

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

February 17, 2015

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:05 p.m., in the Conference Room, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington, N.S., with the following members present:

- George El-Jakl, Chair
- Jody Crook
- Shaun Hatfield
- Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
- Lindsay (Eddie) Nickerson

- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Child Protection Services.
- Dr. Blair.
- Cape Sable Historical Society.
- Wind Turbine Generator.
- Salary Survey.
- Fire Station Chief Training.
- Endoscopy Services.
- Volunteer Award.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by S. Hatfield that the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by D. Messenger that minutes of the meeting held February 9, 2015 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

MONTHLY REPORT – TOURISM AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

A written report was circulated to members prior to the meeting for the month of January 2015. The report detailed the activities of the Tourism and Community Development Officer during the month. The Officer indicated she will assist the Cape Sable Historical Society with applications for funding of the restoration of the Old Court House. The NHL event is taking up considerable time but is now taking shape with the component events being advertised and participation sought from members of the community. Promotion of the NHL event is underway in the local area as well as in Shelburne and Yarmouth. Reconstruction of the Municipal website is also being conducted. This will take considerable time to complete and to maintain in future.

Having completed her report and discussion with Council, the Tourism and Community Development Officer retired from the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

CONTINUATION OF TOURISM AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER POSITION

As yet a revised job description with wage schedule has not been developed. This will be done in the near future and brought to the next Committee of the Whole Council meeting. As soon as a draft is completed it will be circulated to members for their review. It is proposed that this description include the following elements: wages, salary vs. hourly, number of hours worked, revised job description, and contract term.

MPAL CONTINUED EMPLOYMENT

Council approved continued employment of the Municipal Physical Activity Leader up to March 31, 2015.

There then followed some discussion concerning the Municipality receiving satisfactory level of service from municipal employees. It was questioned whether employees were held accountable for the work being done. The Municipality is in the second year of a five year agreement for the Physical Activity Leader. This agreement is with the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness. Six (6) months' notice is required to terminate the agreement.

Resolution COW150219

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Municipal Physical Activity Leaders' employment be continued to March 31, 2016.

Motion carried unanimously.

DEED TRANSFER TAX

Information has previously been circulated to members concerning the implementation of a Deed Transfer Tax and the number of municipal units in the Province who currently have this tax in place. There are only four (4) municipal units who do not have a Deed Transfer Tax, including the Municipality of Barrington. The maximum Deed Transfer Tax allowed is 1 ½% of the selling price of a property.

During discussion of this matter it was suggested that notice be given prior to implementation of any Deed Transfer Tax.

It was the consensus of members that further discussion of a Deed Transfer Tax be deferred to the budget deliberations.

VIC RELOCATION

This matter was deferred to this meeting from a previous meeting of the committee. It was suggested that the Municipality obtain access to property at Exit 30 on the incoming connector road from Yarmouth. It was also suggested that the Municipality change its approach from relocating the present Visitor Information Centre. The approach suggested would be to build a new building rather than moving the old one.

Resolution COW150220

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality contact the local Supervisor for the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal requesting information on the availability of access on the connector road on the right hand side of Highway 103 travelling from Yarmouth towards Barrington.

Motion carried unanimously.

FEDERAL PROPERTIES UNDER REVIEW

Correspondence has been received from the Federal Government indicating that they are reviewing the values of the six (6) properties which they own within the Municipality. The values of these properties on which Grant in Lieu of taxes are paid is established by the Federal Government. These values are currently in the process of being reviewed for the current year.

KIDNEY DIALYSIS

Members were informed that an email has been received from the Vice President of Clinical Care of the South West District Health Authority. In this email the Vice President of Clinical Care indicates that the Provincial Health System is undergoing a structural transition. The new Provincial Health Authority comes into effect April 1, 2015, and until that time there is to be no new direction or planning for any program or service provided by the health system.

Members then discussed the implications of the information contained in the email. It was suggested that this information be sent to Lee Goreham-Smith who wishes to make a presentation at the Council meeting of February 23, 2015. It was also suggested that she contact South West Health directly.

It was also suggested that the Municipality ask South West Health what has happened to the renal dialysis study that was in the process of being completed prior to this change taking place.

WOODS HARBOUR SHAG HARBOUR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Members were informed that no information has been received from the Woods Harbour Shag Harbour Volunteer Fire Department since their email of February 10, 2015 which was forwarded to councillors.

Members were also informed that the Port Clyde Volunteer Fire Department is also entering into discussions with the Fire Service Advisory Committee at their meeting to be held tomorrow night.

Resolution COW150221

Moved by J. Crook and seconded by D. Messenger that the Woods Harbour Shag Harbour Volunteer Fire Department be contacted to inquire of the results of their legal consultation.

Motion carried unanimously.

HEALTHY EATING PILOT PROJECT

Members were informed that the Municipal Physical Activity Leader has sent information in response to her direction to implement a Healthy Eating pilot project at the Barrington Municipal Arena. In the response she has indicated that there is a Healthy Eating pilot project being implemented by the local municipal recreation departments. A grant has been applied for and received for this project in order to fund pilot projects in the Barrington Arena, Shelburne Arena and the Mariners Centre. The Municipal Physical Activity Leader is asking for further direction in light of this grant being obtained.

There then followed some discussion regarding the implementation of the project at the Barrington Municipal Arena.

Resolution COW150222

Moved by S. Hatfield and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality defer the implementation of a healthy eating pilot project at the Barrington Municipal Arena until the next season.

AFFIRMATIVE

George El-Jakl
Shaun Hatfield
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger

NEGATIVE

Jody Crook
Eddie Nickerson

Motion carried.

CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES

The Warden and Deputy Warden met with Mr. Phil Warren and Brenda Knox-Townsend of the Department of Community Services on Thursday morning of the previous week. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss changes being implemented on April 1, 2015 in the Shelburne District Community Services Office located in Barrington. The changes proposed would remove five (5) Child Protection related positions from this office.

Members were informed by the Warden and Deputy Warden that information was provided on the caseload at the Yarmouth Office, the Barrington Office and the Lunenburg County Office. No information was available on the Liverpool Queens Community Services Office. Information has been requested both verbally and by written communication.

It was the consensus of members that correspondence be sent to the Minister of Community Services in regards to this matter, with copies of the communication being sent to our MLA and to the Premier requesting a meeting either locally or in Halifax to discuss this matter. It was also suggested that information also be obtained regarding caseloads at the Liverpool Office, and finally it was suggested that a Press Release be done regarding this matter. These actions will be further pursued by the Warden and Clerk-Treasurer.

DR. HUNTER BLAIR

A call was received this morning at the Municipal Office from Dr. Blair. During the conversation Dr. Blair indicated that he will be permanently moving his practice to a location at the Town Hall in the Town of Clark's Harbour. His original intention had been to move there on a part-time basis, and to continue working on a part-time basis in the Municipality's Community Health Centre. However, as a result of recent personal experiences he has decided to move to the Town location on a full-time basis. Dr. Blair will continue to service patients, the majority of whom are from the Municipality, from that location. This will allow him to be closer to home and spend less time travelling back and forth. He believes it will allow him to lengthen the duration of his practice over the next several years. During the telephone conversation Dr. Blair was asked to provide a letter to the Municipality indicating his future intentions.

It was the consensus of members that once correspondence is received from Dr. Blair an appropriate response will be made.

It was the general sentiment expressed by members that Dr. Blair should be thanked by Council for his many years of service to the community.

CAPE SABLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A request has been received from the Cape Sable Historical Society to share in the cost of hiring an engineer to evaluate the Old Court House building. This evaluation is necessary in order to determine what will need to be done and how to approach the restoration of the building.

It was indicated in email correspondence that a grant may be obtained from Heritage Nova Scotia for 50% of the cost of an engineer's evaluation, up to a maximum of \$3,000.00.

Resolution COW140223

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by E. Nickerson that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality fund 50% of the cost up to a maximum of \$3,000.00 for an engineering assessment of the Old Court House building.

Motion carried unanimously.

WIND TURBINE GENERATOR PERMIT

The Municipal Solicitor has been consulted in the matter of obtaining a Development Permit for the wind turbine being constructed by the Municipality. The Municipality's policy indicates that an independent outside Building Inspector should be obtained for any major projects done within the Municipality. This project is believed to be a major project and therefore an independent outside Building Inspector should be consulted.

Resolution COW150224

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by E. Nickerson that it be recommended to Council that an independent outside Building Inspector be engaged by the Municipality in order to issue a Development Permit for the wind turbine generator being constructed on property adjacent to the Municipality's Landfill Site.

Motion carried unanimously.

SALARY SURVEY

Members were informed that the Municipal Personnel Policy requires that a complete salary survey be conducted every three (3) years, therefore a salary review is required to be conducted in 2015. This review will be conducted as required.

STATION CHIEFS' TRAINING

Members had previously been informed that it was suggested by the Fire Service Advisory Committee that the requirements for Station Chiefs' training be waived until the end of 2015 as sufficient training sessions were not made available during 2014.

It was the consensus of members that this matter be deferred until the next meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

ENDOSCOPY SERVICES

Correspondence has been received from the Municipality of the District of Shelburne. The District of Shelburne has written a letter to the Vice President of Clinical Services of South West Health. In this letter the District of Shelburne is objecting to the suspension of endoscopy services at Roseway Hospital, effective December 22, 2014. The District of Shelburne is requesting all of the municipal units served by Roseway Hospital to request that South West Health reinstate endoscopy services at Roseway Hospital so that residents of Shelburne are given the same quality patient care, security and support afforded to residents in Yarmouth and Queens counties.

Resolution COW150225

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by S. Hatfield that it be recommended to Council that a letter of support for the District of Shelburne's request be sent to the Vice President of Clinical Services at South West Health, and be copied to the Premier, the Minister of Health, Provincial Opposition Party Leaders and our MLA.

Motion carried unanimously.

VOLUNTEER AWARD

Information regarding the nominations for the Municipality's Volunteer of the Year Award was previously circulated to members by email. The biographies of those nominated was also circulated by email and an evaluation form was circulated.

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Members agreed to complete the form and forward it to the Municipal Office so it can be summarized for the Council meeting on February 23rd.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 9:58 p.m.

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting

On website February 20, 2015.