

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

January 7, 2013

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

- Eddie Nickerson, Chair
- Jody Crook
- George El-Jakl
- Donna LeBlanc-Messenger

Absent was Councillor Shaun Hatfield who was on vacation.

- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- Item #5 was removed from the agenda as it can be presented at a later date.
- McGill's Road.

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

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by J. Crook that the minutes of the last previous meeting held December 3, 2012 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

FIRE SERVICES COORDINATOR'S REPORT

The Fire Services Coordinator presented a written report for the quarter ending December 31, 2012. In reviewing the report, the Coordinator indicated that the Woods Harbour/Shag Harbour Volunteer Fire Department has been automatically called out on all medical calls in their area. As a result they have a high number of medical calls compared to the other volunteer fire departments. The number of medical calls in the Woods Harbour/Shag Harbour area is 29 compared to a total of 30 in all of the rest of the Municipality.

The Fire Services Coordinator indicated he would like to see funding more closely correlated to the area covered, the population, and assessment values protected by the various fire departments. This information will be brought to the Fire Services meeting to be held on Wednesday, January 9, 2013, for further discussion with the Advisory Committee.

It was indicated that there are currently 14 firefighters attending the FF2 course, the first night of which was held in the Woods Harbour Fire Department the previous Thursday. During the previous year 11 firefighters have completed the FF1 course.

The Fire Services Coordinator indicated that the Port LaTour Volunteer Fire Department is not responding well when called by Dispatch. In December there were three (3) calls. Two of these three calls received no response, and the third call was responded to by one firefighter with one truck. This highlights the need for combining the fire departments in this area. This matter will also be brought up at the Fire Services meeting on Wednesday, January 9, 2013.

The Fire Services Coordinator also trains members from fire departments outside of the Municipality at the same time as training is provided for fire departments within the Municipality. Firefighters attending from fire departments outside the Municipality are charged and pay the Municipality for these costs.

Having completed his report, the Fire Services Coordinator retired from the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

COST SHARED PAVING OF J-CLASS ROADS

It is necessary for the Municipality to respond to the Department of Transportation indicating which roads they wish to have cost shared paving completed on during the 2013-14 fiscal year.

A petition has been received from Smith's Lane. Eight (8) of eleven (11) residents on the lane have signed this petition, and have agreed that they are willing to participate in some manner in paying for the cost of paving the road. Individuals are attempting to contact the other three (3) residents on the lane to determine whether or not they are willing to participate as well. The distribution of funding for this project is a decision that will need to be made by Council in the future.

There then followed some discussion regarding the distribution of funding for such projects.

Resolution COW130101

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by D. LeBlanc-Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality submit Smith's Lane to the Department of Transportation for the cost shared paving of J Class subdivision streets for 2013-14.

Motion carried unanimously.

REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT BUDGET

The Region 6 Waste Management Budget for the coming fiscal year has been circulated to all municipal units for approval. The budget for the coming year is \$183,114.00. This compares to a budget of \$183,485.00 for the previous year. There is very little change in the budget. The budget will be paid for out of Diversion Credits received from the Province prior to having the balance distributed to municipal units.

Resolution COW130102

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by J. Crook that it be recommended to Council that the Region 6 Solid Waste Management Budget for the 2013/14 fiscal year be approved as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

REGIONAL 6 SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT - ALTERNATE MEMBER

Region 6 has requested that an alternate representative be appointed to the committee in the event that the elected representative is unavailable to attend.

Resolution COW130103

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by J. Crook that it be recommended to Council that Deputy Warden Messenger be appointed the alternate representative for the Region 6 Solid Waste Management Committee.

Motion carried unanimously.

PHYSICIAN RECRUITMENT

Members confirmed that they wish to meet with the Municipal Solicitor after January 11, 2013 so that all members may be able to attend the meeting. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss possible means of funding for student physicians to come to the area. The meeting will be arranged by Municipal Staff as soon as possible.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Members were reminded that there are two meetings being held in the very near future concerning Regional Economic Development. The first meeting is being hosted by the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities and will be held on Wednesday, January 9, 2013, at 7:00 p.m., at the Grand Hotel in Yarmouth, for the purpose of discussing the proposed Regional Enterprise Networks. The second meeting is being convened by the Municipality of Argyle and will be held on Thursday, January 17, 2013, at the Municipal Offices in Argyle. It was agreed by members that they would meet at the Municipal Office on Wednesday evening at 6:00 p.m., in order to carpool to Yarmouth.

BUILDING BETTER DECISION-MAKING BODIES SEMINAR

A seminar is being conducted by Eli Mina and being sponsored by the UNSM. This is a two day workshop that is being held on March 22nd and 23rd, 2013.

Resolution COW130104

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by J. Crook that expenses of councillors wishing to attend this workshop be paid by the Municipality.

Motion carried unanimously.

Members are requested to contact the Municipal Office in order to have the registration completed.

MEETING AGENDAS

Proposed changes have been suggested for the conduct and frequency of meetings in the future.

Resolution COW130105

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by J. Crook that it be recommended to Council that the following amendments be made to meeting procedures on a trial basis for the next six months:

1. Meeting agendas will be circulated on the Monday prior to each meeting.
2. Members will be encouraged to make their motions, in writing, and motions that have been made will be read back to the members during the meeting before voting on the motion.
3. There will be two committee meetings held; one each on the 2nd and 3rd Monday of each month, and a council meeting will be held once a month on the 4th Monday of each month.
4. Only emergency additions will be permitted to the agenda for meetings after the written agenda has been circulated.
5. These amendments will begin with the meetings in February 2013 and continue for a six month trial period after which the procedure will be reassessed.

Motion carried unanimously.

CAPITAL OF THE COUNTY

Correspondence has been received from Bernie Nickerson indicating that the Municipality of Barrington should be named the *Capital of Shelburne County*. There was a brief discussion of this correspondence, however no action was recommended at this time.

PROVINCIAL ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES

Members were informed that a meeting had been held by the mayors and wardens in late December for the purpose of discussing the results of the Electoral Boundaries Review. As a result of this meeting, the mayors and wardens are suggesting that a letter be sent to the leaders of the Provincial Liberal Party and the Provincial Progressive Conservative Party requesting them that should their party form the government of Nova Scotia in future, they will take immediate and effective action to reverse the position taken by the current government, and again establish an MLA for Shelburne County. The Warden indicated that another meeting of mayors and wardens would again be convened on January 17, 2013 for the purpose of further discussing the letters.

Resolution COW130106

Moved by J. Crook and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that:

1. Council approve the letter drafted to be sent to the Leader of the Provincial Liberal Party and the Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party requesting either party if they should form the government in the future to revert back to the previous situation where Shelburne County has its own MLA, providing all of the municipal units in Shelburne County agree to have their mayors and wardens sign this letter.

OR

2. If all of the municipal units in the County do not wish to sign the letter, then the Municipality of Barrington will send a letter to the leaders of both parties expressing the wish to have the MLA for Shelburne County reinstated, with copies of the letter being sent to the other municipal units in the County.

Motion carried unanimously.

FORMER CHETWYND PROPERTY

The Municipality has taken ownership of the former Chetwynd property in Woods Harbour as a result of a Tax Sale several years ago. It is suggested this property be put up for sale. After some discussion it was agreed that this property would be put up for sale in the spring along with other properties that have come into the ownership of the Municipality through Tax Sale.

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR LOW INCOME EARNERS

Information was provided to councillors indicating the income thresholds for low income earners. The amounts provided included the single low income threshold for 2011 which is \$18,246.00, the total amount received for seniors who receive the maximum Canada Pension and maximum Old Age Security which is \$18,702.00, and the amount received for individuals who may be working for a minimum wage which would be \$21,112.00. It is suggested that the income level for the property tax exemption be increased to \$21,500.00, and that the exemption provided be in one amount, not to exceed \$150.00.

Resolution COW130107

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the amounts to be included in the property tax exemption for low income earners for the 2013-2014 fiscal year be \$150.00, at a threshold income of \$21,500.00, or less.

Motion carried unanimously.

STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETINGS

The schedule of Strategic Planning Meetings that had previously been circulated will not be able to be followed as other commitments have arisen. As a result it is suggested that members meet on Saturday, January 19, 2013, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon, and then decide subsequent meeting dates at that time.

Members agreed to this proposal by consensus.

SEAL ISLAND LIGHT

Members were informed by memo that the Province has agreed to contribute \$21,375.00 towards the restoration of the Seal Island Light. It is now proposed that the Municipality increase their contribution by \$375.00 to equal that of the contribution of the Province, and that the Municipality sign the agreement provided by the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency.

Resolution COW130108

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that funding for the restoration of the Seal Island Light be approved in the amount of \$21,375.00 from the Municipality, and that the Municipality authorize the Warden and the Clerk-Treasurer to enter into an agreement with the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency for the purpose of restoration of the Seal Island Light.

Motion carried unanimously.

COUNCIL OFFICE

Members retired from the meeting room briefly to view a proposed location for a Council office. This office is to be used by all councillors for the storage of their files, and to meet constituents when necessary and conduct telephone communications when necessary.

Resolution COW130109

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by J. Crook that it be recommended to Council that the Clerk-Treasurer make arrangements for the use of an office in the Municipal building for the use of councillors.

Motion carried unanimously.

LOBSTER QUOTA

Information was circulated to members indicating that there has been some discussion in the media recently concerning the establishment of a quota in the lobster fishery. It is the opinion of members that the majority of fishermen in the area are strongly opposed to having any kind of quota imposed on the lobster fishery.

It was agreed by consensus of members that the Warden would draft a letter to be circulated to members and considered at the next Council meeting opposing any form of quota for the lobster fishery.

INFORMATION UPDATES

It was indicated that members would like to have an update on actions being taken by the Municipality at various stages. It was suggested and approved by consensus of members that a monthly listing would be forwarded to councillors, by email, indicating the progress on various outstanding matters.

MCGILL'S ROAD, UPPER CLYDE

A member indicated that McGill's Road in Upper Clyde had deteriorated in condition and was in need of repair.

Resolution COW130110

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by J. Crook that it be recommended to Council that it be determined if McGill's Road is a Department of Transportation road, and if it is the Department of Transportation will be asked by letter to initiate repairs to the road.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 9:59 p.m.

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting

On website January 9, 2013.