

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

April 13, 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
- Shaun Hatfield
- Donna LeBlanc-Messenger

- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Barrington/Port LaTour Volunteer Fire Department Funding and Tax Rate.
- Dawn Smith Re: Education Week.
- Hospital Foundation Gala.

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 meeting held March 30, 2015 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

RCMP QUARTERLY REPORT

Sgt. M.J. Deluco appeared before the meeting for the purpose of providing a report for the most recent quarter.

Sgt. Deluco provided a written Statistical Report which was circulated to members for their information and review. At the present time there is now a full complement of officers at the local Detachment. This is anticipated to continue throughout 2015. For the year just ended there were 1689 calls responded to by the RCMP as opposed to 1679 for 2014. The initiatives for this Detachment for the current year are to reduce cyber crime, road safety and to reduce crime against persons by 2%. Crime against persons includes assaults and harassments of various types. The Sergeant reported that property crime over the last seven years has been reduced in the area by some 21%.

The Sergeant was then asked how the proposed closure of the Barrington Court Room would affect the RCMP. She indicated that the RCMP will then have to travel to court in either Shelburne or Yarmouth and this would remove them from the area during those hours.

Having completed her discussion of matters, the Sergeant then retired from the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

SALARY REVIEW

A comparative list of salaries for our municipality and other adjacent municipalities was previously circulated to members for their information and review.

Discussion then followed regarding the various salaries and a general review of salaries. In particular, salaries of the Tax Clerk and Building Inspector positions were discussed. This matter was then deferred for continued consideration later in the meeting.

BLUE SKY WIND PROJECT

Mr. Bruce Thompson appeared before the meeting for the purpose of making a presentation regarding the Blue Sky Wind Project. There were two public members attending the meeting for the purpose of listening to this presentation.

Mr. Thompson then proceeded to provide his power point presentation. He indicated that NSPI has good capacity in this municipality for a project of this size. This project has been re-diverted from the Tiverton/Digby area because of a high bird count in the proposed location there. Mr. Thompson indicated that the company would purchase property in the area rather than lease it. There are two properties that are for sale that are adjacent to each other which could be used for this project. This is the first project being developed by this company in Nova Scotia. A project would include six (6) individual COMFIT projects which would be owned by one cooperative body. A community meeting has already been held at the Port Clyde Fire Hall and it is anticipated that a second community meeting will be held at the same community hall on April 23, 2015. Mr. Thompson requested a letter of support for the project from the Municipality.

Resolution COW150429

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that a letter of support for the Blue Sky Wind Project in the Blanche area be provided, providing that all municipal and other government regulations are met.

Motion carried unanimously.

Having completed his presentation, Mr. Thompson then retired from the meeting at approximately 9:05 p.m.

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE TOURS

It was the consensus of members that this matter be deferred to a later date.

SEA STAR ICE DOGS HOCKEY TEAM

Members were informed that the Treasurer of this group had been contacted. She has since provided seven (7) postdated cheques to be applied to the hockey team's arena rental account. It was indicated by the Treasurer that a golf tournament would be held in August and the proceeds from this golf tournament would be used to pay the balance of the account completely.

RICHARD SWAINE TRACK AND FIELD

A member indicated that the proponents of the soccer programs being hosted at this field would like to see the access road and parking lot graded and improved prior to the start of the season, if possible.

The grading of the parking lot and road will be done in the very near future by Property Services Personnel. At the same time, expansion of the parking lot will be evaluated and determined by Property Services Personnel. It was also suggested that the parking area off Stirl's Road on the other side of the soccer field could be developed and expanded.

Resolution COW150430

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by D. Messenger that the Municipality obtain estimates for enlarging the parking lot from the Stirl's Road entry on the northern side of the soccer field and include these costs in the Municipality's budget for the coming year.

Motion carried unanimously.

CLYDE RIVER MOTORCROSS

Legal advice had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.

Resolution COW150431

Moved by J. Crook and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality contact the current owner of the Clyde River Motorcross Ltd. and ask if they will voluntarily re-convey the property to the Municipality due to the lack of use over the past three years.

Motion carried unanimously.

SOUTH SHORE TOURISM MUNICIPAL REQUEST

Correspondence has been received from the South Shore Tourism Group requesting municipalities to provide funds for the marketing and promotion of the South Shore to tourists during the coming season.

