

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

February 11, 2013

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, Chair
- Jody Crook
- Shaun Hatfield
- Donna LeBlanc-Messenger

Absent was George El-Jakl who was away on vacation.

- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by J. Crook that the agenda be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by J. Crook and seconded by D. Messenger that the minutes of the meetings held January 21st and January 31st, 2013, be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

CROW NECK BEACH

Ms. Sue Abbott, Ms. Alice Morgan and Pat Hudson appeared before the meeting for the purpose of addressing the Bird Studies Canada interest and the Nova Scotia Nature Trust interest in Crow Neck Beach.

Sue Abbott made a presentation on behalf of Bird Studies Canada regarding the piping plover. She circulated information on the piping plover and on its population and productivity in Nova Scotia. This written summary indicated that there were fifteen (15) adult piping plovers identified on Crow Neck Beach during June of 2012. The estimated population at the end of the year for 2012 on Crow Neck Beach is fifteen piping plover. This is the highest number of piping plovers on any beach in Nova Scotia. It is the goal of the Bird Studies Canada group to have 350 pair of piping plover in Nova Scotia. At the present time there are only 179 pair. Crow Neck Beach is a significant breeding ground for the piping plover in Southwestern Nova Scotia. Ms. Abbott continued her presentation on the piping plover and emphasized the significance of Crow Neck Beach to the survival of this endangered species.

Alice Morgan then made a presentation on behalf of the Nova Scotia Nature Trust. The Nature Trust owns property at Crow Neck Beach which is used to access the beach. The purpose of the Nature Trust is to conserve the land. The Nature Trust is a charity which restricts activities on the lands it owns. It operates under a "forever wild" management regime for its properties. This means there is restricted access in an effort to maintain a clean and natural environment. Ms. Morgan also made a slide presentation to the meeting and indicated that the access area would be cleaned up in the spring with some signage being placed in the area, together with a bench and a gravel walkway for access. Ms. Morgan indicated there is a brochure that can be accessed online titled *Healthy Beaches and Dunes*, which will help people to understand their approach to preservation. She also indicated that no additional parking will be provided or allowed on Nature Trust property. Their organization is a preservation organization, not a recreation organization.

It was suggested that it might be desirable to change the highway sign on Highway #103 showing Crow Neck Beach. It was indicated that the main issue for local residents was access to the beach for noninvasive recreational activity. It was suggested that the Municipality may buy part of the property in order to provide access should the adjacent property come up for sale.

Having completed their presentation these members retired from the meeting at approximately 8:10 p.m.

FINANCIAL CONDITION INDEX

The Financial Condition Index is a tool that has been developed by the Association of Municipal Administrators, the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities and Service Nova Scotia to help councils and the public make sense of municipal financial information. The Index and its four dimensions were reviewed for committee members. The Municipality's Financial Condition Index for the year 2010 was reviewed for members for their information. It is apparent from the review of this Index that the Municipality has three main areas that require some attention. First, is the amount of uncollected property taxes. This amount is somewhat high compared to other rural municipalities. Second, is the Municipality's capital investment. The investment in capital assets is relatively low compared to the depreciation of the same assets. The third dimension that is of concern is demographics. The Municipality's population has declined by 9.7% in the four years prior to March 31, 2010. This is a significant decline and will have an impact on municipal operations in the future. The education level of residents of the Municipality is also an issue as the number of individuals attaining a higher education beyond Grade 12 graduation is less than the rural average.

REN LIAISON COMMITTEE

Correspondence has been received from the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities requesting the Municipality appoint a person, either elected or staff, to sit on the Regional Enterprise Network Liaison Committee.

Resolution COW130201

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by J. Crook that it be recommended to Council that the Warden be the Municipality's member on the REN Liaison Committee.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution COW130202

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by J. Crook that the Deputy Warden be appointed the alternate member for the REN Liaison Committee.

Motion carried unanimously.

CAPE LIGHT REQUEST

Members were informed that the Warden had been in discussion with the Mayor of the Town of Clark's Harbour. It had been indicated to him by email that a request would be coming forward from the Friends of the Cape Light Funding to paint the building.

During discussion of this matter there arose several questions, including:

- Who has the authority to paint the building?
- What is the future life and disposition of this light?
- How much will it cost to paint the building?

It was the consensus of members that these questions should be answered, if possible, prior to making any decision in this matter.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY POLICY

A draft Information Technology Policy had previously been circulated to members for their information and review. This policy had been discussed and amended at various times. It was the consensus of members that in paragraph 1 the word "maximum" be inserted, and that paragraph 3 would become part of this sentence so that the last sentence in paragraph 1 would read: "An allowance of a maximum of \$2,050.00 for the four year term shall be provided and receipts or invoices supporting purchases must be provided for reimbursement of payment.", and that the remaining paragraphs be numbered accordingly. These changes will be made as requested.

