

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING
July 19, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:07 p.m., in the Multi-purpose Room, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington, N.S., with the following members present:

- Shaun Hatfield, Chair
- Jody Crook
- George El-Jakl
- Andrea Mood-Nickerson - Attended by video conference
- Lindsay (Eddie) Nickerson

- Chris Frotten, CAO
- Lesa Rossetti, Municipal Clerk

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following item was added to the agenda:

- Outboard at the Causeway

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Being duly moved and seconded that minutes of the regular meeting held July 12th and the special meeting held July 13, 2021, be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Leah d'Eon, Director of Finance appeared before the meeting and presented the quarterly financial report to June 30, 2021. Explanations were provided where necessary.

A copy of the Financial Report is attached and forms part of the minutes.

Leah was thanked for her presentation and left the meeting.

FIREFIGHTERS RECOGNITION

It was suggested that consideration be given to acknowledging exemplary service of volunteer firefighters.

It was agreed that the suggestion be discussed with the Fire Services Co-ordinator to determine whether any changes should be made to policy.

DRAFT AMENDMENTS - POLICY 42 "MUN. GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIP/ADVERTISING POLICY"

As requested by members, Policy 42 "Municipal Grants and Sponsorship/Advertising Policy" has been revamped to provide for different applications based on amount of funding being requested and to include a section for road improvement grants.

It was suggested that the grant amounts be adjusted, receipts and financial information be required, etc.

Staff will make changes to the policy based on discussions and present the draft policy back to committee for review.

BARRINGTON MUNICIPAL EXHIBITION COMMITTEE – REQUEST FOR LETTER OF SUPPORT AND FUNDING

Brenda Maxwell, member of the Barrington Municipal Exhibition Committee, was present for this portion of the meeting.

It was reported that correspondence has been received from the Barrington Municipal Exhibition Committee which advised that they are applying for federal funding to carry out improvements to their grounds. They advised that they are in need of a well and an expansion to their oxen barn as well as repairs to their horse barn and a new storage building. They are applying for funding in the amount of \$100,000 which requires them to contribute 25%. The committee is requesting Council for a letter of support to accompany their application and a loan of \$25,000.

During discussion it was noted that the Municipality recently provided a grant of \$3,500 to the Exhibition Committee to assist with the cost of a well. Ms. Maxwell acknowledged the grant and advised that they would only be requesting a loan of \$21,500.

Question was raised as to whether the Municipality would be permitted under the MGA to loan money to an organization for this purpose. The CAO informed members that the matter would have to be researched before proceeding. It was noted that a policy or by-law would also be required. Information will be gathered and brought back to the committee.

Resolution COW210701

Being duly moved and seconded that it be recommended to Council that a letter be provided to the Barrington Municipal Exhibition Committee in support of their application for funding.

Motion carried unanimously.

LOBSTER TRAP CHRISTMAS TREE ENHANCEMENTS

During budget deliberations \$15,000 was allocated to the construction of a new and improved Lobster Trap Christmas Tree. A staff report has been prepared, seeking direction from Council on how to proceed. A copy of the report is attached and forms part of the minutes.

Page 3, Committee of the Whole Council Meeting, July 19, 2021.

Resolution COW210702

Being duly moved and seconded that it be recommended to Council that a working group be formed to help with the construction of the Lobster Trap Christmas Tree.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was suggested that staff be directed to prepare a written plan providing instructions on how to construct the tree.

NSFM CORRESPONDENCE

NSFM Monday Memos dated June 21st, 28th, July 5th, 12th and 19, 2021, were attached to the agenda for review by members.

It was reported that NSFM is looking to showcase municipal success stories at their Conference to be held in November, 2021. It was suggested that information be submitted on our Fire Services, highlighting training, high school credit program and the recently purchased ladder truck.

OUTBOARD AT CAUSEWAY

It was reported that there has been an outboard at the floating dock for some time.

The CAO agreed to discuss this matter with the Dock Monitor.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting



