

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

September 17, 2013

The meeting was called to order by Councillor Hatfield, at 7:00 p.m., in the Meeting Room at the Island & Barrington Passage Fire Hall, in Centreville, Cape Sable Island, with the following members present:

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

- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by E. Nickerson that the minutes of the meeting held September 9, 2013 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

There was one (1) member of the public present for the public consultation portion of the meeting. This member did not wish to bring any comments forward to the committee. Consequently, the Chair proceeded to the next item of business on the agenda.

BARRINGTON BAY TRAIL

Members were informed that a representative of the Department of Natural Resources had viewed the Barrington Bay Trail together with municipal employees in order to determine necessary changes to be made so that it can be converted for multi-use purpose.

It was indicated that the trail was too narrow at the eastern end near the Horizon Motels at the intersection with Highway #3. This end needs to be widened out so that it meets the highway at a more perpendicular angle. Widening of the trail at this end can be accomplished by placing two culverts on the northern side of the trail and covering them over. This will allow the end of the trail to be wider, and still allow drainage from the culvert under Highway #3.

The second matter requiring attention is that branches of trees and brush need to be cut back along the side of the trail near Wilson's Lane in Barrington Passage.

The third concern expressed is that more signs are necessary indicating where intersections are. Also more stop signs and more caution signs need to be placed along the trail.

In consultation with the Woodlands Trails Association, it was determined that the Trail Association would be willing to purchase the signs and place the required signs along the trail at the Association's cost.

It was suggested that the Municipality purchase two culverts and provide the fill for widening of the trail at the eastern end.

It was also suggested that Municipal employees trim the tree branches as required and remove the brush as required.

It was indicated that the Property Services Manager has estimated the total cost of this work to the Municipality at less than \$1,000.00.

Resolution COW130904

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by J. Crook that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality complete the necessary work in widening the eastern end of the Barrington Bay Trail and cutting back brush and tree limbs along the trail, as necessary, to enable its conversion for multi-use purpose at a cost to the Municipality not to exceed \$1,000.00.

Motion carried unanimously.

CROW'S NECK BEACH

Members were informed that there has been no response from property owners of the property adjacent to Crow's Neck Beach. Correspondence has repeatedly been sent to these property owners requesting permission to access the beach by crossing their property. It was indicated by a member that this property has now been placed for sale. As a result requests for access will not be further pursued at this time.

RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION – CAPE SABLE ISLAND CAUSEWAY

Members were informed that limited progress had been made in determining whether or not tidal power could be generated at the C.S.I. Causeway. Preliminary research has indicated that this would be a major project requiring major funding and commitment from sources other than the Municipality.

There then followed some discussion regarding the next steps to proceed to determine the feasibility of this project and the possible interest in this project from other parties.

Resolution COW130905

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by D. Messenger that representatives of Nova Scotia Power Inc. be requested to meet with the Committee of the Whole for the purpose of discussing the potential of tidal power generation at the Cape Sable Island Causeway.

Motion carried unanimously.

ACTIVITIES FUND POLICY

Members discussed amending the Activities Fund Policy to make it more flexible in future.

Resolution COW130906

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by J. Crook that Policy No. 61, “Activities Funds Policy”, be amended to indicate that whatever the grant maximum amount is approved in the budget will be distributed on the basis of 50% in the first half of the fiscal year and 50% in the second half of the fiscal year.

Motion carried unanimously.

GROUP INSURANCE FOR COUNCILLORS

Correspondence had been forwarded to other municipal units in the area requesting information on the provision of group insurance to councillors. Only the District of Yarmouth responded to the request for information. The Municipality of Yarmouth does not currently have anything in place. No further action was required in this matter.

GPS DEVICES FOR ATVS AND SMALL WATER CRAFT

Members were informed that correspondence has been forwarded to our Federal MP’s Office requesting the provision of information in this matter as this is something that is federally regulated. No response has been received as yet.

HEALTHY EATING IN MUNICIPAL AND RECREATION SETTINGS

Information was circulated to members from the Physical Activity Coordinator concerning a committee that is currently developing a policy for healthy eating in municipal recreation settings. The Physical Activity Coordinator currently serves on this committee.

