

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL
STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING**

May 6, 2013

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 8:05 p.m., in the Conference Room, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington, N.S., with the following members present:

- Lindsay (Eddie) Nickerson
- Jody Crook
- George El-Jakl
- Shaun Hatfield
- Donna LeBlanc-Messenger

- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

PURPOSE OF MEETING

The purpose of this meeting was to continue discussion of Strategic Planning for the Municipality, in particular in regards to revenue sources available to the Municipality and the proposed Capital Investment Plan projects for the next few years.

REVENUES

Members reviewed various revenues that are currently available to the Municipality, including fees for the rental of the Arena, for recreation programs, for tax certificates and for development permits. Sewer charges applicable to the Barrington and Woods Harbour sewer systems were also reviewed, as well as Fees for Services provided to other governments, grants received in lieu of taxes from federal and provincial governments and property taxes.

Members discussed the possibility of a Deed Transfer Tax being implemented in the Municipality. It was agreed that further information should be obtained on Deed Transfer Taxes.

PROPERTY SERVICES

Members also reviewed the cost of providing property services within the Municipality as this is a significant expenditure. The pros and cons of contracting out various property services were discussed at length.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN

A listing of the currently approved projects under the Municipality's Capital Investment Plan was reviewed, as well as potential future projects that have been mentioned by councillors at various meetings. In addition to the list provided, the following items were also mentioned:

- Road improvements – Newell Road, Nickerson Road
- Breakwater at Fish Plant Road at The Hawk
- Floating Dock at North East Point
- Possible road improvements at Symonds Lane

Various sources of funding for the projects under the Capital Investment Plan were also discussed at this time.

MUNICIPAL SOFTWARE

Members were also advised that the software currently used by the Municipality for accounting and property tax purposes had been installed in 1985, and updated at various points between then and now. This software has become outdated and is maintained by one individual out of the Halifax/Dartmouth area. The individual doing the maintenance is also doing the maintenance on this software sold by this company throughout Nova Scotia and it is often difficult to get adequate service from him. An investigation has been done into alternative sources of municipal software which would improve the efficiency and operation of the Municipal Office. It is suggested that this software be purchased in conjunction with other municipal units who are also considering changing their software in order to obtain economies of scale in purchasing. A provision will need to be provided for in the Municipality's upcoming budget for this purpose.

BUDGET

After some discussion members agreed to have the department managers present their budgets to Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, May 14, 2013, at 7:00 p.m., in the Conference Room.

Also, Committee of the Whole will meet on Saturday, May 25, 2013, at 9:00 a.m., in the Conference Room, for the purpose of reviewing the proposed budget for the coming fiscal year.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 9:39 p.m.

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting

On website May 8, 2013.