

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

December 3, 2012

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:

- Eddie Nickerson
- Jody Crook
- George El-Jakl
- Shaun Hatfield

Absent was Deputy Warden Messenger who was away on vacation.

- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

### ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Police Advisory Committee.
- Amendments to Policy 62 - Arena.
- Department of Transportation.
- Economic Summit.
- Minor Hockey Request.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Moved** by G. El-Jakl and seconded by J. Crook that the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was indicated that the locations specified in the Committee of the Whole motions #121113 and #121116 need to be corrected. These motions were corrected when they were brought to Council on November 26th.

**Moved** by G. El-Jakl and seconded by J. Crook that minutes of the meetings of November 13th, 19th and 21st, be approved.

Motion carried unanimously.

### MAYOR/WARDEN DISCUSSION

Members then discussed the results of the plebiscite that was held during the recent municipal election. The sentiment was expressed that a decision should not be rushed into. A decision should be taken only after further discussion of the topic. Members then offered various pros and cons of having a mayor or having a warden.

There followed some discussion regarding the election notices that were sent out in District 1. There was a low turnout in this district where the councillor was elected by acclamation. Some of this low turnout may have been due to the errors in the election notices.

There were also some concern raised regarding the conditions being set for a mayor, such as:

- What would be the wage for a mayor?
- Would the mayor have a support staff working for him?
- Would the mayor be able to give directions to employees or to legal counsel?
- Would the mayor's office be full-time or part-time?
- How many councillors would there be in the Municipality if there was a mayor?
- Would there then be two votes from whatever area the mayor was elected?

After much discussion it was agreed by consensus of members that this matter would be brought back to Committee of the Whole for further discussion in February 2013.

### UNSM MEETING INVITATIONS

Members queried the current policy requiring approval for expenses paid to attend UNSM meetings. At the present time it is required that all attendance at any meetings outside the Municipality be approved for payment by either Committee of the Whole or Council.

#### Resolution COW121201

**Moved** by G. El-Jakl and seconded by J. Crook that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality request staff to draft a policy providing for payment of councillors' expenses to attend Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities events and workshops without requiring prior approval by Council.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was also agreed by consensus that information should be obtained on policies from other municipal units.

### DISPOSITION OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PROPERTY

This matter was referred to Committee of the Whole by Council. Correspondence has been received from Public Works and Government Services Canada indicating that they wish to dispose of a property in East Baccaro which was used as a storage site and is presently vacant land.

This property was formerly a LORAN Station. Since the site is no longer necessary for federal use, the Federal Government is disposing of the site, and wishes to know if the Municipality wishes to purchase it.

Resolution COW121202

**Moved** by G. El-Jakl and seconded by J. Crook that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality has no known purpose for the Public Works and Government Services property in East Baccaro, and that the Federal Government be informed that the Municipality has no interest in purchasing it.

Motion carried unanimously.

COST SHARED PAVING OF "J" CLASS AND SUBDIVISION ROADS

Correspondence has been received from the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation requesting the Municipality to indicate by January 31, 2013 if there are any "J" Class or subdivision roads the Municipality wishes to share in the cost of paving.

Members are being informed of this correspondence this evening so that they may determine if there are any such roads. This matter will be brought back to committee in January 2013 for further discussion.

GOOSE LAKE ROAD UPDATE

Members were informed that the Goose Lake Association is currently sending letters to residents of the Goose Lake area who use the Goose Lake Association's road. These residents will be asked to contribute toward the cost of upgrading the road so that the Municipality may take it over. In addition, members have measured the length of road which they wish to upgrade. The approximate length of the road to be upgraded is 1.9 kilometers. This will be contained in their petition when it is brought forward to Council.

RIVERHEAD ROAD INTERSECTION

There have recently been some accidents at the intersection of the Riverhead Road and the connector road to Highway 103. It is believed these accidents are the result of a lack of visibility due to brush and alders growing up along the side of the road.

Resolution COW121203

**Moved** by J. Crook and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that correspondence be sent to the Department of Transportation requesting that brush and alders along the eastern side of the road near the Riverhead intersection be cut and trimmed back to provide better visibility.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### STUDENT PHYSICIAN SPONSORSHIP

Information which had been received from the CAO for the Municipality of Argyle had previously been sent to members by email for their review. Members were also informed during this evening's discussion that Bill 54, a Private Members Bill, had been passed through the Nova Scotia Legislature in 2001 allowing the Municipality to provide incentives for medical professionals. A copy of this bill was subsequently provided to each member during the break. It was suggested that a separate and independent society be established for the purpose of sponsoring students who wish to become physicians. It was also suggested that the Town of Clark's Harbour be invited to participate in such a society.

