

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

March 5, 2012

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 6:12 p.m., in the Conference Room, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington, N.S., with the following members present:

- George El-Jakl, Chair
  - Murray Atkinson
  - Louise Halliday
  - Shaun Hatfield (6:44 p.m. due to work commitments)
  - Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
  - Cathy Stoddard
- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

Donna LeBlanc-Messenger did not attend the Closed Session as she was in conflict of interest.

The Deputy Warden joined the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Councillor Cecil O'Donnell was absent on leave of absence.

### CLOSED SESSION

Members entered into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing a lease agreement with Dr. Kim Mailman. Dr. Mailman and his wife provided a written presentation to the committee in Closed Session.

Having completed their discussion of the lease agreement, Dr. and Mrs. Mailman retired from the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

It was agreed by members of the Committee that the Closed Session would be continued at the end of the meeting so that a decision could be determined in this matter by the Committee.

### OPEN SESSION

Members then entered into Open Session at 7:00 p.m.

### REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION

The Warden reported that members had discussed the pending lease agreement with Dr. Kim & Mrs. Mailman and had agreed to further discuss the lease agreement in Closed Session at the end of tonight's meeting.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Meeting Minutes on Municipal Website
- Amalgamation.
- Encounters with Canada Competition.

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 D. Messenger and seconded by C. Stoddard that the minutes of the meeting held February 20, 2012 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF COMMUNITY GRANT POLICIES

Members agreed to discuss a review of grant policies of the Municipality. This included Community Grants, Grants to Organizations, Activities Funds Grants and Economic Development Grants.

Much discussion followed regarding the number of policies in place to provide for grants and the access and use being made of them by community organizations.

It was the consensus of members that the current grant policies are at times conflicting and confusing. It was suggested that there be criteria set up to provide grants, and that these criteria be used to determine what organizations should receive grants.

Resolution COW120301

**Moved** by L. Halliday and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that Municipal Staff compile information to be considered by members for a revised grants policy that would accommodate both larger and smaller grants to the various organizations in the Municipality.

Motion carried unanimously.

### COMMUNITY ACCESS-ABILITY PROGRAM

Members were informed that as a result of consultation with Service Nova Scotia, it has been determined that heaters in the Arena will not be funded under the Community ACCESS-ability Program. Further consideration of the project to put heaters in the accessibility area at the Arena will be brought forward in the current year budget discussions.

### PROVINCIAL BOUNDARY REVIEW

This matter had been referred to the Committee by Council. Correspondence has been received from the Municipality of Argyle requesting Council to consider the effects of the Nova Scotia Provincial Boundary review, especially in relation to the francophone ridings in the Province.

Members were informed that the Commission performing this review would be holding public hearings in various locations throughout the Province. The closest meeting of the Commission will be held in Tusket and Bridgewater.

#### Resolution COW120302

**Moved** by S. Hatfield and seconded by L. Halliday that the expenses of members wishing to attend the closest meetings of the Provincial Boundaries Review Commission be paid for by the Municipality.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### Resolution COW120203

**Moved** by D. Messenger and seconded by L. Halliday that it be recommended to Council that Council respond to the Municipality of Argyle indicating that they will be attending these meetings and will provide a response after obtaining further information for consideration, after the meetings.

Motion carried unanimously.

### FIRE SERVICES COORDINATOR

Members then discussed the progress of the recruitment efforts to hire a Fire Services Coordinator.

There was much discussion regarding the anticipated savings in fire department training costs as a result of hiring a Fire Services Coordinator.

#### Resolution COW120304

**Moved** by S. Hatfield and seconded by M. Atkinson that this matter be added to the Closed Session at the end of the meeting for further discussion.

Motion carried unanimously.

DRAFT CIVIC ADDRESSING BY-LAW

Members were provided with information about the civic addressing initiative taken in the Municipality of Argyle. The Municipality of Argyle has had a program over the past three years in which residents apply to the Municipality for civic address signs, together with posts on which to mount these signs. Over the course of the three years approximately 900 of these signs and posts have been installed at municipal expense.

The Municipality of Argyle has allocated these costs to their Emergency Measures Organization in their budget.

It was suggested that the Municipality of Barrington include an allocation in its budget for this purpose.

Resolution COW120305

**Moved** by S. Hatfield and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that Municipal Staff obtain the cost of civic addressing signs, and posts on which to mount them, and bring the costs back to the Committee for consideration.

Motion carried unanimously.

The cost of posts and the cost of signs will be determined separately.

PENSION PLAN FOR COUNCILLORS

Members were informed that having consulted the suppliers of the Municipal Pension Plan, it has been determined that councillors may join the plan on the same basis as other employees. Information on the Municipality's Pension Plan was circulated to all members for their information.

