rates, sewer charges, service charges and any other special levies and schedules to the by-law will be amended to delete properties which no longer qualify for exemptions.

Resolution C110107

Moved by C. O’Donnell and seconded S. Hatfield that amendments to By-Law No. 25, “Tax Exemption By-Law”, be approved in second and final reading.

Motion carried unanimously.

Broadband for Rural Nova Scotia

The Clerk informed members that correspondence has been received from the Minister of Economic and Rural Development in response to our letter dated November 26, 2010 regarding the inconsistencies in the provision of high speed internet connections in Bear Point, Shag Harbour and Wood's Harbour. It advised that Eastlinks' Manager of Public and Media Relations, Jill Laing, is aware of our concerns, and she may be contacted by phoning 488-5283. Ms. Laing will ensure correct officials become involved in a satisfactory resolution to the situation.

Edward and Mary Allen - Land Offer Re: CSI Elementary School

The Clerk informed members that previously correspondence had been received from Edward and Mary Allen indicating that they would be willing to offer enough land for sale to provide for modern day requirements for a centrally located, state of the art, school/community facility at the Centreville site.

Mr. & Mrs. Allen were asked to provide details on the parcel of land being offered for sale including size and price, which has now been received.

Moved by L. Halliday and seconded by M. Atkinson that the Tri-County Regional School Board be advised that Edward and Mary Allen have offered land for sale should the School Review Process require additional lands to expand the Cape Sable Island Elementary School.

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by M. Atkinson that the above motion be amended to state that the Municipality will purchase the property from Edward and Mary Allen for the price they have quoted if the decision is made to expand the C.S.I. Elementary School.

Amendment carried unanimously.

The motion as amended is as follows:

Resolution C110108

“...that the Tri-County Regional School Board be advised that Edward and Mary Allen have offered land for sale should the School Review Process require additional lands to expand the Cape Sable Island Elementary School and that the Municipality will purchase the property from Edward and Mary Allen for the price they have quoted if the decision is made to expand the C.S.I. Elementary School.”

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

Minister's Response Re: Maranatha Fur Farms Limited

In advance to the meeting each member was provided with a copy of a letter received from the Minister of Agriculture regarding Maranatha Fur Farms Limited in Clyde River. The letter advised that Environmental Services staff have been in contact with Maranatha Fur Farms regarding operating procedures which are contributing factors to the odor coming from the mink ranch manure handling system. During those conversations, design alterations were also discussed and Maranatha Fur Farms may be eligible for support through the Farm Investment Fund should they decide to act.

The Clerk informed members that arrangements are being made for someone to meet with the Agriculture Services Branch to discuss the particulars of best management practices with regards to manure handling and the design Maranatha Fur Farms Limited has chosen. A tentative date for this meeting has been set for January 21, 2011, but this has not yet been confirmed.

Appeal - Order of Council

The Clerk informed members that an appeal has been received from Carol Patterson concerning the Order issued by Council requiring her to clean up the illegal dump sites located on her property on Kenney Road in South Side. Ms. Patterson is appealing the decision of Council since she feels that it should be the responsibility of the person illegally dumping on her property, not the responsibility of the property owner to clean up the illegal dump sites.

The Clerk indicated that he has also been in telephone conversation with Ms. Patterson regarding the illegal dump sites and Ms. Patterson has requested that the RCMP be notified and that she be provided with an estimate of costs to clean up the property.

The Clerk also informed members that Ms. Patterson is considering the installation of a fence or gate to block access to her property.

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. O'Donnell that Ms. Carol Patterson be advised that if she wishes to install a fence or gate on her property located on Kenney Road in South Side then she should feel free to do so.

AFFIRMATIVE

George El-Jakl
Shaun Hatfield

NEGATIVE

Murray Atkinson
Louise Halliday
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
Cecil O'Donnell
Cathy Stoddard

Motion defeated.

Municipal Loan Guarantees

In advance to the meeting each member was provided with a copy of a letter received from the Office of the Ombudsman requesting written consent allowing them access to bank documentation regarding municipal loan guarantees.

Resolution C110109

Moved by L. Halliday and seconded by D. Messenger that a letter be sent to the Office of the Ombudsman granting access to the Royal Bank of Canada bank documentation, as requested.

Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Blood Collection Satellite Clinics

The Clerk informed members that correspondence has been received from South West Health advising that the fee for blood collection at satellite clinics will increase from \$7.00 to \$10.00. People with a blood collection requisition for repeat collections will be charged a lower fee of \$8.00 per collection. This fee was previously \$5.00.

Resolution C110110

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by C. Stoddard that this matter be referred to the Committee of the Whole for further discussion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution C110111

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by L. Halliday that the South West Nova District Health Authority be requested to provide statistics on the number of people using the Barrington blood collection clinic as well as other clinics in the district.

Motion carried unanimously.

Walk for a Cause 2011

The Clerk informed members that a request has been received from Sharon Symonds for free ice time to hold a fundraiser hockey game with the RCMP Bisons and former players from the Sea Star Ice Dogs to raise money for the Walk for a Cause 2011.

Resolution C110112

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by M. Atkinson that Sharon Symonds be advised that the Municipality will provide free ice time for the fundraiser hockey game with the RCMP Bisons and the old players from the Sea Star Ice Dogs to raise funds for the Walk for a Cause 2011, subject to her organization providing the required security for the game.

Motion carried unanimously.

Thank You Letters

Department of Transportation

The Clerk informed members that a thank you letter has been received from the Department of Transportation thanking the Municipality for their efforts during the severe storm event of November 5 - 9, 2010.

Trudy Amirault

A thank you letter has been received from Trudy Amirault, former Director of the Western Counties Regional Library Board, thanking Council for their retirement gift.

5-year Highway Improvement Plan

In advance to the meeting each member was provided with a copy of a letter addressed to Minister Bill Estabrooks, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, from the Municipality of Shelburne regarding the 5-year highway improvement plan.

Resolution C110113

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. O'Donnell that information be obtained on the roads in the Municipality of Barrington that are scheduled to be paved under the 5-year Highway Improvement Plan, and that a list be prepared identifying roads requiring attention in the Municipality and that this information be presented to Council at an upcoming meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

Upon further discussion of this matter it was agreed that the 5-year Highway Improvement Plan be referred to the Committee of the Whole for further discussion.

Motion carried unanimously.

REPORT OF COUNCILLORS

Each councillor was given an opportunity to provide a brief report on their activities since the last meeting of Council.

Deputy Warden Messenger reported on recommendations of the Committee of the Whole Council meeting held January 4, 2011.

Climate Data Project

Resolution C110114

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by C. Stoddard that the Municipality provide the financial support required for the Climate Data Project, in the amount of \$1,500.00 per year, for the next three years, beginning April 1, 2011.

AFFIRMATIVE

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

NEGATIVE

Louise Halliday

Motion carried.

Additional Signs in the Municipality

Resolution C110115

Moved by C. Stoddard and seconded by M. Atkinson that the Municipality contact the Shelburne County Tourism Development Committee regarding the funding that has been obtained by the Pictou Tourism Group, and that the Shelburne County Tourism Development Committee apply for funding from those sources.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution C110116

Moved by M. Atkinson and seconded by D. Messenger that a letter be sent to the Board of Directors of Bay Side Home requesting that they consider placing signs at either end of Brass Hill notifying travellers of the direction to Bay Side Home.

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting with MLA Re: Education Budget Cuts

Resolution C110117

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by C. O'Donnell that the Municipality invite our MLA to a meeting of either council or committee to discuss proposed education department budget cuts and other matters such as the storm damage to lobster pots.

Motion carried unanimously.

Tax Revenue Allocation; Public Information
Tax Rate vs. Tax Assessment; Public Information
Provincial Tax Collection Encroachment

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by D. Messenger that a pie chart be placed on municipal tax bills indicating what municipal taxes are being used for during the fiscal year.

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by D. Messenger that the above motion be amended requiring pie chart information to be mailed with tax bills.

AFFIRMATIVE

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

NEGATIVE

Louise Halliday

Motion carried.

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

AFFIRMATIVE

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

NEGATIVE

Louise Halliday

The amended motion now reads:

Resolution C110118

“...that a pie chart be mailed with municipal tax bills indicating what municipal taxes are being used for during the fiscal year.”

Resolution C110119

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by C. Stoddard that an explanation of the difference between the tax rate and the tax assessment be placed on the municipal website in a section titled *Frequently Asked Questions*.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution C110120

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by C. O'Donnell that a letter be sent to the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities asking them to again address the tax collection encroachment of taxes for the payment of education expenditures for the Province of Nova Scotia.

Motion carried unanimously.

FCM Conference Booth

Resolution C110121

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by C. Stoddard that the Municipality ask the Shelburne County Tourism Development Committee to have the Tourism Coordinator set up and attend at a booth for the Municipality of Barrington at municipal expense during the FCM Conference in Halifax 2011.

AFFIRMATIVE

George El-Jakl
Shaun Hatfield
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
Cecil O'Donnell
Cathy Stoddard

NEGATIVE

Murray Atkinson
Louise Halliday

Motion carried.

Arena Cancellation Policy

Moved by M. Atkinson and seconded by S. Hatfield that the Arena Cancellation Policy be amended to provide for a 72 hour notification.

Resolution C110122

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by M. Atkinson that the above motion be tabled and referred to the Committee of the Whole for further discussion.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was agreed that Shelly Blinkhorn, Arena Manager, be invited to attend the Committee of the Whole meeting at which the Arena Cancellation Policy will be discussed.

Clyde River Bridge

Resolution C110123

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by D. Messenger that a letter be sent to the Nova Scotia Minister of Transportation and to the local office of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal asking the Department to make a public statement indicating what is wrong with the Clyde River Bridge, whether or not it can be fixed, and if it can be fixed, when will it be fixed.

Motion carried unanimously.

REPORT OF WARDEN

The Warden indicated that there were no items to be reported at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Joint Police Advisory Board Appointment

The Clerk informed members that an advertisement was placed in the Coast Guard Newspaper inviting applications from residents wishing to serve on the Joint Police Advisory Board. One application was received and that application was from Bill Durling of Newellton.

Resolution C110124

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by D. Messenger that Bill Durling be appointed to serve as a member on the Joint Police Advisory Board subject to his application being processed through the appropriate security clearances.

Motion carried unanimously.

Notice of Consideration - New Economic Development Grant Policy

The Clerk informed members that the Economic Development Grant Policy has been drafted as a result of the Ombudsman's Report.

General discussion took place regarding the policy and some wording was questioned.

Resolution C110125

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by D. Messenger that Municipal Staff make changes to the wording of the policy and bring back to Council for consideration.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was agreed that the policy would be amended and that notice of consideration of the adoption of the new Economic Development Grant Policy would be placed on the agenda for the next Council meeting.

Notice of Consideration - Amendments to Arena Policy

The Clerk informed members that this matter was discussed earlier in the meeting and has been referred to the Committee of the Whole for further discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by C. O'Donnell that the meeting adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Warden

Clerk

Secretary for the Meeting

On Website January 13, 2011.