

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

April 14, 2014

The meeting was called to order by the Warden at 7:00 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
- Shaun Hatfield
- Donna LeBlanc-Messenger

Absent was Councillor George El-Jakl due to work commitments.

- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Procurement Policy.
- Property Subdivision.

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 D. Messenger that minutes of the meetings held March 17th, April 1st and 7th, 2014 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

COUNCIL APPOINTMENT TO FIRE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

As a result of the proposed changes in the organization of the Barrington Municipal Fire Service, it is necessary for Council to appoint one (1) non voting member to the Fire Service Advisory Committee.

Councillor Jody Crook volunteered to be the liaison for Council on this committee.

Resolution COW140401

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by S. Hatfield that it is recommended to Council that Councillor Crook be the Municipality's non-voting member on the Fire Service Advisory Committee.

Motion carried unanimously.

TOURISM

This matter was referred to Committee by Council. The discussion of alternative methods of addressing tourism and community development has previously taken place at the last Committee of the Whole considering budget priorities. At the present time information is being gathered from local businesses. Council is seeking suggestions for alternative courses of action. It was the consensus of members that further information be obtained on a draft job description, and that this matter be deferred to the next Committee of the Whole Council meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 22, 2014.

BARRINGTON REGIONAL CURLING CLUB MONTHLY REPORT

Bob Cushing appeared before the meeting for the purpose of presenting the Curling Club's monthly report. Mr. Cushing has recently been elected President of the Curling Club. A verbal report was delivered indicating that the Club's annual meeting was held last Wednesday night. They have now completed their season. Mr. Cushing stated that the finances of the Club are fairly secure, however, they will be receiving another power bill and another oil bill. The Club has requested a grant from the Municipality. This grant will be used for the rental of new water tanks as well as to purchase paint for the painting of the ice when it is installed in the fall and to replace blades for the ice machine. The Club had 82 members this past year. Mr. Cushing also indicated that the furnace and oil tank are in need of servicing. The oil tank is estimated to be 15 years old and should be evaluated and cleaned.

Upon questioning, Mr. Cushing indicated that the Manager of the Club is essential to its operation. The Manager runs the Pro Shop, the bar, bookkeeping and attends to members concerns. The current Manager has been working for the Club since 2004. Although participation in curling is waning, the Club seems to have reached a plateau in membership. The Club is also looking at alternative bonspiel dates, and alternative forms of curling such as "stick curling" to help the Club grow. Mr. Cushing feels this Club is still an asset to the community

Having completed his report, Mr. Cushing retired from the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

JUSTIN NICKERSON RE: DRAINAGE

Mr. Nickerson appeared before the Committee in order to address the problems of drainage at his property in Woods Harbour. Mr. Nickerson's property formerly had a drainage ditch along the front of the property to which water from his property flowed. Since the construction of the sidewalk this ditch has been removed. This has caused a problem since the water from his property must now flow into a catch basin which directs it to a culvert system under the sidewalk. The catch basin is prone to be "plugged up" with brush and leaf waste. Mr. Nickerson believes that a culvert along the side of his driveway would prevent this from happening, and would allow the grate to stay open adequately so that it would provide sufficient drainage for his property. He indicated that the catch basin handles the water flow when it is clear. When the catch basin is not clear the water overflows into his driveway and down along the road.

Property Services personnel will contact Mr. Nickerson and attempt to install the proposed culvert along the edge of his driveway in order to provide adequate drainage for his property.

Having completed his discussion of this matter, Mr. Nickerson retired from the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

A draft Social Media Policy was circulated to members for their information and consideration. There was some question regarding definition 4.1 which included the word “texting” in the first line and also in the last line of the paragraph. This required some clarification.

There then followed much discussion regarding various examples of social media communications. The discussion primarily centered around communication by councillors.

Paragraph 5.4 contained several sentences that produced differing sentiments among the members. A sentiment was expressed that the policy is a duplicate of the Municipality’s Code of Ethics which has been signed by all councillors.

Resolution COW140402

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by J. Crook that the proposed Social Media Policy be referred to the Municipal Solicitor for his comments, and in particular that he be asked to comment on Section 5.4, and whether or not the intent of this policy is already covered by the councillor’s Code of Ethics.

Motion carried unanimously.

POLICY 8 AMENDMENT

It is proposed that Policy No. 8 be amended to allow for the automatic increase in councillor’s stipends equivalent to the annual Consumer Price Index increase, up to a maximum of 2.5%. The appropriate amendment has been inserted in paragraph 1. It was noted that the annual stipends that are currently listed in that paragraph will need to be removed in order to put in effect this amendment.

It was the consensus of members that once this is done the proposed amendment will be forwarded to Council for notice.

