

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL

March 11, 2013

The meeting was called to order by Councillor Crook, at 7:00 p.m., in the meeting room of the Port LaTour Volunteer Fire Department, in Port LaTour, N.S., with the following members present:

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

- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

Absent was member Shaun Hatfield who was away on vacation.

There were also 17 members of the public present at the meeting.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by D. Messenger that the agenda be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by E. Nickerson that minutes of the Committee meetings held February 13th, 18th and 28th, 2013 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Chair asked the public members present if they wished to discuss any particular issues with the committee.

Crow's Neck Beach

The subject of access to Crow's Neck Beach was then discussed at length by members. Access to Crow's Neck Beach was recently improved by the Nova Scotia Nature Trust. It was questioned whether steps would be provided from the end of this walking access over the rocks to the sand area on the beach. This was unknown at the present time, however it was indicated that it is unlikely the Nature Trust would allow any further development of the access. It was indicated that elderly people cannot climb over the rocks to the beach.

Parking on either side of the road near the access was an issue. Parking on the side of the road could be at times dangerous when visibility was restricted by the weather.

It was indicated that the owner of the adjacent property had not had any issues with people walking across their property to the beach in the past and may be agreeable to this in future. It was suggested that the property owner be contacted to gain permission for access.

Members of the public indicated that Crow's Neck Beach is the equivalent of the walking trails that have been established in other areas of the Municipality.

Resolution COW130301

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality contact the property owner adjacent to Crow's Neck Beach to determine if access to the beach across that property would be permitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

Lighthouse Road

The next subject discussed was Lighthouse Road.

Members were informed that this matter will be discussed with the Department of Transportation Supervisor, at the Committee of the Whole Meeting on March 18, 2013.

It was suggested that more armor rock be placed along the Lighthouse Road to prevent further erosion. The lighthouse is a tourist attraction and this road should be better maintained to permit access for locals and tourists.

Resolution COW130302

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by E. Nickerson that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to Mr. Steve MacIsaac of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal regarding the condition and maintenance of Lighthouse Road.

Motion carried unanimously.

Roads in Baccaro

The condition of the main road in Baccaro was also discussed. It was indicated that there are at least three places where the asphalt on the main road through East and West Baccaro has deteriorated and needs to be repaired.

Community Halls

Some question was then raised regarding programs for the restoration and construction of community halls.

Amalgamation of Fire Departments

There then followed some discussion of the amalgamation of fire departments and the construction of a new fire hall in Port LaTour.

Having exhausted their discussion of these matters, and having heard no other matters brought forward by members of the public, members then discussed the scheduled business of the meeting.

POLICE SERVICES AGREEMENT

As a result of a request for information at a previous committee meeting, a summary of this agreement was provided to members for their information. Also provided was the correspondence received from the Department of Justice indicating the Municipality's cost of policing services during the most recent fiscal year.

MUNICIPALITY OF YARMOUTH CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence has been received from the Municipality of Yarmouth indicating that they are interested in exploring with other municipal units the possibility of amalgamation or an additional sharing of services.

Resolution COW130303

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality reply to the District of Yarmouth that Council is willing to consider and discuss shared service opportunities with any other municipal units without making any prior commitments.

Motion carried unanimously.

FIRE SERVICES

As a result of a request for information at a previous committee meeting the Terms of Reference for the Fire Services Advisory Committee was circulated to members together with copies of motions previously made in regards to the Fire Services Advisory Committee.

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL 2013 ANNUAL TEMPORARY COUNT PROGRAM

Correspondence from the Department was circulated to members indicating that the Department wishes to know if there are any traffic volume counts requested by the Municipality for the coming season.

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Department of Transportation be informed that the Municipality does not wish to take advantage of this program for the coming year.

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by D. Messenger that the motion be deferred to the next Committee of the Whole Meeting for further discussion.

Motion carried unanimously.

MEDAL OF BRAVERY

Information was circulated to members concerning the Nova Scotia Bravery Award and also the Canadian Bravery Decorations.

Resolution COW130304

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that the four divers who searched the Miss Ally off the Nova Scotia coast be recommended for both the Nova Scotia and Federal awards for bravery.

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by D. Messenger that this matter be discussed at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

e-SMART GET CONNECTED PROGRAM

Correspondence has been received from the e-Smart Get Connected Program indicating that the program has not been successful in obtaining a major portion of its funding required for the planned third year. As a result of this lack of funding, the program will be discontinued. A report will be forwarded to the Municipality upon completion of the second year of the program.

Resolution COW130305

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that a letter of thanks and appreciation be forwarded to CBDC for its efforts in conducting the two years of the e-Smart Program.

Motion carried unanimously.

PVSC CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence has been received from the Property Valuation Services Corporation indicating the cost to the Municipality for the current year. The Municipality will pay \$140,889.00 for assessment services during the coming fiscal year.

ELECTION AND TIMING OF UNSM CONFERENCE

Email correspondence has been received from the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities requesting councillors to provide input regarding the October 2012 election and the timing of the UNSM Conference.

It was the general consensus of members that the conference should be held after the election rather than prior to it. Each councillor may respond individually to the UNSM via email.

WAIVER OF PENSION PLAN WAITING PERIOD

Resolution COW130306

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by D. Messenger that this matter be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee of the Whole for discussion.

Motion carried unanimously.

BY-LAW NO. 25 AMENDMENTS

It was suggested that amendments to By-Law No. 25, adding or deleting organizations, be done by policy rather than being approved individually by Council.

After some discussion with the Municipal Solicitor and with the Municipal Advisor, it was concluded that this process should be continued as it is now in place. Council may or may not approve this exemption for organizations regardless of whether or not they qualify under the Municipal Government Act.

PAC MEMBERSHIP

In the past the Planning Advisory Committee consisted of three Council members and two public members. Council has determined in future there should be two Council members and three public members.

Resolution COW130307

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that Councillor Crook and Warden Nickerson continue to serve on the Planning Advisory Committee for the coming year. Councillor Messenger will withdraw from the committee in order to provide for another public member.

Motion carried unanimously.

RURAL MAILBOX SAFETY REVIEW

Correspondence has been received from Canada Post indicating that there will be a Rural Mailbox Safety Review conducted during the 2013 season. This Rural Mailbox Traffic Safety Review on rural routes in Nova Scotia will include the communities of Lower Woods Harbour, Shag Harbour, Clark's Harbour, Barrington, Baccaro, Cape Negro and Smithville.

Resolution COW130308

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by E. Nickerson that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to Canada Post requesting them to keep the Municipality informed of any proposed changes as a result of the Rural Mailbox Traffic Safety Review.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 9:09 p.m.

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting

On website March 13, 2013.