

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

May 13, 2013

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, at 7:05 p.m., in the Conference Room, in Administrative Centre, in Barrington, N.S., with the following members present:

- Lindsay (Eddie) Nickerson, Chair
- Jody Crook
- Shaun Hatfield
- Donna LeBlanc-Messenger

Councillor El-Jakl was away on leave of absence.

- 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 D. Messenger that the agenda be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by J. Crook that minutes of the meetings held April 15th, April 25th, April 29th and May 6th, 2013 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

FISHERMEN'S PREMIUM ATLANTIC LOBSTER

Erica Smith and Alton Smith, Directors of the Fishermen's Premium Atlantic Lobster Inc., appeared before the meeting for the purpose of making their presentation. This group has formed a company and is in the process of obtaining funds to purchase the former Ronnie Goodwin lobster facility in North East Point. It is the intention of this company to process lobsters and other species of fish at this location. This group is seeking funding from the Province of Nova Scotia, and has provided them with a Feasibility Study and a Business Plan. They are requesting a letter of support from the Municipality in order to help them obtain this funding. The company is taking a cooperative approach and will be selling both common shares and preferred shares to local fishermen. The fishermen will share in the profits of the company up to 10%. The amount of funding sought from the Province is 60% of the required capital. The company is requesting a letter of support for the initiative they are taking in the industry and in the community. The Directors of the company are attempting to arrange a meeting with the Premier and with the Minister of Economic and Rural Development, as well as the Provincial Minister of Fisheries.

This is a profit making business to help grow the local economy and increase jobs in the area. The employee base for this business already exists in the community. It will operate as a processing plant for approximately 6 – 8 months each year and hopes to employ up to 70 workers on a daily basis. The plant expects to process 200 crates of lobsters per day during the processing season.

The Directors will be consulted to determine whether or not a Business Plan and Feasibility Study for the company can be provided to the Municipality. It is anticipated that the company would purchase their facility sometime this summer or early fall, and that the processing would start sometime next spring. They do not intend to compete with the big lobster purchasing companies in the area. The company would like to ship fresh lobster meat in a raw form. The funding commitment required from the Province must come forward by September for this project to go forward.

Resolution COW130501

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that a letter of support be provided to Fishermen's Premium Atlantic Lobster Inc. as requested.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was also mentioned that the company is setting up a website at www.seducedbylobster.com in the very near future. This site will contain information on the company.

Having completed their presentation, the representatives of Fishermen's Premium Atlantic Lobster retired from the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

REVIEW OF GRANT APPLICATIONS

Resolution COW130502

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by J. Crook that the review of Grant Applications be deferred to tomorrow evenings' meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

Motion carried unanimously.

NATURE CONSERVANCY OF CANADA REQUEST

Correspondence has been received from the Nature Conservancy of Canada. In this correspondence, Craig Smith is asking to meet with the Committee of the Whole again to discuss an agreement for the preservation of the 900 acres contained in the Swaine's Road bog. Mr. Smith indicates that a conservation agreement may be possible. He would like to meet with the committee to discuss the terms of such an easement, and the potential for preserving the bog.

Resolution COW130503

Moved by J. Crook and seconded by S. Hatfield that Mr. Smith be invited to attend a future Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss the potential conservation easement for the Swaine's Road bog.

Motion carried unanimously.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS

Members were informed that a box to receive food bank donations will be made available at all future Council meetings. Members, as well as the public, will be asked to bring food bank donations to all Council meetings. This information will be put on the agenda for the meetings on the Municipality's website and facebook page.

GOOSE LAKE ROAD

Conflict of Interest

Deputy Warden Messenger declared conflict of interest as she is a co-owner of property on the Goose Lake Road and retired from the meeting.

Members were informed that a petition had been drafted and is now in the process of being circulated to all of the property owners in the Goose Lake area. Once this petition has been signed and brought forward to Council an appropriate by-law will be drafted for review of Council.

Deputy Warden Messenger was then asked to return to the meeting.

MAYOR/WARDEN DEFERRED MOTION

It was the consensus of members that this matter would be deferred for further discussion once Councillor El-Jakl has returned from his leave of absence.

LFA 34/33 TAGGING REQUEST

Correspondence has been received from the LFA 34 representative requesting the Municipality to consider a donation of \$1,000.00 as a start-up cost for their tagging and information specialist. The Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans will no longer be providing individual gear tags. These tags will now be provided by independent private business operators and includes several groups in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Two of the groups included in this area are the LFA 33/34 Tags and Licensing Services in Yarmouth, and the Tri-Nav Marine Brokerage Inc. in Yarmouth. It is also mentioned that there may be other private groups providing these tags in this area as well.

Section 57(2) of the Municipal Government Act states that: "A municipality shall not grant a tax concession or any form of direct financial assistance to a business or an industry." This section virtually prevents the Municipality from making a direct grant or donation to this organization.

Resolution COW130504

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality reply to the LFA 34 request citing the section of the Municipal Government Act that prevents a direct contribution or donation to their group, and also naming any other groups providing this service in the area.

Motion carried unanimously.

MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER

The next issue of the Municipal Newsletter is scheduled for July of 2013. In recent years the Municipality has been printing 3300 – 3500 newsletters and sending them out through regular mail, at the flyer rate, to households in the Municipality. It has become apparent that many of these newsletters distributed are not read, but discarded in the Post Office by many residents.

After some discussion it was proposed that the number of newsletters being printed be reduced and have them subscribe to the newsletter as is done in other local municipalities. It was also suggested that the newsletters might be sent to seniors groups in the area as it was felt that seniors are one of the main readers to the letter.

Resolution COW130505

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by J. Crook that it be recommended to Council that the July issue of the newsletter again be sent to all households in the Municipality, and that it be announced in that newsletter the various alternatives for subscribing to the newsletter; by calling the Municipal Office, by emailing the Municipal Office or by directing a request to the Municipality's website or facebook page. It was also recommended that the newsletter be issued twice per year, once in the spring and once in the fall, in order to reduce the cost to provide the information service to residents.

Motion carried unanimously.

PHYSICIAN RECRUITMENT

Members were informed that the amendment to Bill 54. District of Barrington Health Professionals Assistance Act, has passed through the Legislature. The amendment allows the Municipality to provide financial assistance to students from the area who are wishing to become physicians, and who will return to the area in general practise. The amendment received royal assent on May 10th, and will be put in place in the very near future.

The Municipality has been contacted by another student physician who is completing his education and wishes to become a general practitioner. This student is interested in coming to the Municipality to practice.

Resolution COW130506

Moved by J. Crook and seconded by D. Messenger that the physician be invited to meet with Committee of the Whole in order to discuss terms of an agreement that may attract this individual to the area to practice medicine.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was also the consensus of members that Robyn Pierce also be notified that the amendment to the legislation has been passed, and further discussion can now take place regarding a student physician incentive.

GROUP INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR COUNCILLORS

Information on various group insurance plans was circulated to members for their information and review.

It was agreed that this matter would be deferred for further consideration once Councillor El-Jakl has returned from his leave of absence.

BENCHES ON WOODS HARBOUR SIDEWALK

Information on the cost of benches which may be placed along the Woods Harbour sidewalk was circulated to members for their information and review.

Resolution COW130507

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by J. Crook that further consideration of this subject be deferred until a committee meeting in July when Councillor El-Jakl will have returned from his leave of absence.

Motion carried unanimously.

PROTECTING BEACHES

Correspondence has been received from Sid and Betty June Smith regarding the use of beaches in the area, and pets running at large on the beaches. As well, there was some comment regarding the placement of toilet facilities at the South Side Beach.

Members were informed that portable toilets have already been placed in many locations at or near beaches. In fact, there is a toilet placed each summer on the road adjacent to Hirtle's Pond near The Hawk for the use of those who frequent the beaches for recreation.

The Municipality has already sent correspondence to the Department of Natural Resources regarding the placement of signs on the beaches requesting that pets be on a leash.

Resolution COW130508

Moved by J. Crook and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that a response be sent to the Smiths indicating the Municipality's previous correspondence to the Department of Natural Resources regarding signs on the beaches for pet owners and also the placement of portable toilets at various beaches within the Municipality, and regarding the enforcement of municipal by-laws on provincial government property.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution COW130509

Moved by J. Crook and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that a copy of the letter sent to the Department of Natural Resources be forwarded to the Smiths.

Motion carried unanimously.

LOBSTER FESTIVAL COMMITTEE REQUEST

The Lobster Festival Committee is now in the process of completing its plans for the Lobster Festival. Events will be held at the Barrington Municipal Arena on June 7th and 8th which will include the “Great Lobstermen’s Challenge” as well as the other competitions such as lobster banding, rope splicing, trap stacking and seafood chowder cook-out and the Municipal Recreation Department’s lobster eating competition.

The Committee is requesting assistance from the Municipality to help develop the Lobster Festival to its full potential by waiving the Arena fee for the Festival.

Resolution COW130510

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by J. Crook that it be recommended to Council that the Arena fees for June 7th and 8th be waived for the Lobster Festival Committee.

Motion carried unanimously.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Various social media policies were circulated to members for their information and review. These included policies from the Town of Bridgewater, Town of Hantsport, County of Kings and the County of Richmond.

Resolution COW130511

Moved by J. Crook and seconded by S. Hatfield that it be recommended to Council that Municipal Staff draft a Social Media Policy for the consideration of Council.

Motion carried unanimously.

TENDER FOR LEGAL SERVICES

The Request for Proposal for legal services was advertised twice in the local newspaper. The Municipality advertises for an RFP for the provision of legal services every five years in the local newspaper. Only one response was received to this advertisement. The response was from the current Municipal Solicitor. It was suggested that advertising should be done more widely than in the local newspaper in order to attract more responses to the RFP. Legal advice will be obtained from another solicitor in regards to this matter.

Resolution COW130512

Moved by J. Crook and seconded by S. Hatfield that another solicitor be consulted in order to determine the appropriate action that may be taken in regards to the Request for Proposals for legal tenders, and this information be brought back to the next meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 9:38 p.m.

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting

On website May 15, 2013.