Resolution COW130203

WHEREAS the proposed Information Technology Policy will be more cost effective for the Municipality;

AND WHEREAS having investigated similar policies in other municipal units that the existing technology owned by the Municipality can be put to valuable alternative uses;

AND WHEREAS this policy will provide more flexibility to councillors for the provision of electronic technology;

THEREFORE it is moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by J. Crook that notice be given to Council for the consideration of the proposed Information Technology Policy.

Motion carried unanimously.

PHYSICIAN RECRUITMENT

Members were informed that the amendment being requested to the Municipality's Private Members Bill has been forwarded by our MLA to the Nova Scotia Legislature, and is in the process of being developed.

DR. YEE RENTAL REQUEST

Dr. Yee is requesting the rental funding of the rear office in Dr. Germanus' facility be continued by the Municipality.

Resolution COW130204

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality continue funding the rental payment for the second office at Dr. Germanus' facility so that medical students can continue to be brought to the Municipality, and so that the doctor will continue to have a facility to see more patients.

Motion carried unanimously.

STREET LIGHT REQUEST

Information was provided to members regarding a street light request from local residents on Petticoat Lane. It was indicated that the residents had had to call the RCMP on at least two separate occasions due to incidents taking place in this area.

Resolution COW130205

Moved by J. Crook and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality take over paying for the cost of a street light at the end of Petticoat Lane in future without paying any payments in arrears, and that it be determined if an LED street light can be used at this location.

Motion carried unanimously.

PART-TIME TRAVEL COUNSELOR

It is proposed that a part-time travel counselor be added at the Visitor Information Centre during the summer months. This would alleviate the need for the Visitor Information Centre Manager to incur overtime during the "shoulder seasons".

Resolution COW130206

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by S. Hatfield that it be recommended to Council that the job description for the part-time travel counselor be approved as presented, and that a part-time travel counselor be included in the Visitor Information Centre budget for the coming season.

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by S. Hatfield that having reached the hour of 10:00 p.m., members continue until the business of the meeting has been completed.

Motion carried unanimously.

WOODLANDS MULTI USE TRAIL ASSOCIATION GRANT

Members were informed that funds from the Gas Tax Funds cannot be provided to this organization. The Gas Tax Funds can only be applied to projects on trails that are owned by the Municipality. As a result it is suggested that the grant provided to this organization come from the Municipality's Grants to Organizations as it did the previous year.

Resolution COW130208

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by J. Crook that it be recommended to Council that the grant being provided to the Woodland Multi Use Trail Association for the completion of the multi purpose trail from Woods Harbour to the CSI Causeway be provided from Grants to Organizations.

Motion carried unanimously.

ATVs ON BARRINGTON BAY TRAIL

Members discussed the recent emails received indicating that there are ATVs using the Barrington Bay Trail. It was suggested that this matter be further discussed with the RCMP who are scheduled to appear at the next meeting of Council.

It was also suggested that a public meeting be held for the purpose of further discussing the use of the Barrington Bay Trail by ATVs. At that time it was suggested that Council should consider how they wish to approach this matter and what information would be provided at the public meeting.

It is also suggested that information be obtained from the Department of Natural Resources to determine how the authority can be offered.

WOODS HARBOUR SIDEWALK

There was some question regarding the motion previously made regarding the Woods Harbour sidewalk. It was the understanding of some councillors that should the cost of this project exceed the allotted funds, the project would not be constructed. Members then further discussed the matter. No definitive motion was made following this discussion.

PROVINCIAL ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES

After some investigation and consultation with various legal advisors it was concluded that it would not be likely that an injunction could be obtained by the Municipality in regards to this matter.

Resolution COW130209

Moved by J. Crook and seconded by S. Hatfield that it be recommended to Council that the other municipal units in the County be contacted indicating that the Municipality of Barrington will not be pursuing any further legal action as it is not advised by legal authorities.

Motion carried unanimously.

WOODS HARBOUR FIRE HALL

Members were advised that correspondence has been received from the Woods Harbour Fire Department indicating that the department no longer owns the former Woods Harbour Fire Hall building located at #6881 Highway #3, Woods Harbour. There has been no change in the assessment received by the Municipality to date. Once change in assessment has been received and the property is in the hands of the community organization, Council will need to consider providing an exemption to that organization.

MAYOR/WARDEN DISCUSSION

It was suggested that further information be obtained regarding the list of duties and responsibilities of a mayor, and the wages that may be paid to a mayor.

Resolution COW130210

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that Municipal Staff obtain further information concerning the potential job description of a mayor which would include the duties and responsibilities of the position as well as the wages attached thereto.

Motion carried unanimously.

ARENA CONCERNS

Members were informed of the report recently received from the Arena Attendant indicating that there is alcohol being consumed in the dressing rooms during the Recreational Hockey League games. The Arena Manager has been directed to inform the President of the Recreational Hockey League that this is taking place, and ask that the matter be addressed by the League.

PLANNING MEETINGS

It was the consensus of members that the next Planning Meeting would be scheduled for 7:00 p.m., on February 28, 2013, in the Conference Room.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 11:00 p.m.

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting