

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

April 30, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Councillor Murray Atkinson, following the Special Council Meeting, at 7:34 p.m., in the Newellton Community Hall, in Newellton, Cape Sable Island, N.S., with the following members present:

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

Also present at the meeting were seven members of the public, including three members of the Wood's Harbour/Shag Harbour Volunteer Fire Department.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following item was added to the agenda:

- Fisheries and Aquaculture Announcement.

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 G. El-Jakl and seconded by S. Hatfield that minutes of the meeting held April 16, 2012 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

Members of the public who were in attendance were then asked if they wished to make any comments, or if they had any questions of Council.

Mr. Angus Atkinson, a resident of Newellton, offered the following comments:

He wishes to have a street light located near his property at 1882 Newellton moved in one direction or another so that it is not in front of his house. He suggested it might be moved in front of the Newellton Community Hall.

The Municipal staff will evaluate the location of the light and determine whether or not Nova Scotia Power should be asked to move it.

There are pink bags of flyers being circulated in the Newellton area. These flyers accumulate into ditches because the distributors are careless in their method of distribution.

Mr. Atkinson was informed that the Municipality has in fact been in touch with the distributors, and also with those representatives of the companies that advertise by this method and have asked that this issue be addressed.

Resolution COW12045

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. O'Donnell that the matter of flyer distribution in the Municipality be placed on the agenda of the next Committee of the Whole meeting for the purpose of sending a resolution to the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Atkinson also indicated there is some concern with the method of garbage pickup in the area. The contractor's employees who are collecting garbage seem to have a disregard for the garbage bins which are being used. More care should be exercised in replacing garbage containers and compost bins in order to keep them from being damaged.

Resolution COW120446

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by C. O'Donnell that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to the Municipal Waste Collector requesting that more care be exercised in the handling of waste bins and organic bins during the Municipal waste collection.

Motion carried unanimously.

The next issue raised was that of Community Grants. It was suggested that these Community Grants are for the purposes of a particular community and should only be used in that particular community or district, and not in other districts of the Municipality.

It was explained that some organizations get grants even when they have funds on hand. There are usually circumstances that provide for these grants to be necessary in order to complete projects of various community groups. It is also sometimes necessary that grants be provided to organizations from different areas of the Municipality because residents throughout the Municipality access the services funded through these grants.

The issue of Bay Side Home Board of Directors was also brought up. Information concerning how a change in the Board of Directors may have a negative financial effect on Bay Side Home was explained to members. Bay Side Home is deemed to be a municipality under the HST legislation. It has yet to be determined how this deemed designation as a municipality will be affected if the method of appointment of Board of Directors is changed.

This matter is currently being researched by the auditors of Bay Side Home Corporation and will be dealt with at a future time by both Bay Side Home and the Municipality.

Mr. Rahn O'Connell thanked members for coming to Newellton and hosting their meeting in this location.

Charla Strang made comments and asked questions regarding the use of the ball fields in the Municipality, and more particularly, the ball field in Barrington. The ball team on which she plays had assumed that the fees for the field in Barrington would be waived once the Municipality took over ownership of the field. She indicated that the team did not feel they had received their moneys worth for their \$300.00 annual fee in the past and would like to see field improvements in the future.

The Chair then asked if there were further comments from the public members. There was no response at this time and therefore the committee moved on to their regularly scheduled business of the meeting.

NEWELL QUARRY REQUEST

Members discussed the request that has been received from Eugene Newell & Sons Construction regarding blasting at a proposed quarry on the 103 Highway near the Municipal Landfill Site. The Municipal Landfill structures are within 800 meters of the proposed blasting site. As a consequence, Nova Scotia Environment requires that the quarry operators obtain a letter from the Municipality giving their permission for the blasting that will take place.

It was indicated that blasting would take place once a year, and that it is regulated by Nova Scotia Environment. It was suggested by the Municipal Solicitor that notice be given to the Municipality prior to blasting so that employees and visitors to the C & D Landfill Site would be aware. It was also indicated that there were no camps on the property owned by Mr. Newell and that drilling in preparation for the blasting would take two days, one day on which blasting would occur, and there would be approximately one week of crushing rock. Vehicles would come and go from the property on a daily basis in order to transport rock from the property.

