

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

December 5, 2016

The meeting was called to order by the Warden at 7:11 p.m., in Council Chambers, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington, N.S. There were 29 members of the public in attendance.

All Councillors were present:

- Warden Eddie Nickerson
- Deputy Warden Jody Crook
- Murray Atkinson
- Shaun Hatfield
- George El-Jakl

- Rob Frost, CAO

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

It was agreed that the following items be added to the agenda:

- Blanche Road – Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal
- Street light in Centreville
- Light at the Post Office in Barrington Passage
- Speeding concerns on Brass Hill Rd

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Being duly moved and seconded be it resolved that the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Being duly moved and seconded be it resolved that the minutes of November 21, 2016 be approved.

Motion carried unanimously.

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Councillor Shaun Hatfield declared that he would be declaring a conflict of interest on the topic of Bay Side Home as the Administrator is a family member.

Councillor George El-Jakl declared that he would be declaring a conflict of interest on the topic of Bay Side Home as he currently sits on the Board of Directors for Bay Side Home.

BAY SIDE HOME

Councillor El-Jakl and Councillor Hatfield left the meeting.

The topic of Bay Side Home was moved to the beginning of the agenda as there were a number of residents in attendance to hear this discussion. Warden Nickerson asked if there was anyone there that would like to speak to the issue and that Committee would allow up to two speakers on this subject. Ms. Wanda Atkinson requested permission to speak.

Ms. Atkinson began by thanking Bay Side Home for their hard work. Ms. Atkinson had sent a letter to Council which formed the basis of her questions and discussion. Ms. Atkinson's requested main points of clarity were around the appointment of Board of Directors by the Municipality of the District of Barrington. Ms. Atkinson made a point of stating that there were no sensational issues regarding Bay Side Home, and that she wanted people to know how people were appointed by the Council.

Ms. Atkinson asks that the Municipality be clear on how appointments are made to Bay Side Home Board of Directors, and wanted to know why Council is not appointing a member to the Board of Directors. She also asked why the Municipality has not been in contact with Bay Side to tell them there has been no appointment made.

The Warden and CAO explained to Ms. Atkinson that Council has one role as it relates to the Bay Side Home Board of Directors, which is to make appointments to the Board when there are vacancies. Councillor El-Jakl had been appointed to the Board in previous years, and based on the By-laws of Bay Side Board can sit for up to eight years from the date of the Bay Side policy creation. Council did not formally appoint Councillor El-Jakl this year, as he was already a Board member based on the policies and By-laws of Bay Side, and Council does not have the authority to change Board Members. Council will be having further discussion as to whether or not to appoint a councillor to the Bay Side Home Board of Directors in the future, or to only appoint citizen representatives.

Ms. Atkinson asked that any future appointment be vetted for conflict of interest, and that vacancies be advertised extensively. Warden Nickerson asked if there were specifics that Ms. Atkinson knew about regarding conflict of interest as it was mentioned by her numerous times. No issues were identified.

Deputy Warden Crook asked about the previous legal opinion that Ms. Atkinson was referring to in her comments. The CAO stated that Council had previously received correspondence from the solicitor a few years ago that stated Council's only role was to appoint members to the Board of Directors, which had been referenced in an email to Ms. Atkinson.

The Warden thanked Ms. Atkinson for her time. The Warden commented as to how he and Council wish to focus on how wonderful it is to have such an asset in the Municipality, and continue to work closely with the Bay Side Home.

There was a 15 min recess taken from 8:35 to 8:50pm.

Councillor El-Jakl and Councillor Hatfield returned to the meeting.

PORT CLYDE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Robert Hubbard and Craig Hutchinson from the Port Clyde Volunteer Fire Department presented to committee. Deputy Chief Robbie Harris was also in attendance, as was Fire Services Coordinator David Kendrick.

The Port Clyde Fire Department needs to address the condition of their Fire Hall, and is requesting support from Council for the building of a new facility. Chief Hubbard and Firefighter Hutchinson presented information gathered regarding rough estimates to build a certain size building.

Committee asked a number of questions regarding current firefighter membership, training levels of members, and response times. This information was provided by Chief Hubbard and the Fire Services Coordinator.

Further discussion took place regarding the size of the department, and the possibility or thoughts around amalgamation with another Fire Department. The Chief felt that this could be an opportunity as long as there was at the minimum a building for a sub-station in the general Port Clyde area.

The Department will be having discussion with the Municipality of Shelburne and will have further discussion with Barrington in the near future.

Councillor El-Jakl left the meeting at 9:50pm.

FLOATING DOCK POLICY

Discussion took place regarding the policy for the floating dock. It was agreed to move forward with the policy as presented, but also to note that this particular policy may need some refinement once it has been in place for a period of time.

Resolution COW161201

Being duly moved and seconded be it recommended to Council to approve the Floating Dock Policy as presented.