Resolution COW150432

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality provide funding to the South Shore Tourism Group in the amount of \$1,140.00 as requested, for the purpose of marketing and promoting the South Shore to tourists during the coming season.

AFFIRMATIVE

Jody Crook
Shaun Hatfield
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
Eddie Nickerson

NEGATIVE

George El-Jakl

Motion carried.

POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT – COMFIT #367

A Power Purchase Agreement has been received from Nova Scotia Power for the COMFIT #367 project. This is the Municipality's wind turbine project located adjacent to the Municipal C & D Landfill Site. This agreement will go into effect immediately upon the wind turbine generator connection to the Nova Scotia Power grid.

CIVIC NUMBER SIGNS AT VILLAGEDALE ROAD

The cost of obtaining and installing a directional sign for civic numbers at the Port LaTour end of the Villagedale Road has been determined. A sign will cost approximately \$80.00 to obtain and be installed by Municipal Employees.

Resolution COW150433

Moved by J. Crook and seconded by S. Hatfield that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality obtain a civic addressing sign and install it at the Port LaTour end of the Villagedale Road for the direction of emergency response vehicles.

Motion carried unanimously.

SUNLIFE PENSION PLAN

Information regarding the SunLife Pension Plan had previously been circulated to members for their information and review. Municipal employees have also been advised of the administrative cost savings that may be obtained by moving the plan from SunLife to Standard Life.

Resolution COW150434

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by J. Crook that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality's Pension Plan provider be changed from SunLife Assurance to Standard Life.

Motion carried unanimously.

C.S.I. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RIGHT-OF-WAY AND GOOSE LAKE ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY

It was agreed by consensus of members that both of these topics be deferred for consideration to the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

DAWN SMITH REQUEST RE: EDUCATION WEEK

An email was received by individual councillors asking that the last week of April be declared Education Week by the Municipality.

It was the consensus of members that a draft proclamation be prepared for consideration of Council.

BARRINGTON/PORT LATOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT REQUEST

Area Rate Request

The Fire Department is requesting that an Area Rate be put in place that would cover only the Barrington/Port LaTour Fire District and that the Port Clyde Fire District Area Rate be removed so that there are two separate fire rates in the Eastern area of the Municipality.

Moved by J. Crook and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality support the request of the Barrington/Port LaTour Fire Department for a separation of Area Rates in the Eastern portion of the Municipality.

There then followed some discussion regarding the accountability of fire departments to Council and to taxpayers.

Resolution COW150435

Moved by J. Crook and seconded by S. Hatfield that consideration of the previous motion be deferred to the next meeting of Committee of the Whole.

Motion carried unanimously.

Capital Purchase Funds

The Barrington/Port LaTour Volunteer Fire Department is requesting that all of the funds deposited to the Fire Services Reserve Fund prior to 2014 be designated to the Barrington/Port LaTour Volunteer Fire Department for the purpose of building a new fire hall. The Fire Department is also requesting that 50% of the funds added to the Fire Service Fund and designated for the Eastern fire districts of the Municipality be provided to their fire department also for the purpose of funding a new fire hall. The total request for the provision of funds to the Barrington/Port LaTour Volunteer Fire Department for the construction of a new fire hall would amount to \$160,000.00 of the \$180,000.00 currently in the Fire Services Reserve Fund.

Moved by J. Crook and seconded by S. Hatfield that it be recommended to Council that the funding request of the Barrington/Port LaTour Volunteer Fire Department which would effectively provide \$160,000.00 for the construction of a new fire hall in the Barrington/Port LaTour Fire District be approved.

After some discussion it was:

Resolution COW150436

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by J. Crook that this motion be deferred for further consideration to the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

Motion carried unanimously

YARMOUTH HOSPITAL FOUNDATION GALA

Information was circulated to members regarding the gala to be held at the Yarmouth Mariners Centre. This is an annual event that is hosted by the Yarmouth Hospital Foundation and is one of their major fundraisers.

Resolution COW150437

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by J. Crook that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality again provide a \$1,200.00 donation as sponsorship for one table at the Yarmouth Hospital Foundation Annual Gala.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 11:00 p.m.

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting

On website April 15, 2015.