G & S RACING REQUEST

Correspondence has been received from G & S Racing requesting the Municipality to sponsor a stock car being driven by a former local resident, Mr. Colby Smith. It was indicated to members that this sponsorship does not fit within Activities Fund Policy for grants, or within the Municipality’s Grants to Organizations Policy.

Resolution COW140403

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by S. Hatfield that further information be obtained regarding the cost of advertising for this stock car and indicating to G & S Racing the limited amount of funds, and the restrictions on municipal funds for this purpose. It was also indicated that the G & S Racing website may be linked to the Municipality's website.

AFFIRMATIVE

Shaun Hatfield
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
Eddie Nickerson

NEGATIVE

Jody Crook

Motion carried.

FIRE SERVICES QUARTERLY REPORT

The Fire Services Coordinator appeared before the meeting at 9:10 p.m. for the purpose of presenting a written report for the 4th quarter of the fiscal year.

The Fire Services Coordinator reviewed various aspects of this report. He indicated that there are now 15 or 16 individuals training to the Level I firefighter qualifications in courses at the present time. He indicated that there are approximately 20 Level I firefighters in the Eastern District of the Municipality, 29 in the Western District of the Municipality, and 26 in the Central District. The Coordinator also indicated that the training committee will be meeting in the near future to discuss Municipal First Responder issues.

Having completed his discussion of this report, the Coordinator retired from the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

FINANCIAL CONDITION INDEX

Members were informed that there will be another conference call regarding the public issue of the Financial Condition Index in the Province.

Members were informed that comments can be provided by the municipalities and will be published on the same website with the Financial Condition Index. Members were urged to review the Financial Condition Index information as they may receive questions from the media and the public once this information is published. The Financial Condition Index information will be made public at the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities Spring Conference in early May.

LOBSTER EXPO AND MARKET

It is proposed that during the Shelburne County Lobster Festival, a lobster expo and market will be conducted at the Barrington Municipal Arena on June 5th and 6th, 2014. This will be a trade show type of presentation. In order to make this possible it is requested that the various businesses and vendors who will be showcasing their product at that time in this expo will not be required to obtain vendor's licences within the Municipality. This is a municipally sponsored event that is conducted through the Recreation Departments of all five municipal units in the County.

Resolution COW140404

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by S. Hatfield that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality's policies requiring permits and licences for commercial events on municipal property be waived for the Lobster Expo and Market scheduled to be held during the Shelburne County Lobster Festival as this is a para-municipal event sponsored by the Municipal Recreation Departments.

Motion carried unanimously.

LOBSTER FESTIVAL REQUEST

The Shelburne County Lobster Festival Planning Committee is requesting a \$500.00 grant in support of this event. This is the 28th Annual Lobster Festival. The Lobster Festival Committee requests funding each year from all municipal units in the County.

Resolution COW140405

Moved by J. Crook and seconded by S. Hatfield that it be recommended to Council that a grant of \$500.00 be provided to the Shelburne County Lobster Festival Planning Committee.

Motion carried unanimously.

SOUTHWEST NOVA BIOSPHERE RESERVE

Correspondence has been received from the Southwest Nova Biosphere requesting a grant of \$300.00 in support of their project. The information from the Southwest Nova Biosphere was previously circulated to members for their consideration.

It was the consensus of members that this request be referred to the budget process for further consideration.

SHELBURNE ASSOCIATION SUPPORTING INCLUSION

Correspondence has been received from Heath Spencer, the Executive Director of SASI. In this correspondence Mr. Spencer indicates he would be willing to come to Council to explain the purpose of this group.

Resolution COW140406

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by J. Crook that Heath Spencer, the Executive Director of SASI, be requested to come to Council and make a presentation regarding the activities and purpose of the Shelburne Association Supporting Inclusion.

Motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR/WARDEN DISCUSSION & 2014 MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY REVIEW

Members agreed by consensus that these matters be further deferred to the next Committee of the Whole meeting since Councillor El-Jakl is not present for the discussion this evening.

PROCUREMENT POLICY

Correspondence has been received from the Town of Shelburne indicating their dissatisfaction with the Provincial Procurement Policy.

Members briefly discussed this letter and the letter sent by the Town to the Tri-County Regional School Board.

It was the consensus of members that this matter be deferred for further discussion to the next Committee of the Whole.

SUBDIVISION OF PROPERTY

Members were informed that the cost of subdividing property owned by the Municipality in Barrington Passage would be in the range of \$3,000.00 to \$3,500.00, plus applicable taxes. A draft of the proposed subdivision was provided to members for their information and review.

Resolution COW140407

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by J. Crook that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality proceed with the subdivision of the Community Health Centre property owned by the Municipality in Barrington Passage.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 10:10 p.m.

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting

On website April 15, 2014.

