

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING
December 1, 2014**

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:00 p.m., in the Conference Room, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington, NS, 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:

- Department of Transportation Sign.
- Dr. Germanus Agreement.
- Waste Agreements.
- Red Cross Donation.
- Engage Nova Scotia.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by J. Crook that minutes of the meetings held November 17th and 24th be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Members were informed that the Department of Transportation sign located near the ambulance office in Barrington Passage has been knocked down and should be reinstalled.

Members were also informed that there is a hole in the asphalt in the road in front of Dan Stanley's house on Sherose Island.

Resolution COW141201

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by D. Messenger that both of these items be brought to the attention of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal for repair.

Motion carried unanimously.

FIRE SERVICES

The Fire Services Coordinator was invited to attend the meeting for the purpose of discussing Fire Services' concerns.

Accountability Equipment

Members were informed that an accountability system is being put in place for fire scenes in order to keep track of Fire Services' personnel at any fire scenes. The cost of equipment for this accountability system ranges from \$279.00 per department and lower.

It was the consensus of members after hearing other information from the Fire Services Coordinator that the cost of this equipment could be absorbed in the current years' budgeted expenditures. This will be further communicated to the fire departments by the Fire Services Coordinator.

Breathing Apparatus

Members were informed that the Woods Harbour Shag Harbour Volunteer Fire Department had been previously approved to purchase six (6) new breathing apparatuses for their department. At the time that the purchases were to be made, a purchase order was requested to be signed by the Municipal Clerk for the purchase of these six SCBAs. When an invoice was received for the purchase of SCBAs it was for eleven (11) units instead of six (6), along with some additional equipment. The original purchase order was signed in the amount of \$7,200.00 and the invoice that was received was in the amount of \$10,000.00.

There then followed some discussion of the process and protocols to be followed for the purchasing of equipment by fire departments.

Resolution COW141202

Moved by J. Crook and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council a letter be sent to the Fire Services Advisory Committee requesting that all fire departments be required to follow the proper processes and protocols for purchasing of fire department equipment as previously agreed to by them and contained in the Fire Services Policy.

AFFIRMATIVE

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

NEGATIVE

Eddie Nickerson

Motion carried.

Resolution COW141203

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality pay the invoice of West North Field Fire Department for the purchase of eleven (11) SCBAs, plus additional equipment, in the amount of \$10,000.00, and that the extra five (5) SCBAs and equipment be forwarded to the Fire Services Coordinator so that the Fire Service Advisory Committee could determine the disposition of this equipment.

Motion carried unanimously.

Awards at Mutual Aid Meeting

It was agreed by members that service awards should be provided at the Mutual Aid Meeting to be held in the spring for long serving members Dwayne Hunt and Eugene Stoddard, if they have not already been presented.

ARENA OPERATION

Legal advice has been obtained and circulated to members for their information. There is no legal basis on which the Municipality can simply write off a debt owing to the Barrington Municipal Arena by the Sea Star Ice Dogs Hockey Team. The Municipality does have authority to give grants to organizations, however, providing a grant for the sole purpose of repaying a debt under these circumstances may be problematic on numerous levels, and be open to attack, although a grant would not strictly be illegal.

Members then agreed to further consider this information later in the meeting.

VACATION

Members were informed that the Municipal Clerk has not taken any vacation yet this year and will be taking vacation time from December 15, 2014 until January 2, 2015.

DR. GERMANUS

Dr. Germanus was previously informed that she would be provided space at an office at the Community Health Centre until December 31, 2014, free of rent. She was requested to provide information to the Municipality concerning her intentions after December 31, 2014. Correspondence has been sent to her, by email, today requesting further information.

WASTE AGREEMENTS

Correspondence has been received by email from the CAO for the Region of Queens indicating that the Waste Agreements the Municipality has with the Region will be expiring at the end of March 2015. The current agreement allows for an extension to be negotiated by January 31, 2015. The Region is suggesting that the Recycling Agreement be extended for a three (3) year renewal period and that the Organics Contract Agreement will be renewed for a five (5) year term.

Resolution COW141204

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by J. Crook that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality authorize the Warden and Clerk-Treasurer to enter into a three (3) year Recycling Agreement, and a five (5) year Organic Waste Agreement with the Region of Queens.

Motion carried unanimously.

RED CROSS DONATION

Members were informed that a request has been received from the Canadian Red Cross for an additional donation.

It was the consensus of members that since the Municipality had previously donated to the local Red Cross organization this year, no further donation is necessary.

ENGAGE NOVA SCOTIA

Members were informed that Engage Nova Scotia has again been contacted in order to arrange a conference call between that organization and councillors.

It was suggested that a conference call be held on Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at any time after 10:00 a.m.

Members agreed to a conference call to be scheduled for that day at 1:30 p.m. This information will be communicated and confirmed with Engage Nova Scotia.

FISCAL REVIEW

Members were asked for their comments regarding the Fiscal Review document that has been circulated in paper form to all members.

There was some discussion regarding Recommendation #15 "Road Recovery Tax".

Also, there was some discussion in regards to Recommendation #29 "Provincial Property Tax".

It was felt that Recommendations 30 to 43 were recommendations that provided for more communication and more input from municipal units when reviewing provincial regulations.

Members also discussed Recommendation #18 dealing with equalization. It was indicated that if the Equalization Grant is replaced with an application based grant, then more clarity would be required to be in agreement with this change. The access of funds through this grant would then be determined by what projects are being conducted by various municipal units.

The sentiment was expressed that the Fiscal Review is focused too much on towns and urban areas rather than on all of the municipal units.

It was the consensus of members that a draft response be prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer and circulated to all members for their consideration.

ARENA OPERATIONS

Members then returned to discussion of Arena operations and immediate actions that may be taken in order to address concerns expressed at the previous public meeting.

There was some discussion of hiring a manager. There was also discussion of municipal employees being “comfortable” with added duties at the Arena. It was indicated that members felt that the Arena needed enthusiastic leadership. A sentiment that the canteen should be “farmed out”, or tendered to a private contractor, was also expressed. It was also expressed that the Municipality cannot afford to hire a “manager” as such. There was some question whether a manager should be a full-time year round employee or a seasonal employee.

It was the general consensus that this matter should be further discussed and any significant changes would be made at the beginning of the next Arena operations season.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting

On website December 2, 2014.