

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

August 19, 2013

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

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

- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Woods Harbour Community Centre.
- Physician Recruitment.
- Baseball Team Request.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by J. Crook and seconded by G. El-Jakl that the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by J. Crook and seconded by S. Hatfield that minutes of the meeting held August 12, 2013 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE USE

Correspondence has been received indicating that the Municipality of the District of East Hants will be proposing a resolution at the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities Conference in the fall. This resolution proposes that the Province grant municipalities the authority to legislate through by-law if, where and when, off-highway vehicle use is appropriate on the shoulders of municipal and provincial roads.

There then followed some discussion of this matter.

It was agreed by consensus of members that the matter be deferred for further discussion during the RCMP quarterly report.

RCMP QUARTERLY REPORT

Sgt. Deluco appeared before the meeting for the purpose of providing the RCMP Quarterly Report. A statistical summary of the RCMP's calls for the first seven (7) months of the year was circulated to members for their information and review.

Sgt. Deluco then highlighted various aspects of this report. She also indicated that the School Safety Officer would be off on maternity leave until January of 2014.

A new member, Cst. McCoombs, has recently been added to the Detachment.

Cst. Toope will be going to the Shelburne Detachment and Cpl. O'Callaghan will be coming from Shelburne to Barrington to replace Cpl. Ross who is going to Yarmouth. This will all be happening during the month of September.

In regards to off-highway vehicle use, the Sgt. did not believe this would be a good course of action to take. She indicated it would be virtually impossible to police.

Resolution COW130812

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by S. Hatfield that the Municipality obtain more information from the Municipality of East Hants, and also from the local Trail Association regarding this proposed UNSM resolution.

Motion carried unanimously.

Sgt. Deluco also indicated that on November 18th she would bring the RCMP criminologist to the meeting for a 30 minute discussion of information.

Having completed her discussion with members, she retired from the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

NATURE CONSERVANCY OF CANADA

Mr. Craig Smith appeared before the meeting for the purpose of discussing the Swaine's Road bog with members.

The Nature Conservancy of Canada proposes two different options for the Conservancy of the Swaine's Road bog. The first is an outright donation by the Municipality of the property to the Nature Conservancy of Canada. The second option is a conservation easement, either temporary or in perpetuity.

Mr. Smith indicated that the Conservancy allows hunting and fishing on conserved properties. He indicated that the Swaine's Road bog is a highly significant site because of the thread-leaved sundew plant that is present on the bog. He indicated it is only present in five (5) locations in Canada, and all of these locations are in Shelburne County. It was also indicated that this plant is regionally rare, but locally abundant at the Swaine's Road bog. The plant is protected by both Federal and Provincial acts that protect endangered plants. Mr. Smith indicated that this would be an opportunity for the Municipality to engage a professional act of conservation methods on this site through the easement. He indicated that the Conservancy's interpretation of a temporary easement would be a 99 year agreement. The agreement could be rescinded if the plant was no longer present on the property. It would be possible under such an easement to have specified uses in designated areas on the property. He recognized that it would be difficult to reduce ATV use on the site. It was the preference of the Conservancy to have a legal interest in any sites in which they are involved. He indicated that the bulk of the plants were in the northern and eastern half of the property, more or less on 400+ acres. Mr. Smith indicated that the Conservancy stewardship of the property would involve a "light-handed management", which would include communication efforts through signage and brochures. There would be site visitations during the summer months by Conservancy personnel during which a baseline inventory would be completed, and a property management plan would be put in place that would identify the conservation values and threats on the property. The Conservancy would exercise an active stewardship through their easement on the property. Mr. Smith also indicated that the Conservancy's botanist will be on the bog sometime in the next few weeks, and will provide a report which will be forwarded to the Municipality.

Having completed his discussion of the matter, Mr. Smith retired from the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

BARRINGTON BAY TRAIL

Members were brought up to date on efforts to have the Barrington Bay Trail temporarily opened for multi-use purpose. The Trail Association has been asked to provide signs for the Barrington Bay Trail. It was suggested that the Department of Natural Resources be asked to inspect the trail along with a representative from the Trail Association to determine what is necessary to convert the trail. Municipal Staff will make arrangements with both the Department of Natural Resources and the Trail Association for this purpose in the very near future.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN

A proposed Capital Investment Plan, for the current year and the following year, was circulated to members prior to the meeting. This plan is necessary in order for the Municipality to continue to receive Gas Tax Funding.

Resolution COW130813

Moved by L. Nickerson and seconded by S. Hatfield that the Capital Investment Plan be recommended to Council for approval.

Motion carried unanimously.

WOODS HARBOUR COMMUNITY CENTRE

Members were informed that the Woods Harbour Community Centre is attempting to obtain funding from Farm Credit Canada in order to finish renovations at their community centre. They will be sending correspondence to the Municipality in the near future requesting that the Municipality partner with them in this effort. It is anticipated this correspondence will be brought forward at the next Council meeting.

PHYSICIAN RECRUITMENT

An email has been received from Robyn Pierce indicating she will be home in the very near future, and asking Council if they wish to discuss the Incentive Program.

Members agreed that they would meet at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, August 26, 2013, in Closed Session, for the purpose of discussing a physician incentive agreement.

Members also agreed by consensus that this matter be added to the Closed Session later in the meeting this evening for further discussion.

BALL TEAM REQUEST

A request has been received from the Shelburne County Reds for financial support. This team will be participating in Bantam AA Baseball Provincials in Bedford on the Labour Day weekend.

Resolution COW130814

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by J. Crook that it be recommended to Council that a grant of \$200.00 be provided to the Shelburne County Reds baseball team, payable through the Clark's Harbour & Area Minor Baseball Association, for the purpose of attending the Bantam AA Baseball Provincials.

Motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

Members entered into Closed Session to discuss the proposed sale of municipal properties, for the purpose of determining the method of sale, and the proposed prices for the sale.

Members also agreed to discuss terms of a physician incentive agreement in Closed Session as well.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Members returned to Open Session at approximately 10:10 p.m.

Resolution COW130815

Moved by L. Nickerson and seconded by J. Crook that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality sell the eighteen (18) properties suggested by Municipal Staff by listing six of the properties with the local real estate office of Caldwell Banker, and the remaining properties will be advertised in the local newspaper for sale. Prices for the six properties listed through the local realtor will be determined through discussion with the realtor.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Municipality is taking turns listing properties with various realtors who have offices within the Municipality.

During a previous sale properties were listed through East Bay Realty, therefore in this instance properties will be listed with Caldwell Banker, and in future the third realtor in the Municipality will be used.

It was also agreed by consensus of members that the Municipal Solicitor would be consulted regarding the provision of repayable loans as a physician incentive tool.

ADJOURNMENT

Having completed the business of the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 10:17 p.m.

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting

On website August 20, 2013.