

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING
October 15, 2013

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 8:15 p.m., in the Conference Room, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington, N.S., with the following members present:

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

- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Closed Session Re: Update on former B.M.H.S. property legal action.
- Barrington Volunteer Fire Department.
- Barrington Bay Trail.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by J. Crook that the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by J. Crook and seconded by G. El-Jakl that the minutes of the meeting held September 17, 2013 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION

The Chair reported that the Clerk had been given several directions as a result of a Closed Session meeting held previous to this meeting. A Closed Session was held in regards to Physician Recruitment Agreements and the potential purchase of property by the Municipality, and the potential sale of property by the Municipality.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETING

It was agreed by consensus of members that the Nominating Committee meeting for the current year would be held at the next Committee of the Whole Council meeting on October 21, 2013.

PROPOSED POLICY AMENDMENTS

Members reviewed the proposed policy amendments for the following policies:

- Policy 3 – Tax Collection and Tax Sale Policy
- Policy 46 – Tax Reduction Policy
- Policy 61 – Activities Funds Policy
- New Draft Policy – Public Participation Program Policy

During these discussions it was the consensus of members that Paragraph #6, in Policy 46, would be rephrased to more clearly indicate that tax reduction would be provided for no more than two years in arrears in the case of a catastrophic event, or the date on which an application for tax reduction has been made, whichever period is shorter. The appropriate amendment will be made.

It was the consensus of members that all of these policies be brought forward to Council and notice of amendments be given at the next Council meeting.

NOISE COMPLAINT RE: BOAT RACING

Conflict of Interest

The Warden declared conflict of interest in this matter as he is the Chair of the Nova Scotia Boat Racers Association.

The Deputy Warden then assumed the Chair for discussion of this matter.

Members were informed that a complaint had been received regarding noise generated by racing boats at the Cape Sable Island Causeway in late September. Incidents of this noise took place after the boat racing season had been completed.

There then followed some discussion regarding the noise and its effect on local residents.

Resolution COW131001

Moved by J. Crook and seconded by S. Hatfield that it be recommended to Council that the Nova Scotia Boat Racers Association be asked to provide their guidelines, that indicate the times for boat racers to use the Causeway area for practices, and also confirm that they are using these guidelines.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Warden was then asked to return to the meeting room.

FIRE SERVICES ISSUES

A number of Fire Services issues were brought forward to the Committee for their information and review:

1. Barrington Volunteer Fire Department

Members were informed that due to unforeseen circumstances both the Fire Chief and the Deputy Fire Chief for the Barrington Volunteer Fire Department will be less available to respond to calls in the very near future. As a result an agreement has been reached with the Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief of the Island & Barrington Passage Volunteer Fire Department to respond to calls in the Barrington Fire Department area, as required. A written agreement has been provided and witnessed by the Fire Services Coordinator. This will enable the Barrington Volunteer Fire Department to continue to provide fire services as required.

2. Budget Requirements

Correspondence has been received from the Barrington Fire Department indicating that they wish to have the previously submitted level of budgetary funding reinstated for their department. Members were also informed that the Barrington Fire Department had been overpaid as a result of continuation of payments from the previous year in the interim period when the current year's budget had not been approved.

Resolution COW131002

Moved by J. Crook and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Municipal Clerk and Fire Services Coordinator consult with the officers of the Barrington Volunteer Fire Department to obtain and exchange information regarding the Fire Department's budget.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Security at Fire Scenes

Correspondence has been received from the Fire Services Advisory Committee concerning payment for security services at fire scenes. The concern of the Committee is that the security companies which are normally paid for by the property owners, or by the insurance company for the property owners, occasionally do not get paid. This generally happens when there is no insurance in place on properties.

Resolution COW131003

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by J. Crook that it be recommended to Council that a provision of \$1,000.00 be included in any subsequent Fire Services budgets in future years to cover the cost of unpaid security services at fire scenes. The costs not only include security services but also the provision of other services that may be necessary at times.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Canada Post and Civic Numbers

Correspondence from the Fire Services Advisory Committee is requesting that Canada Post be asked not to have civic numbers posted at various locations that may confuse or misdirect firefighters and emergency vehicles.

Resolution COW131004

Moved by J. Crook and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that correspondence be sent to Canada Post requesting them not to have residents place civic numbers at locations other than directly in front of their own properties, and that correspondence be sent to the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities requesting an emergency conference resolution for this to be considered at the Fall Conference for this purpose. Copies of the correspondence to the UNSM will also be forwarded, by email, to other municipal units in the Province for their information and review.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Civic Numbering By-law

Correspondence has been received from the Fire Services Advisory Committee requesting Council to consider putting in place a Civic Addressing By-law. The Municipality has forwarded a resolution to the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities in regards to this matter. The resolution will be considered at the Fall Conference.

