

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL
BUDGET MEETING**

July 2, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 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:

- Keepers of the Baccaro Light Request.
- Department of Transportation.
- Duck Pond.
- Cat Rock Drive.
- Bateman Road.
- The Hawk Sheep.

DEED TRANSFER TAX

A report was previously circulated to members providing them information on the implementation of a Deed Transfer Tax.

Members then reviewed this report and discussed the pros and cons of implementing a Deed Transfer Tax.

It was stated that one of the advantages of not having a Deed Transfer Tax is that it induces sales of properties. It was also suggested that the tax would be paid by those purchasing properties who can more afford to pay taxes.

After much discussion, it was the general consensus of members that now is not the time for the Municipality to implement a Deed Transfer Tax.

No further action was required in this matter at the present time.

ARENA MANAGER SEASONAL POSITION

There is some confusion as to the understanding of the staffing of the Arena Manager for the coming season. At the present time there is a position for an Arena Manager which has been advertised. There is also a position for an Arena Attendant to work at the Arena with the Arena Manager. At the present time the Arena Attendant also works in a separate job in the Property Services Department during the summer months.

It was the general consensus of members that there is no intention to phase out the current Arena Attendant job or the Property Services job at this time. The current applicant for the Arena Manager job will be informed of this in order to clarify any misunderstanding or uncertainty regarding employment by the Municipality.

Members then discussed the request for opening of the Arena. Shelburne County Minor Hockey is requesting that the Arena open approximately September 18, 2015, or as near to that time as may be achieved.

After some discussion it was the consensus of members that the Arena could be opened at that time.

Resolution COW150701

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by G. El-Jakl that the ice be installed at the Arena and made available for rental beginning on Friday, September 18, 2015.

Motion carried unanimously.

KEEPERS OF THE BACCARO LIGHT

Members were informed that an application for a grant has been received from the Keepers of the Baccaro Light Association. This Association is requesting a grant of \$10,000.00 for maintenance and upgrade of the Baccaro Light.

Resolution COW150702

Moved by J. Crook and seconded by D. Messenger that a grant of \$10,000.00 to the Keepers of the Baccaro Light Association be approved in the Municipality's budget for the purpose of upgrading the light.

Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL

The following items were brought forward regarding Department of Transportation issues:

- There is erosion taking place on Highway #3 at the intersection of that highway and the Prospect Point Road in Shag Harbour.

Resolution COW150703

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by J. Crook that it be recommended to Council that correspondence be sent to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal informing them of the erosion that is taking place at the intersection of Highway #3 and the Prospect Point Road, and that the appropriate repairs be completed.

Motion carried unanimously.

- There is also need of gravel being placed along the shoulder of the road in the Shag Harbour area. The shoulder of the road has been eroded by drainage of water in that area in recent weeks.

Resolution COW150704

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by S. Hatfield that it be recommended to Council that the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal be requested to place gravel along the shoulder of the road between Emery Smith Fisheries and the UFO Museum.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was also indicated that the Department of Transportation has previously confirmed that they would place Type 1 gravel on Bateman Road in order to resurface it.

Resolution COW150705

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that correspondence be sent to Mr. Greg Newell at the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal requesting that Bateman Road be resurfaced with Type 1 gravel before the end of the summer as promised.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was also mentioned that the Baccaro Road has a deep hole which requires patching. This hole is near the property of Mr. Jason Williams adjacent to the former GATR Site in West Baccaro. The Department of Transportation will be informed of this condition and the need for repair.

DUCK POND

Members were informed that a resident had again suggested that wire be placed at the bottom of the fence around the duck pond in Barrington Passage in front of the Library. The purpose of placing this wire would be to force ducks to fly in and out of the pond so that they do not walk across the road.

Members discussed this suggestion at length, however no definitive action was decided.

CAT ROCK DRIVE

Members were informed that the paving of Cat Rock Drive could be a project that could be funded over the next two years by the Municipality through the use of Gas Tax Funds.

It was suggested that this project be included in the Capital Investment Plan for the coming two years.

SHEEP AT THE HAWK

Members were informed that there is a location where sheep are being kept by a resident at The Hawk. These sheep are fenced in and the fence is very close to the Department of Transportation right-of-way.

There is some question as to the appropriateness of this property and its ability to be used as a residence. The matter will be further investigated by Municipal employees and information returned to the Committee.

BARRINGTON PASSAGE POST OFFICE

It was suggested that a representative of Canada Post from Yarmouth be requested to meet with the Committee of the Whole for the purpose of discussing issues surrounding the Barrington Passage Post Office.

OTHER BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

Two other budget considerations were discussed briefly. First was the purchase of a ½ ton truck by the Property Services Department which members agreed by consensus would continue to be included in the budget. The second issue was the paving of the parking area at the Island and Barrington Passage Fire Department. It was the consensus of members that this matter be included in the budget.

SOCCER FIELD WELL

Members today received correspondence from two ladies who are residents of the Courtyard apartments. This correspondence was reviewed by members.

It was the consensus of members that the soccer field well be disconnected from the Courtyard property as soon as possible.

ADJOURNMENT

Having completed the business of the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting