

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

March 13, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Lindsay (Eddie) Nickerson at 6:30 p.m., in the Conference Room, in the Administrative Centre, Barrington, N.S., with the following members present:

- Lindsay (Eddie) Nickerson (Chair)
- Murray Atkinson
- Jody Crook
- Shaun Hatfield

- Rob Frost, CAO

Absent due to medical reasons: George El-Jakl

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Being duly moved and seconded be it resolved that the minutes of February 21st, March 2nd, and March 6th, be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION REGARDING THE OLD COURT HOUSE BUILDING

Discussion took place regarding the Old Court House Building and future uses of this building. A report from the CAO was given to Council stating the costs that need to be incurred to improve the condition of the Old Court House, which also included the three following recommendations to Council:

- 1) donating the building to the Cape Sable Historical Society for their future use,
- 2) selling the building, or
- 3) having the building demolished.

Councillors all expressed their desire to make a decision regarding this building and move forward.

Warden Nickerson stated that as part of budgeting and future planning the Municipality is currently looking at all municipally owned buildings and properties.

The Cape Sable Historical Society was in attendance, and they were invited to the table to discuss. Brenda Maxwell represented the Society. Mrs. Maxwell stated that funding had not been secured for proposed upgrades because the Municipality had never committed any funding to the project. The Cape Sable Historical Society has recently elected a new Board of Directors, and they will be meeting to further discuss the use of the Old Court House.

SGT. DELUCO – RCMP REPORT

Sgt. Deluco presented the Quarterly Report to the Committee.

In general, property crime is down 36% in Barrington. There has been an increase in fraud related cases, and there have been a number of incidents of cyber crime.

Sgt. Deluco expressed concern with the amount of time that is needed to deal with mental health issues. As it is not a core policing service it takes away from other areas of need. There was good discussion about possible options to assist with some of the gaps in service for mental health needs. Further discussion to take place.

There will also be a follow up meeting with the residents of McGray Avenue the end of April to discuss cars travelling in that area. There is a belief that the situation has improved with increased patrolling, and other areas of response.

BARRINGTON AND AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CHRISTMAS PARADE

There was discussion around the timing of the Festival of Lights and the Christmas Parade. There had been some suggestion that we would be better to have the event a week earlier in the year in order to allow lobster fishermen to participate with their families. The Chamber agreed to hold the parade a week earlier.

Resolution COW170301

Being duly moved and seconded be it recommended to Council to move the Festival of Lights to the last Saturday in November (weekend prior to the start of lobster season).

Motion carried unanimously. (4-0)

SHEROSE ISLAND BOAT LAUNCH

The Municipality had been approached by the Fishing and Gaming Association regarding the boat launch at Sherose Island, and the possibility of having a better parking area so that there was less congestion during peak use.

Resolution COW170302

Being duly moved and seconded be it recommended to Council to request staff to develop a proposal for the expansion of the parking area at the Sherose Island Boat Launch and bring back to Committee for further discussion.

Motion carried unanimously. (4-0)

INVOICE FROM UNSM

Discussion took place regarding the yearly invoice from the UNSM. There is a fee added for work the UNSM will be hiring the AMA to perform. There was question as to whether this is a download of costs to municipalities. The CAO has been asked to draft a letter to UNSM Board to provide further clarification on the need for the fee.

There will also be further discussion at a future Committee of the Whole Meeting to discuss changes to the UNSM resolutions process, the voting procedure, and future involvement.

WATER BY-LAW

Discussion took place regarding the potential water by-law. The Committee liked the draft and the by-law that Argyle has adopted. They asked that the CAO tweak slightly to incorporate limits of the program, and want to see the amount spent for each project not to exceed \$10,000.

A draft will come back to Committee of the Whole Council in April.

REVIEW OF POLICIES

Policy No. 43 Disposal of Personal Property

The Committee agreed with the proposed changes to the Sale of Personal Property Policy, to be called the Disposal of Incidental Assets Policy. One addition that is to be made is to add a section that states that staff or council are unable to purchase Municipal surplus property through this policy.

A final draft will come back to Committee of the Whole Council in April.

Policy 41 “Low Income Property Tax Exemption Policy”

Discussion took place regarding our current Low Income Property Tax Exemption Policy, and how it relates to other municipalities.

There was general comments made such as looking at developing two or three rates, and having the need to submit a tax assessment.

An email was shared from Wilfred Mader regarding the Low Income Property Tax Exemption.

It was agreed that once the budget is passed this year that this policy will be reviewed in the spring/summer to have changes in place for the following year.

WESTERN REN LIAISON AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

Resolution COW170303

Being duly moved and seconded be it recommended to Council to appoint Warden Nickerson to the Western Regional Enterprise Network (REN) Liaison and Oversight Committee.

Motion carried unanimously. (4-0)

RV DUMPING STATION SIGN

The CAO presented the findings regarding the ability to place an RV Dumping Station sign on the highway. The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal informed us that there are possible locations coming from the East, but no locations coming from the West as it is a controlled access highway.

The question was asked as to whether or not a sign could be placed underneath our Barrington Municipality sign stating services.

This will be brought back to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal for further review, and if possible a cost will be determined.

SHELBURNE COUNTY HOUSING COALITION

There was discussion regarding the Shelburne County Housing Coalition and its value in supporting the need of affordable housing. Minutes will be brought forth that will be presented at Council with other reports.

Resolution COW170304

Being duly moved and seconded be it recommended to Council to appoint Councillor Hatfield as the Municipal representative on the Shelburne County Housing Coalition.

Motion carried unanimously. (4-0)

CHAMBA REQUEST

The Clark's Harbour and Area Minor Ball Association will be holding spring clinics in the arena to get ready for the upcoming ball season and need to acquire some equipment in order to do so. They requested that Council assist in funding the \$575 needed.

Resolution COW170305

Being duly moved and seconded be it recommended to Council to provide CHAMBA with a one-time grant of \$200 for required equipment as per the Activities Fund Policy.

Motion carried unanimously. (4-0)

CORRESPONDENCE FROM BLAIR BROWN

Mr. Brown had sent a letter requesting that the Municipality send a notice to all residents regarding the use of Smart Meters by Nova Scotia Power.

Committee has asked that the CAO write to Mr. Brown thanking him for the information he provided, and indicate that this is not a municipal area of jurisdiction.

BARRINGTON GROUND SEARCH AND RESCUE FUNDING

Barrington Ground Search & Rescue wrote to Council requesting annual funding. The Committee asked that the CAO contact them to get clarification on whether their deficit is covered in their next years' budget, and how funding of future mentioned projects will take place.

This information will be brought back to the Committee of the Whole Council, and added to budget discussions.

EMO EXECUTIVE HOST AND CHAIR

As the EMO Executive decided to switch meetings back and forth, Council needs to amend the policy stating how this is to be transferred. The Committee has asked that potential changes to EMO be discussed with the Executive and completed before adjusting the policy.

IN-CAMERA DISCUSSION REGARDING LAND TRANSACTION

At 10:15pm the Committee moved In-camera to discuss a land transaction.

At 10:22pm the Committee came out of In-camera.

Resolution COW170306

Being duly moved and seconded be it recommended to Council to accept the offer to purchase the parcel of land, PID 82571795, as presented.

Motion carried unanimously. (4-0)

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:23pm.

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting

On website March 16, 2017.