Resolution COW131005

Moved by J. Crook and seconded by S. Hatfield that it be recommended to Council that the Fire Services Coordinator be informed of the resolution that has been sent to the UNSM for consideration at their Fall Conference, and that the Fire Services Coordinator also be informed that the Municipality will wait until the decision of this resolution by the UNSM before taking any further action.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. New Air Compressor

Correspondence has been received from the Fire Services Advisory Committee indicating that they believe a new air compressor is necessary for the Fire Services to provide breathing apparatuses for the local Fire Services. The estimated cost of a new compressor is in the range of \$100,000.00 and the Committee is asking where these funds will be drawn from.

There then followed much discussion regarding this matter. The information provided by the Fire Services Coordinator was not considered to be adequate to make a decision. It was indicated that more information concerning how many compressors are now in place, and would no longer be used, where the compressor would be located, how many cascade systems would be purchased in addition, and where they would be located, and how many additional or different breathing apparatuses would be required, as well as replacement air bottles.

Resolution COW131006

Moved by J. Crook and seconded by G. El-Jakl that a more complete program for the replacement and location of a compressor and cascade system and breathing apparatuses be requested from the Fire Services Coordinator before this matter could be further considered.

Motion carried unanimously.

Having reached the hour of 10:00 p.m., it was the consensus of members that the meeting continue until all business has been dealt with.

MEMORIAL BENCHES FOR WOODS HARBOUR SIDEWALK

No further information has become available on this subject.

OLD COURT HOUSE HEATING

Members were informed of the visit of a representative from the Provincial Department of Heritage and Culture. It was indicated that the Department would share in the cost of upgrades to the Old Court House on a 50/50 basis with the Municipality to a maximum of \$50,000.00.

Heating alternatives were then discussed. It was suggested that infrared heaters would be a reasonable alternative for providing adequate heat to the Old Court House building. The Property Services Supervisor will be asked to evaluate the use and cost of infrared heaters, as well as estimating the cost of providing electric baseboard heating. Information will be obtained and brought back to the Committee for review.

WAYBRET FISHERIES AND CRIPPLE CREEK FISHERIES PROPERTY

Members were informed that no further action has been taken on the cleanup of the properties owned by Waybret Fisheries and Cripple Creek Fisheries at the Cripple Creek Wharf. The property has also not been sold to Small Craft Harbours as it was previously indicated.

Resolution COW131007

Moved by J. Crook and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality proceed with an Order to have this property cleaned up as required.

AFFIRMATIVE

Jody Crook
George El-Jakl
Shaun Hatfield
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger

NEGATIVE

Eddie Nickerson

Motion carried.

GOOSE LAKE ROAD BY-LAW

Conflict of Interest

Deputy Warden Messenger declared conflict of interest as she is part owner of properties in the Goose Lake area, vacated her seat, and retired from the meeting room.

Concern was expressed that the proposed agreement with the Goose Lake Association would require them to pay for improvements to the road prior to receiving funds from the Municipality. The Association has no financial resources to do this and is asking that other means be devised to accomplish the aims of the by-law.

It was the consensus of members that Paragraph 7 of the proposed agreement with the Goose Lake Association be revised to indicate that the Goose Lake Association will provide approved invoices to the Municipality for payment directly by the Municipality. The invoices must be approved by the Association confirming that the work has been completed to their satisfaction.

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

BARRINGTON BAY TRAIL

A member indicated that he had received complaints that the surface gravel placed on the Barrington Bay Trail was loose and soft and therefore difficult for strollers along the trail. The Committee was informed that the gravel placed on the trail has subsequently been rolled with a heavy roller in order to make it firmer and easier for pedestrian traffic, especially strollers and bicycles. Should this continue to be a problem individuals should report it to the Municipal Office so that specific locations can be addressed.

It was also indicated by a member that there are four-wheelers travelling along the trail in the mid afternoon and early evening who are abusing the trail by driving at excessive speeds. The RCMP will be informed that this is taking place and asked to police the trail during those hours. As well the local trail wardens will be informed.

UPDATE ON FORMER BMHS LEGAL ACTION

Conflict of Interest

The Warden declared conflict of interest in this matter and retired from the meeting room. The Deputy Warden then assumed the Chair for the purpose of this discussion.

CLOSED SESSION

Members then entered into Closed Session in order to receive an update on the legal action for the former BMHS property.

Members then returned to Open Session.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by J. Crook that the meeting adjourn at 10:51 p.m.

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting

On website October 16, 2013.