**2021-2022 Financial Report
Summary
June 30, 2021**

Type	Group Type	Section	21/22 Budget	21/22 YTD Budget	Actuals June 30, 2021	YTD Variance	
Revenue	Property & Other Taxes	Business Property	252,900	75,249	138,866	63,617	
		Health Services - Sewer	344,505	172,252	172,200	- 52	
		Taxes	5,833,181	2,880,660	2,893,716	13,056	
	Property & Other Taxes Total			6,430,586	3,128,161	3,204,781	76,620
	Grants in Lieu of Taxes	Federal Government	48,395	-	-	-	
		Provincial Government	99,637	2,467	-	- 2,467	
	Grants in Lieu of Taxes Total			148,032	2,467	-	- 2,467
	Services to Other Government	Services to Other Governments	117,769	34,509	37,354	2,845	
	Services to Other Governments Total			117,769	34,509	37,354	2,845
	Sale of Services	General Government Services	116,200	20,301	38,032	17,731	
		Municipal Arena	109,600	375	815	440	
		Recreation Programs	88,890	37,480	42,727	5,247	
		Swimming Pool	19,400	3,400	-	- 3,400	
	Sale of Services Total			334,090	61,556	81,573	20,017
	Other Revenue	Admin Revenue	25,500	4,875	6,829	1,954	
		Interest on Investments	16,500	4,125	4,755	630	
		Interest on Taxes	135,000	33,750	37,896	4,146	
		Licenses and Permits	47,750	11,940	11,735	- 205	
		Rentals	50,299	9,204	11,082	1,878	
		Wind Turbine Revenue	65,000	16,251	20,359	4,108	
Other Revenue Total			340,049	80,145	92,655	12,510	
Unconditional Transfers	Provincial Government	184,635	37,834	37,834	-		
Unconditional Transfers Total			184,635	37,834	37,834	-	
Conditional Transfers	Federal Government	2,485,750	-	-	-		
	Provincial Government	337,655	57,937	55,187	- 2,750		
Conditional Transfers Total			2,823,405	57,937	55,187	- 2,750	
Other Transfers	Debenture Receipts	1,145,000	-	-	-		
	Other	-	-	-	-		
	Special Reserve Fund	1,254,000	-	-	-		
Other Transfers Total			2,399,000	-	-	-	
Revenue Total			12,777,566	3,402,609	3,509,386	106,777	
Expense	General Government Service	Financial Management	21,000	5,250	4,125	- 1,125	
		General Administrative	796,880	221,530	231,490	9,960	

**2021-2022 Financial Report
Summary
June 30, 2021**

Type	Group Type	Section	21/22 Budget	21/22 YTD Budget	Actuals June 30, 2021	YTD Variance	
Expense	General Government Service	Legislative	148,147	39,580	36,230	- 3,350	
		Other General Government	110,500	64,375	59,323	- 5,052	
		Property Services	350,318	92,225	90,459	- 1,766	
		Taxation	297,933	83,504	82,961	- 543	
	General Government Services Total			1,724,778	506,464	504,588	- 1,876
	Protective Services	Building Inspection Services	127,850	34,111	32,707	- 1,404	
		By-Law Enforcement	7,500	1,497	800	- 697	
		EMO	14,902	9,093	8,257	- 836	
		Fire Services Coordinator	74,930	19,958	18,097	- 1,861	
		Law Enforcement	10,500	2,625	2,500	- 125	
		Police Protection	1,119,434	279,858	278,739	- 1,119	
	Protective Services Total			1,355,116	347,142	341,098	- 6,044
	Transportation Services	Community Clean-up Program	1,000	1,000	-	- 1,000	
		Road Transportation	100,500	20,676	36,147	15,471	
		Street Lighting	158,000	39,501	39,792	291	
	Transportation Services Total			259,500	61,177	75,939	14,762
	Environmental Health	Landfill	251,546	64,879	60,077	- 4,802	
		Sewage Collection and Disposal	7,200	1,800	318	- 1,482	
		Sewage System - Barrington	194,629	49,153	56,928	7,775	
		Sewage System - Woods Harbour	94,429	24,106	31,853	7,747	
		Sewer System - Sherose Island	22,400	5,601	2,646	- 2,955	
		Solid Waste Management	847,000	224,248	233,484	9,236	
	Environmental Health Total			1,417,204	369,787	385,306	15,519
Public Health and Welfare	Housing	39,000	-	9,750	9,750		
	Public Health	100,000	17,499	15,525	- 1,974		
Public Health and Welfare Total			139,000	17,499	25,275	7,776	
Environmental Development	Community Development	6,834	3,101	3,501	400		
	Planning Advisory Committee	5,000	-	4,897	4,897		
	Regional Enterprise Network	39,000	19,500	19,373	- 127		
	Senior Services Coordinator	114,380	45,372	49,458	4,086		
	Tourism and Community	114,191	29,756	26,388	- 3,368		
	Visitor Information Centre	25,534	6,626	4,843	- 1,783		
	Wind Turbine Generator	20,500	5,124	1,749	- 3,375		



**2021-2022 Financial Report
Summary
June 30, 2021**

Type	Group Type	Section	21/22 Budget	21/22 YTD Budget	Actuals June 30, 2021	YTD Variance
Expense	Environmental Development Total		325,439	109,479	110,209	730
	Recreation and Cultural	Arena Canteen	-	-	-	-
		CED Centre/Library	24,700	6,174	10,619	4,445
		Curling Club	14,500	3,624	6,962	3,338
		Learning Centre	-	-	-	-
		MPAL	58,117	15,470	13,906	- 1,564
		Municipal Arena	334,420	64,500	49,243	- 15,257
		Municipal Swimming Pool	68,936	29,475	11,884	- 17,591
		Recreation Centre	-	-	12	12
		Recreation Department	82,347	21,878	21,309	- 569
		Recreation Facilities	78,450	19,609	24,291	4,682
		Recreation Programs	110,560	20,285	23,718	3,433
		Summer Staff	79,174	22,100	6,355	- 15,745
		Western County Regional Library	46,000	11,500	11,118	- 383
	Recreation and Cultural Total		897,204	214,615	179,418	- 35,197
	Education	Education	1,387,325	346,830	340,031	- 6,799
	Education Total		1,387,325	346,830	340,031	- 6,799
	Financing	Debt Charges	70,000	40,000	40,000	-
		Transfers to Own Reserves	5,202,000	40,000	42,661	2,661
	Financing Total		5,272,000	80,000	82,661	2,661
Expense Total			12,777,566	2,052,993	2,044,525	- 8,468
Grand Total			-	1,349,616	1,464,861	115,245