#### Resolution COW121204

**Moved** by S. Hatfield and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that the Clerk determine any legal parameters which may affect the establishment of a Health Human Resource Society to be initiated by the Municipality who may appoint some of the members to this body.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Municipal Solicitor will be contacted to provide this information to the Clerk.

It was also the consensus of members that the Warden would discuss sponsorship with Robyn Pierces' father and return this information to the committee.

#### DANGEROUS AND UNSIGHTLY PREMISES

Members expressed concern with the length of time it takes to deal with dangerous and unsightly premises within the Municipality. It was suggested that there are a number of locations which needed to be addressed in a more timely manner.

A copy of the Municipality's policy and the Provisions of the Municipal Government Act will be circulated to members for their review.

It was the consensus of members that these documents would be reviewed by committee at a later date, with a view to reducing the time for the process.

#### STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETINGS

Information was circulated with the agenda concerning Strategic Planning. It is suggested that several meetings should be held by committee in order to develop more strategic plans for Council's four year term.

It was the consensus of members that meetings would be scheduled for this purpose on Thursday or Friday evenings in January or February 2013.

**COMPUTERS**

Members discussed the use of laptops by councillors, and the related cost of providing these laptops by the Municipality. Costs include the purchase of the equipment, as well as technical support for use of them and maintenance of the equipment.

**Moved** by G. El-Jakl and seconded by J. Crook that having reached the hour of 10:00 p.m. the meeting continue until all items have been dealt with.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was the consensus of members that a new technology policy should be put in place in order to deal with the matter of provision of information technology to and by councillors. Alternative means of providing this technology was discussed at length.

**Resolution COW121205**

**Moved** by S. Hatfield and seconded by J. Crook that it be recommended to Council that a policy be drafted for an information technology allowance to be provided by the Municipality, and that the Municipality no longer provide councillors with laptops as there is a more cost effective manner for this to be done.

**AFFIRMATIVE**

Jody Crook  
Shaun Hatfield  
Eddie Nickerson

**NEGATIVE**

George El-Jakl

Motion carried.

**PROVINCIAL ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES**

Members were informed that the provincial legislation establishing new electoral boundaries is expected to be passed in the Nova Scotia Legislature tomorrow.

There was some question as to any further action that may be possible to prevent Shelburne County from being divided into two different electoral districts. The Warden will obtain further information and bring this back to either Committee or Council.

**JOINT POLICE ADVISORY BOARD**

The Joint Police Advisory Board has been contacted and the Town of Clark's Harbour has been contacted. A meeting of this Board will be scheduled in the very near future.

AMENDMENTS TO POLICY 62 - ARENA

Members were informed that policy amendments will be drafted and brought forward to Committee for consideration during January 2013.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Concern was expressed regarding a section of roadway in Bear Point where there is a sharp turn. Accidents have occurred over the years at this turn, and recently there was an accident at this turn due to ice on the road.

Resolution COW121206

**Moved** by G. El-Jakl and seconded by S. Hatfield that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to the local Department of Transportation Office, and to the Minister, requesting the Department of Transportation to address the road conditions at the sharp turn known locally as "Bear Point Woods".

Motion carried unanimously.

ECONOMIC SUMMIT

Councillor Hatfield has attended the Economic Summit sponsored by the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities and is requesting payment of his expenses.

Conflict of Interest

Councillor Hatfield declared conflict of interest and vacated his seat at the table.

Resolution COW121207

**Moved** by G. El-Jakl and seconded by J. Crook that the Municipality pay the mileage expenses for Councillor Hatfield to attend the UNSM Economic Summit.

Motion carried unanimously.

Councillor Hatfield then returned to his seat at the table.

MINOR HOCKEY REQUEST

Correspondence has been received from Minor Hockey requesting permission to place a Nova Scotia webcam in the Arena for the purpose of live streaming events.

Resolution COW121208

**Moved** by S. Hatfield and seconded by J. Crook that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality give permission to Shelburne County Minor Hockey to locate a Nova Scotia webcam at the Barrington Municipal Arena.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution COW121209

**Moved** by J. Crook and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that Shelburne County Minor Hockey be required to obtain permission from other groups conducting events other than minor hockey for the purpose of streaming their events with the Nova Scotia webcam prior to doing so.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution COW121210

**Moved** by S. Hatfield and seconded by J. Crook that the previous two motions be subject to obtaining legal advice from the Municipal Solicitor.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 10:55 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary for the Meeting

**On website December 4, 2012.**