

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

September 21, 2015

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, 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
- George El-Jakl
  
- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

Absent were members Shaun Hatfield and Donna LeBlanc-Messenger due to vacations.

### ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- CAO Recruiter RFP
- Sou'West Nova Transit Request
- Satellite Dialysis Committee Meeting

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Moved** by J. Crook and seconded by G. El-Jakl 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 meeting held September 14, 2015, be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

### DECEMBER MEETINGS

It was the consensus of members that meetings during the month of December would be held as follows:

- Monday December 7, 2015 – Committee of the Whole Council
- Monday December 14, 2015 – Regular Council Meeting

### BARRINGTON COURT FACILITIES

Correspondence has been received from Pamela Marche, Director, Court Services. In this letter Ms. Marche informs Council that it has been provided with all of the information requested and there is no further information to add in this regard.

She confirms that the decision to close certain satellite courts was based not only on financial consideration, but also on a number of other factors such as safety and security, docket wait, and relatively low usage. She also states that it is unfortunate that the Province needed to make some difficult decisions about closing certain satellite courts and further states that it must be reiterated that there is no expectation that this decision will be reversed.

Resolution COW150903

**Moved** by G. El-Jakl and seconded by J. Crook that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to the Minister of Justice, and copied to our local MLA, including the court information that was received under the Freedom of Information Act from the Department of Justice indicating that the Department had originally considered closing the Shelburne Court and subsequently changed this consideration to the closing of the Barrington Court without explanation.

Motion carried unanimously.

DOCTOR'S COVE CEMETERY

An application for a municipal grant has been received from the Doctor's Cove Old Cemetery Association. This Association is requesting a grant of \$500.00 for the upkeep and maintenance of the cemetery.

Resolution COW150904

**Moved** by G. El-Jakl and seconded by J. Crook that it be recommended to Council that a grant of \$500.00 be provided to the Doctor's Cove Old Cemetery Association for the purpose of maintaining and upgrading their cemetery.

Motion carried unanimously.

SOU'WEST NOVA TRANSIT REQUEST

Correspondence has been received from the Sou'West Nova Transit Association. In this correspondence the Association is requesting the Municipality to provide an explanation for the decrease of support for this fiscal year so they can better understand the Municipality's funding processes and criteria and so they can determine how to improve future applications. Discussion of the expenditures of the Transit Association then followed.

Resolution COW150905

**Moved** by J. Crook and seconded by G. El-Jakl that representatives of the Sou'West Nova Transit Association be invited to meet with the Committee of the Whole Council and be requested to provide detailed financial statements for the previous three years prior to this meeting for the review of committee members.

Motion carried unanimously.

**TOURISM AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER  
MONTHLY REPORT**

Ms. Suzy Atwood, Tourism and Community Development Officer attended the meeting from approximately 7:15 to 7:55 p.m. for the purpose of presenting her report.

A written report was provided together with a map of the Seaside Tourist Rest Stop which is being constructed. This project was discussed at length by members. There has been much discussion regarding the infilling of the property and costs related thereto. Ms. Atwood had indicated that councillors had met on site during the previous week. There has been some discussion with NSPI concerning the removal of utility poles on the property. It was indicated that only one utility pole would need to be removed. It was also indicated that no additional driveway would be required to be constructed. This will be discussed with Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal and the permit revised accordingly. The use of the right-of-way will be further discussed with the Municipal Solicitor and with the property owners who use this right-of-way to determine its future use.

Members then discussed the proposed floating dock project at McGray Avenue. A permit has been received from the Department of Environment for this project. An RFP will now be prepared as soon as possible.

It was indicated that there may be an issue with replacing the rocks on the breakwater at this site. It was suggested that a meeting with the committee be held on site for further discussion prior to preparing the RFP.

It was also suggested that ACOA be requested to extend terms of the project.

The next matter that was discussed was the completion of the "Chairs" that will be distributed throughout the Municipality. There are large chairs which will be located at strategic places throughout the Municipality. Of the six chairs completed, only a few will be distributed at present as it is late in the tourist season.

Councillors were asked if they would like to sponsor ½ the cost of one of the chairs. Correspondence will be sent to councillors by email regarding this matter.

Members then discussed adjusting the view of the camera at the causeway and positioning it in a different location for the following year.

Ms. Atwood completed discussion of her report and retired from the meeting table.

**BARRINGTON MUNICIPAL EXHIBITION COMMITTEE REQUEST**

Several members of the Board of Directors of the Barrington Municipal Exhibition Committee appeared before the meeting for the purpose of making a request of the Municipality. Andrea Mood-Nickerson acted as spokesperson for the committee. She provided a written summary of the current year's activities and of the repairs that are needed to the exhibition grounds. The estimated cost of the repairs required to the exhibition grounds and buildings is \$40,000.00. During the discussion it was indicated that the main repair priorities are at the main exhibition building and also at the little animal barn. The Exhibition Committee is requesting that the Municipality increase their grant to the Association to \$10,000.00 in the coming year. They are also asking that municipal employees be used to maintain the buildings and the property on a continuing basis during the coming year as well as assisting in preparations for the actual exhibition.

The Exhibition Committee also requested that a municipal councillor sit on their Committee as the liaison with Council.

Resolution COW150906

**Moved** by G. El-Jakl and seconded by J. Crook that it be recommended to Council that Councillor Crook be appointed to serve as Council's representative on the Barrington Municipal Exhibition Committee.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was also indicated during the discussion that other exhibitions in the area were incurring the same experience with lower attendance at the exhibitions and increased costs in conducting them.

When they completed their presentation, members of the Exhibition Committee retired from the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

BARRINGTON/PORT LATOUR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Members of the Barrington/Port LaTour Volunteer Fire Department appeared before the meeting for the purpose of requesting approval of funding for the construction of a new fire hall. The Municipality has in the past provided guarantees to the bank for funding of fire halls to be constructed in the Municipality. The fire departments ordinarily borrow funds from the banks and the Municipality provides a guarantee to the bank for these borrowings. These guarantees are permitted under the Municipal Government Act.

It is anticipated that these borrowings will be done from the Nova Scotia Municipal Finance Corporation since a lower rate of interest will be charged by that group.

The amount of borrowing that would be required for the construction of a new fire hall for the Barrington/Port LaTour Volunteer Fire Department was then discussed.

The Municipality's Fire Services Co-ordinator, Mr. Dave Kendrick, attended the meeting for the purpose of this discussion. He reviewed the estimated costs and financing that would be required for the construction of the fire hall. It is anticipated that the full cost of the fire hall after receiving HST rebates will be \$877,595.00. It is anticipated that the Municipality has already agreed to provide \$140,000.00 in funds from the Municipal Fire Services Fund for this project. It is also anticipated that the fire department will net approximately \$60,000.00 from the sale of the former fire department buildings once this new building is constructed. As a result it is anticipated that approximately \$680,000.00 will be required in long term financing for this project. It is anticipated that interim financing will be required up to \$775,000.00 in order to complete the project in the near future.

Resolution COW150907

**Moved** by J. Crook and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality guarantee a loan for the Barrington/Port LaTour Volunteer Fire Department for interim financing for the construction of a new fire hall for the Barrington/Port LaTour Volunteer Fire Department in the amount of \$775,000.00.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution COW150908

**Moved** by J. Crook and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality guarantee a debenture for financing of the new fire hall at an estimated amount of \$680,000.00 to be repaid by an area rate over a 10 year term providing funding is available through the Nova Scotia Municipal Finance Corporation.

Motion carried unanimously.

Upon completion of discussion of this matter, Chief Nickerson retired from the meeting table.

WOODS HARBOUR/SHAG HARBOUR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT REQUEST

Chief Troy Stoddard appeared before the meeting for the purpose of addressing this request. A written presentation was provided and reviewed by the Fire Services Co-ordinator. It was indicated in the discussion that the fire department will be replacing their current trucks number 11 and 12 and 15. There was some discussion of a request of a \$140,000.00 contribution from the Municipality. There also following some discussion regarding the purchase of a custom chassis rather than a commercial chassis. It was indicated that the reason for a custom chassis is due to safety concerns.

The cost of the vehicle after paying HST and receiving the HST rebate is estimated to be \$616,311.00. The fire department currently has \$82,000.00 on hand and estimate they will receive approximately \$75,000.00 by selling Fire Truck Number 11. The fire department also anticipates having a surplus of \$20,400.00 from its current budget as a result of paying off the previous loan earlier than projected. The financing required will be approximately \$438,911.00.

Resolution COW150909

**Moved** by G. El-Jakl and seconded by J. Crook that it be recommended to Council that a guarantee for interim financing up to \$450,000.00 be provided by the Municipality to the Woods Harbour/Shag Harbour Volunteer Fire Department for the purpose of purchasing a new truck.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution COW150910

**Moved** by G. El-Jakl and seconded by J. Crook that it be recommended to Council that a guarantee be provided to the Woods Harbour/Shag Harbour Volunteer Fire Department for the purpose of obtaining a debenture from the Nova Scotia Municipal Finance Corporation, if possible, over a period not to exceed 15 years for an amount not to exceed \$450,000.00. for the purpose of purchasing a new fire truck.

Motion carried unanimously.

Members of the Woods Harbour/Shag Harbour Volunteer Fire Department then retired from the meeting.

### FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

The Fire Services Co-ordinator then provided an update regarding training courses and the Fire Department Chiefs Committee. A memo had been provided by the Fire Services Co-ordinator to the Clerk-Treasurer indicating that many of the courses scheduled during the current year have been cancelled due to a lack of participation and response. Because there has been little attendance at many of the training courses there is a possibility that some officers and firefighters will not meet training standards of the Fire Services.

This matter will be addressed with the Fire Chiefs of the various departments by the Fire Services Co-ordinator.

Members were also informed that having consulted with all of the fire departments it was the consensus of fire departments that scheduling regular chiefs meetings each month would be discontinued. The chiefs meetings have been very poorly attended and in fact no one attended the most recent meeting, other than the Fire Services Co-ordinator and Councillor Crook.

### BARRINGTON/PORT LATOUR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

There then followed some discussion regarding the deposit required by the Barrington/Port LaTour Volunteer Fire Department for the contractor for the construction of the new fire hall. A 10% deposit in the amount of approximately \$78,000.00 is required in order for the contractors to begin the project.

#### Resolution COW150911

**Moved** by J. Crook and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality advance the required contractor deposit of approximately \$78,000.00 out of the Barrington/Port LaTour Volunteer Fire Department Operating Budget in order that the construction of the new fire department can begin as soon as possible.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### Resolution COW150912

**Moved** by J. Crook and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that the report of the Fire Services Co-ordinator be accepted and that the Fire Services Co-ordinator address the matter of required training of officers and firefighters with fire department chiefs as per Policy 54 "Fire Response and Emergency Services Policy".

Motion carried unanimously.

### BARRINGTON/CLARKS HARBOUR SATELLITE DIALYSIS COMMITTEE

Correspondence has been received from the Mayor of the Town of Clarks Harbour indicating that their Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 6, 2015 and as a result it will not be possible to have a meeting of the committee that evening.

It was the consensus of members that the scheduled meeting for the Barrington/Clarks Harbour Satellite Dialysis Committee be changed to Thursday, October 15, 2015, at 7:00 p.m., in the Conference Room, in Barrington.

All members of the Committee will be advised.

CAO RECRUITER RFP

It was the consensus of members that the RFP which had been circulated to all councillors in advance to the meeting should be sent to the previously identified professional recruitment organizations and that the process proceed.

CLOSED SESSION

Members entered into closed session for the purpose of discussing the Purchase and Sale Agreement for the Community Health Centre.

Having completed their discussion, members then returned to open session.

It was the consensus of members that the Purchase and Sale Agreement as prepared by the Municipal Solicitor be forwarded to Butler's Estates Limited for their consideration and approval.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 10:18 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary for the meeting