Resolution COW120306

**Moved** by S. Hatfield and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that councillors be given an opportunity to join the Municipal Pension Plan after the next municipal election.

Motion carried unanimously.

NATURE CONSERVANCY PROPOSAL

A proposal has been received from the Nature Conservancy of Canada to preserve the Swaine's Road bog. A summary report was provided to members regarding this proposal.

It was the consensus of members that more information should be obtained on the Thread Leafed Sundew plant before the Committee further proceeds with this matter. This information will be gathered and circulated to members.

### SCHEDULE OF FEES

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

### ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

#### Minutes on Municipal Website

Some concern was expressed that the minutes placed on the municipal website are not approved at the time they appear. Concern was also expressed that motions that affect individuals in the public were sometimes posted on the website before the individuals affected could be contacted in regards to these decisions.

It was suggested that both Committee and Council minutes posted on the website be posted as "unapproved" until such time as they are approved by Council and/or Committee. After they are approved it will be noted on the website that they have been approved.

#### Resolution COW120307

**Moved** by L. Halliday and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that minutes of municipal meetings posted on the website be noted as "unapproved" until such time as they have been approved, after which the date of approval will be noted on the website.

Motion carried unanimously.

### AMALGAMATION

The subject of amalgamation was brought up and briefly discussed by members.

#### Resolution COW120308

**Moved** by S. Hatfield and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality invite the Town of Clark's Harbour for a preliminary discussion about amalgamation between the units without any commitment by either councils to an initiative. The conversation would be one of discussion and exploration only.

Motion carried unanimously.

### ENCOUNTERS WITH CANADA COMPETITION

It was noted that a local sea cadet, Mikayla Newell, has won a national competition entitled "Encounters with Canada".

Resolution COW120309

**Moved** by D. Messenger and seconded by L. Halliday that it be recommended to Council that a letter of congratulations be sent to Mikayla Newell recognizing her accomplishment in the *Encounters with Canada* competition and suggesting that she contact MP Gerald Keddy to request a tour of Parliament while she is in Ottawa.

Motion carried unanimously.

RECREATION POLICIES AND RENTAL AGREEMENT

The current policies and rental agreements that are in place were again discussed by members.

It was suggested that a uniform rental policy should be put in place, and the possible conflicts arising from implementation of a uniform rental policy were discussed. Insurance required for events by various community groups using the Recreation facility was also discussed.

Resolution COW120310

**Moved** by S. Hatfield and seconded by M. Atkinson that it be recommended to Council that Policy 6 "Policy Governing Use of Municipal Facilities" be amended to provide for a rental rate of \$75.00 per session for all business usages, including exercise classes, effective June 1, 2012, and that insurance coverage be required. Programs initiated by the Recreation Department shall be exempt.

Motion carried unanimously.

AMALGAMATION DISCUSSION CONTINUED

Members continued to discuss the various aspects of amalgamation.

Resolution COW120311

**Moved** by S. Hatfield and seconded by D. Messenger that the previous motion recommending an invitation to the Town of Clark's Harbour be rescinded.

Motion carried unanimously.

All members were in agreement to rescinding this motion without any further advanced notice.

Deputy Warden Messenger retired from the meeting as she had previously declared conflict of interest in the Mailman matter and did not return to the meeting table due to the lateness of the hour.

CLOSED SESSION

Members then continued the Closed Session from the beginning of the meeting. The purpose of this Closed Session was to discuss the lease agreement with Dr. Mailman and also to discuss the recruitment of a Fire Services Coordinator.

Resolution COW120312

**Moved** by C. Stoddard and seconded by S. Hatfield that having reached the hour of 10:00 p.m., the Committee continue the meeting until it completes its business.

Motion carried unanimously.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Members returned to Open Session after having completed their discussion of the previous items.

FIRE SERVICES COORDINATOR

The Clerk-Treasurer was given direction to again contact the preferred applicant for the Fire Services Coordinator job and make a secondary salary offer to this individual.

MAILMAN LEASE AGREEMENT

Resolution COW120313

**Moved** by M. Atkinson and seconded by C. Stoddard that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality acquire the blueprints for a compressor room to be added to the Barrington Municipal Library building and publicly tender this building for construction.

**AFFIRMATIVE**

Murray Atkinson  
George El-Jakl  
Cathy Stoddard

**NEGATIVE**

Louise Halliday  
Shaun Hatfield

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Having completed the business of the meeting, the meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 10:50 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary for the Meeting

**On website March 7, 2012.**