Motion carried unanimously. (4-0)

BUDGET PROCESS

Discussion took place regarding the process that will be used for the budgeting process for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

The process laid out by the CAO (a copy of which is attached) was agreed to, and he will proceed to set dates regarding the process.

RURAL INTERNET

Discussion took place regarding the current situation regarding rural internet. The CAO reported that the MOU had changed around the discussion with other Western NS Municipal Units to more accurately reflect the proposed project. Since that time two municipal units have said they will not be participating, which in turn will cause further changes to the MOU as presented. Committee felt it would be hard to agree to the MOU when all the partners are not identified.

Further discussion ensued regarding having Internet Service Providers in to discuss what they can currently provide, and any future plans for expansion.

Resolution COW161202

Being duly moved and seconded be it recommended to Council to invite representatives from Bell Aliant and Eastlink to come to a Committee or Council meeting to discuss the current internet situation in Barrington Municipality.

Motion carried unanimously. (4-0)

SOLID WASTE REVIEW

The CAO discussed the proposed agreement with the Municipality of Shelburne to look at our Solid Waste Collection policies and procedures. Committee was very interested in this process. More information will be collected and returned to committee in January.

ENGINE BRAKE USE NEAR WIRELESS ROAD

A complaint was received regarding trucks coming and going from Wireless Road, and their use of Engine Brakes. There was belief that parts of this may be covered by the Highways Act, which will be further investigated by the CAO.

Resolution COW161203

Being duly moved and seconded be it recommended to Council to have staff further investigate the use of engine brakes with Department of Transportation and other related entities.

Motion carried unanimously. (4-0)

IT SYSTEMS AUDIT

The IT Systems Audit was discussed briefly. Some recommendations will be implemented in the short term, with further discussion taking place during budget deliberations.

BLANCHE ROAD

Discussion took place regarding Blanche Road and that there were some significant pot holes affecting trucks coming and going from the lobster facility on the Road.

Resolution COW161204

Being duly moved and seconded be it recommended to Council to ask the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal to grade Blanche Road at the first available opportunity.

Motion carried unanimously. (4-0)

It was further discussed regarding how to best track issues that have gone to TIR and how to get updates. The CAO suggested that if all complaints were going through the office that we would be able to give a monthly or bi-monthly update on the status of requests. This will be implemented for the new year.

STREET LIGHT IN CENTREVILLE

A request came from a resident to see about the possibility of having a street light added in Centreville near the property owned by Darrell and Stella Nickerson.

Resolution COW161205

Being duly moved and seconded be it recommended to Council to have a street light added near the property of Darrell and Stella Nickerson in Centreville.

Motion carried unanimously. (4-0)

POST OFFICE IN BARRINGTON PASSAGE

A request came in to ask Canada Post to address the lighting on the side of the Post Office Building in Barrington Passage.

Resolution COW161206

Being duly moved and seconded be it recommended to Council to write a letter to Canada Post asking for them to install lighting near the handicap parking at the Barrington Passage Post Office.

Motion carried unanimously. (4-0)

BRASS HILL ROAD SPEEDING CONCERN

The CAO passed on a concern regarding cars that were speeding on Brass Hill Rd. The CAO has passed this along to the RCMP and to TIR for them to look at what is occurring and possible solutions.

HIGHWAY 103 – EXIT 29

A concern was expressed regarding the ability to see Exit 29 well at night time. Councillors stated that many exits that are similar have a flashing light and that should be investigated.

Resolution COW161207

Being duly moved and seconded be it recommended to Council to request that Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal look at the Exit 29, and the possibility of adding a flashing light to improve visibility and awareness at night.

Motion carried unanimously. (4-0)

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 p.m.

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting

On website December 9, 2016.



Municipality of Barrington

Report from the Chief Administrative Officer

Date: December 5, 2016

Topic: Budget Scheduling Discussions

Purpose of Report:

To discuss and develop a schedule for the upcoming budgeting process.

Discussion:

To develop a strong budget moving the Municipality forward it is important to have good involvement from early stages from all stakeholders.

There are a number of discussions that need to take place in order to have a strong budget completed in a timely manner.

This coming budget will hopefully be the earliest that the Municipality has completed the budgeting process.

Target for approval of the budget will be late April or early May of 2017.

Council needs to decide how they would like to proceed with the process, who should be involved, and how to best determine priorities.

Some things to consider include the Debt Affordability Model developed by the Municipal Finance Corporation, public consultation and involvement, staff input and reports, capital project goals, and council direction.

Recommendation:

- Meet in early January to work with the Debt Affordability Model
- Mid to late January – Public consultation to discuss budget priorities
- Late January / early February – series of discussions with Fire Departments
- Late January / early February– series of budget discussions with departmental staff
- Mid to late February – decisions on capital projects
- Early March – original draft budget prepared for discussion and revision
- April – revisions with updated provincial numbers, and a final draft submitted for approval