

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

November 12, 2013

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:00 p.m., in the main hall of the Community Centre, in Woods Harbour, with the following members present:

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

### ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Personnel Matter - Closed Session
- Crow's Neck Beach.
- Barrington Regional Curling Club.

The Crow's Neck Beach matter was moved to Closed Session because it may require the lease or purchase of property by the Municipality.

### 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 E. Nickerson and seconded by J. Crook that minutes of the meeting held October 21, 2013 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

### PUBLIC CONSULTATION

As there were no members of the public present at the meeting, no public consultation took place.

### MLA INTERVIEW

Chris d'Entremont, recently elected MLA for Argyle/Barrington, appeared during the meeting for the purpose of discussing issues and priorities of the Municipality.

It was indicated that health care in rural areas is a municipal priority. It was suggested that changes in the provision of health care in rural areas by the Provincial Government will take some time to implement and be put in place.

It was also indicated that paving of roads in rural areas is also a priority. It was indicated that during the provincial election campaign requests were received for paving in the areas of Clam Point, Stoney Island and South Side. Because requests were received for paving of roads in these areas, these would be considered priorities. The MLA was also informed that a letter had been sent to the Provincial Government requesting paving of the Villagedale Road. A copy of that letter will be forwarded to our MLA.

There then followed some discussion of the sandspit at the CSI Causeway. There were attempts in the past to have some type of break constructed in the causeway in order to allow water to flow through. There was some discussion as to who would actually own this issue among various federal and provincial government departments.

Mr. d'Entremont agreed to approach various provincial government ministers regarding this issue. The previous correspondence sent to various organizations by the Municipality will be forwarded to our MLA for this purpose.

It was also suggested that the Emergency Services Provider Fund should be re-established by the Province and provide funds for the provision of equipment for local fire service needs.

Finally, there was some discussion regarding the provision of jobs and the connection that may come as a result of oil and gas exploration in the Shelburne basin area.

The discussion with the MLA was completed at approximately 7:35 p.m.

#### OLD COURT HOUSE HEATING

This matter was deferred to a subsequent meeting as information has yet to be obtained from the Municipality's electrician.

#### OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION

Contact information for the various oil companies involved in oil and gas exploration in the Shelburne basin area was provided to committee members by email.

#### Resolution COW131101

**Moved** by E. Nickerson and seconded by J. Crook that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality forward correspondence to the companies involved in the oil and gas exploration in the Shelburne Basin area inviting them to attend a Committee of the Whole meeting for the purpose of providing information on this initiative in our area, and their intention for future exploration and development.

Motion carried unanimously.

CUPW – RE: THE FUTURE OF CANADA POST

Correspondence has been received from the Canadian Union of Postal Workers indicating that the Canada Post Review should consider other alternative uses and functions in post offices across the country in order to maintain their stability, especially in rural areas. Members noted however that they did not wish to make a response at this time.

Resolution COW131102

**Moved** by D. Messenger and seconded by S. Hatfield that it be recommended to Council that correspondence be forwarded to Canada Post indicating that the Municipality had not received any answer regarding its letter to Canada Post concerning the reduction of hours at the Barrington Passage Post Office.

Motion carried unanimously.

SHELBURNE COUNTY TOURISM COORDINATOR FUNDING

As a result of a Council motion, the other four municipal units in Shelburne County had been asked to indicate whether or not they would be funding the Shelburne County Tourism Coordinator for an additional five (5) years as requested by the Shelburne County Tourism Association. To date, the only municipal unit providing a response has been the Town of Clark's Harbour. The Town of Clark's Harbour has indicated they will fund the Tourism Coordinator position on a yearly basis, and will determine from year to year whether or not the funding will continue. The Town of Lockeport indicated by email that they have yet to consider this matter. Members were informed that the Municipality of Shelburne had recommended a motion at a Committee of the Whole Meeting to their Council, however no response has been received directly from them or from the Town of Shelburne regarding future funding.

Resolution COW131103

**Moved** by E. Nickerson and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that correspondence again be sent to the other municipal units in Shelburne County indicating to them the awareness of minutes of both the Town of Shelburne and the Municipality of Shelburne and requesting them to confirm whether or not funding will be forthcoming for the Shelburne County Tourism Coordinator.