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. O'Donnell that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality approve the request for a letter of permission from Mr. Newell with the condition that notification be given to the Municipality.

Moved by C. Stoddard and seconded by D. Messenger that the motion be amended to indicate that the letter of permission is for a period of 20 years.

Amendment carried unanimously.

The amended motion now reads:

Resolution COW120447

“...that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality approve the request for a letter of permission from Mr. Newell with the condition that notification be given to the Municipality and that the letter of permission is for a period of 20 years.”

The division was then taken on the amended motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

BALL FIELD RENTAL FEES

Information had been provided to members concerning the rental fees that have previously been charged for the use of the Barrington ball field. The Municipality will be assuming ownership of the Barrington ball field at the request of the Barrington Volunteer Fire Department.

Resolution COW120448

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that notification be given to Council members tonight that Resolution C120440 will be considered for rescinding.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution COW120449

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that ball teams using the Barrington ball field be informed that no fees will be charged for use of that field until fee usage for all municipal ball fields has been reviewed.

Motion carried unanimously.

Members then recessed for a five minute break.

Resolution COW129450

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. O'Donnell that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality transfer the deed for the Barrington ball field to the Municipality, and that any conditions requested by the Barrington Volunteer Fire Department be contained in a separate agreement of sale.

Motion carried unanimously.

SOU'WEST TRANSIT ASSOCIATION

The Sou'West Transit Association has requested funding for the establishment of a transportation service in the County. The Transit Association is requesting interim funding so that they may initiate their transportation service prior to approval of funds through the NSTRIP pilot project. The Transit Association is also asking for funding for the remainder of the year once this pilot project has been approved. The group has also indicated they will be seeking funding in future years as this transit system will be a continuing operation.

Resolution COW120451

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality provide \$4,000.00 to the Sou'West Transit Association, contingent upon other municipal units also providing the funding requested of them.

AFFIRMATIVE

Murray Atkinson
George El-Jakl
Louise Halliday
Shaun Hatfield
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
Cathy Stoddard

NEGATIVE

Cecil O'Donnell

Motion carried.

CIVIC ADDRESSING POLICY & ARENA RENTAL POLICY

Resolution COW120452

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by D. Messenger that both of these matters be deferred to the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

DESTINATION SOUTHWEST NOVA

The Destination Southwest Nova Association is issuing a call for nominations for election to its Board of Directors. At this time the committee had no recommendation in this matter.

SOLICITOR AT MEETINGS

Members were requested to consider having the Municipal Solicitor attend all meetings of Council and Committee in order to provide legal advice when necessary.

Resolution COW120453

Moved by L. Halliday and seconded by G. El-Jakl that this matter be referred to a subsequent Committee of the Whole meeting after obtaining further information. The further information required is to identify how many, and which municipal units have their solicitor attend their meetings.

Motion carried unanimously.

SCHEDULE OF BUDGET MEETINGS

Members were requested to schedule budget meetings as possible in the next few weeks in order to review and approve the budget for the coming fiscal year.

It was agreed by members that meetings would be held on Thursday, May 24th, and Friday, May 25th, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

CONTINUATION OF MEETING

Having reached the hour of 10:00 p.m. it was:

Moved by L. Halliday and seconded by G. El-Jakl that the meeting be continued until all matters had been dealt with.

Motion carried unanimously.

RCMP SURVEY

A copy of a letter requesting members to participate in a survey that is being done by the RCMP was attached to the agenda and circulated to all members. Members are encouraged to respond to this survey which is from the RCMPs Strategic Policy and Planning Directorate. They may respond to this survey between April 19th and May 17th, on the internet, or by telephone.

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Province of Nova Scotia announced today that 12 jobs in the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture will be transferred to Shelburne County by the end of the year.

Resolution COW120454

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by C. Stoddard that it be recommended to Council that the Warden, and those councillors who wish to, should meet with Minister Belliveau for the purpose of discussing the transfer of these jobs to this area.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution COW120455

Moved by C. O'Donnell and seconded by L. Halliday that a Special Meeting of Council be scheduled for next Monday evening for the purpose of considering this motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 10:10 p.m.

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting

On website May 4, 2012.