There was much discussion regarding the necessity of adding a councillor to this committee as requested. It was the consensus of members that it is not necessary to add a councillor to the committee as the Municipality is already represented by the Physical Activity Coordinator.

It was suggested that the Municipal Clerk discuss this matter with the Physical Activity Coordinator to determine why an additional member would be required on this committee.

TAX REDUCTION APPLICATION

A Tax Reduction Application has been received from Robert McCubrey as a result of the fire on property owned by him in the Municipality. The property was destroyed by fire on February 3, 2011. The earliest application received by Mr. McCubrey was received on August 8, 2012.

Resolution COW130907

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by J. Crook that it be recommended to Council that Mr. McCubrey receive a tax reduction corresponding to the reduction in assessment on the property from the date of his application.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. McCubrey had opportunity to have the assessment reduced. He received his assessment notices each year, however, failed to do so until 2012, at which point the taxes were well in arrears. Council is reducing the taxes from the time that Mr. Cubrey made the application for reduction. This is when the Municipality and the Assessment Office were both informed of the fire at his property.

There then followed some discussion of Policy #46 which provides for this tax reduction.

It was the consensus of members that Policy #46 be amended to provide that taxes would be reduced for no more than two years in arrears, and would be contingent on the date an application for reduction was received. The appropriate policy amendment will be drafted and forwarded to members for their consideration.

SNOW REMOVAL TENDERS

Members were informed that as a result of previous budget consultation that the snow removal on the sidewalks in Barrington Passage and Woods Harbour would be tendered in the very near future.

There then followed some discussion regarding the length of the tender and the content of the tender.

It was the consensus of members that the tender would be for a relatively short time in order to allow for an evaluation of the service prior to making any long term commitment.

Resolution C130908

Moved by J. Crook and seconded by E. Nickerson that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality issue a tender for snow removal and salting of sidewalks in Barrington Passage and Woods Harbour for a two year period, and include a provision for termination of the tender agreement should this service prove to be unacceptable.

AFFIRMATIVE

Jody Crook
Shaun Hatfield
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
Eddie Nickerson

NEGATIVE

George El-Jakl

Motion carried.

REVISIONS TO POLICY 52 “COUNCIL MEETINGS AND PROCEEDINGS POLICY AND POLICY 59 “POLICY ON COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

Prior to the meeting information had been circulated to members from the Municipal Solicitor concerning the liability of having Council and Committee audio and video recordings on the Municipal website, and also of removing them from the website.

After much discussion it was the consensus of members that some amendments should be made to the current procedure.

Resolution COW130909

Moved by J. Crook and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that Council and Committee minutes will remain on the Municipality’s website for a period of one year, so that as a new recording is added the one year old recording will be deleted.

Motion carried unanimously.

Policies 52 and 59 will be amended accordingly in order to comply with this recommendation.

It was also the consensus of members that a notation should also be added on meeting agendas indicating that delegations in such meetings will address their comments to the Chair of the meeting only, and not directly to other members, and that only representatives identified in the delegation will be allowed to address either committee or council at a meeting.

It was the consensus of members that these amendments will also be included as required in Policies 52 and 59.

Resolution COW130910

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by J. Crook that it be recommended to Council that Policies 52 and 59 including the amendments identified above be forwarded to Council for notice at the next subsequent Council meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

REGIONAL ENTERPRISE NETWORK MEETING

Members agreed to add this item to the agenda due to its time constraint. There will be a meeting at Yarmouth Town Hall tomorrow for all municipal units in the local Regional Enterprise Network area. This area consists of the municipalities and towns from Clare to the Municipality of Barrington.

There then followed some discussion of the Municipality's participation in this Regional Enterprise Network.

There is much skepticism of the benefits that may accrue to participation.

Having discussed the matter, it was the consensus of members that the Warden and Clerk-Treasurer attend the meeting and report accordingly.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 8:56 p.m.

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting

On website September 19, 2013.