Motion carried unanimously.

SEAL ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE CUPOLA

The dome or cupola at the Seal Island Light has been replaced with a newly constructed dome. As a result the old dome has been returned in pieces to the Municipality. Correspondence has been received by email from the Director of the Cape Sable Historical Society indicating that organization wishes to acquire the old dome from the Municipality.

Resolution COW131104

**Moved** by E. Nickerson and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality give the parts to the old cupola to the Cape Sable Historical Society providing full ownership of it without any further cost to the Municipality, and that should funds be required to preserve it in future, the Society would be responsible for raising those funds from other sources, other than the Municipality.

**AFFIRMATIVE**

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

**NEGATIVE**

George El-Jakl

Motion carried.

SNOW REMOVAL TENDERS

This matter was referred for committee consideration from a previous meeting of Council. The tenders that had been issued for snow removal from the sidewalks in the Barrington Passage and Woods Harbour areas resulted in a cost of approximately \$20,000 per year for each of the next five years.

Some discussion followed regarding the cost of having private contractors do this work as opposed to the alternative of municipal employees doing the work.

Resolution COW131105

**Moved** by S. Hatfield and seconded by J. Crook that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality reject all tenders received for snow removal on municipal sidewalks and have employees perform this function as in the past.

**AFFIRMATIVE**

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

**NEGATIVE**

Lindsay (Eddie) Nickerson

Motion carried.

Resolution COW131106

**Moved** by J. Crook and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality purchase new equipment for snow removal and salting on the Barrington Passage and Woods Harbour sidewalks, to a maximum of \$30,000.00, and that the funds be taken from the Capital Reserve Fund, or as an alternative the Municipality determine if renting this equipment would be more economically beneficial to the Municipality.

**AFFIRMATIVE**

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

**NEGATIVE**

Lindsay (Eddie) Nickerson

Motion carried.

Rental information will be obtained, if possible, prior to the next Council meeting.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ROADS

Resolution COW131107

**Moved** by E. Nickerson and seconded by S. Hatfield that it be recommended to Council that correspondence be sent to the Area Supervisor for the Department of Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal requesting that the Stoney Island/Clam Point Road, the South Side Road and The Hawk Road be added to the list of priorities for paving by that Department.

Motion carried unanimously.

INTEGRATED MUNICIPAL FINANCIAL SOFTWARE SYSTEM

Information had been circulated to councillors concerning the Request for Proposal that had been published for an Integrated Municipal Financial Software System. This Request for Proposal was published jointly through the Nova Scotia Government website by the municipalities of Barrington, Shelburne, and Digby and the Town of Yarmouth. It was the consensus of the representatives of the four municipal units that the software be purchased from Procom Data Services Limited. As a result this recommendation is being made this evening.

Resolution COW131108

**Moved** by J. Crook and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality purchase an Integrated Municipal Financial Software System from Procom Data Services.

Motion carried unanimously.

Funding for this purchase has already been included in the Municipality's budget.

BARRINGTON REGIONAL CURLING CLUB

It was indicated that an email has been received from the Vice-President of the Barrington Regional Curling Club concerning the dehumidifier. The dehumidifier does not appear to be working properly. It was indicated by Municipal Staff that Freon has been ordered for the dehumidifier. This Freon is anticipated to be received today and will be installed by the Municipality's technician when he returns to work on Thursday. This information will be emailed to the representative of the Barrington Regional Curling Club.

CLOSED SESSION

Members then entered into Closed Session at approximately 9:20 p.m. for the purpose of discussing potential purchase of property at Crow's Neck Beach, another potential purchase of property on Cape Sable Island, a personnel matter, and the potential sale of two surplus municipal properties.

OPEN SESSION

Having completed their discussion members then returned to Open Session.

Resolution COW131109

**Moved** by J. Crook and seconded by E. Nickerson that the Nova Scotia Nature Trust representative be invited to meet with the Committee of the Whole to discuss possible alternative access to Crow's Neck Beach.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 9:55 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary for the Meeting

**On website November 14, 2013.**