STAFF REPORT

SUBMITTED BY: Chris Frotten, Suzy Atwood, Cameron Whiteway

DATE: July 12, 2021

SUBJECT: Lobster Trap Christmas Tree Enhancements

ORIGIN

After more than a decade of assembling a lobster trap Christmas tree on the North East Point waterfront, Council has budgeted an investment of \$15,000 to build a new and improved tree. This report has been prepared to seek direction from Council on how to proceed.

BACKGROUND

The building of the tree and its lighting ceremony have become a tradition in the Municipality that has gained notoriety throughout the province – with other Nova Scotia communities joining us, including Lunenburg, Port Mouton and Musquodoboit Harbour, which has a small lighthouse atop its tree.

As we know all too well, the tree is cherished by many. It is adorned with approximately 130 wooden and plastic buoys, each painted in a unique pattern and placed by family and friends of lobster fishermen and women in memory of those lost at sea, those who have since passed on, as well as those who were, and still today are fishing the waters along our rugged coastline.

Nearly 200 salvaged traps/pots make up our tree, all which have served their duty catching thousands of lobsters on the bottom of our ocean floor. The tree, as all Christmas trees do, brings families, friends and in this case, our wonderful community together to celebrate the Christmas and lobster season and remember loved ones. It's a reminder of the importance the lobster industry plays to our communities, residents, businesses, not only here in the Municipality of Barrington but to the entire province of Nova Scotia.

DISCUSSION

Our lobster trap Christmas tree has taken on a few different looks over the years. This is due, in part, to the use of salvaged traps from our C&D Site, the varying experience of the assembly crew and the weather.



Traditions represent a critical piece of a culture. They help form the structure and foundation of a community and they remind us that we are part of a history that defines our past, shapes who we are today and who we are likely to become.

As does every longstanding tradition, they evolve over time. Our tree is no different and every tree we've assembled has had its unique personality. That said, there seems to be a desire for a new and improved tree that could be consistently recreated every year, thus enhancing the tradition.

Typically, upon approval by Council, the details of a project or service are executed by staff but seeing as this is so important to the residents of our Municipality and reflects on its image, we felt we required more direction on what Council envisions.

In an effort to provide Council with options, we researched the look and feel of a number of different trees that exist locally and abroad. Following our research, we determined that the trees from Rockland, Maine and Gloucester, Massachusetts would be two examples of trees that would be achievable for us and would fit the look and feel of our Municipality.

Rockland, Maine Tree

The tree built in Rockland, Maine is roughly 40-feet tall, is made up of 155 traps and 2,500 Christmas lights and is assembled entirely by volunteers.

The tree is a part of Rockland's Festival of Lights, a 25-year-old tradition that takes place just after Thanksgiving and runs through Christmas. For about the past 10 years, Rockland Main Street Inc. has been organizing both the Festival of Light and the lobster trap tree.





Gloucester, Massachusetts Tree

The Gloucester tree is about 45-feet tall and is built from 350 traps. The idea behind the tree began in 2001 by Janice Lufkin Shea, a downtown business owner. Jeff Worthley started it and built it for 10-years and then handed it off to other members of the community.

Local lobstermen donate their traps and volunteers work to build it. The fire department uses their hook and ladder to set the star at the top.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The way we currently assemble the tree costs the Municipality very little. As mentioned, the traps are salvaged from our C&D Site and Staff of the Department of Property Services physically assemble it. The only real cost is staff time, the renting of a boom lift to help us place the traps towards the top of the tree and some lights.

As you will read in our recommendation, we believe we can achieve the desired outcome without the need for much of the allocated funds.

That said, if our recommendation is rejected or does not work out, we recommend investing the allocated funds in the construction of a metal frame and the purchase of new traps. This would achieve the goal of creating a new and improved tree that could be replicated year after year as the frame and new traps would solidify the tree and keep the shape consistent.

It is estimated that the cost of a new trap (basic rectangle box nothing else) would be approx. \$80 each.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

PUBLIC CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATIONS

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

After careful consideration, we recommend assembling the tree similar to Gloucester's.

In addition to this recommended design, I've said many times that a project or initiative is never as successful than when it is born or has significant buy-in from the community. As you will read in the articles, the two trees we provided as options began and continue to be built and led by the community.

We have also seen the benefits of involving the community firsthand through one of our largest events – the Nova Scotia Marathon. Since creating our marathon committee, the event has improved substantially.

Although many cherish the tree, its assembly and lighting ceremony are still entirely led by the Municipality. In order to achieve the desired consistency and pride of a new and improved tree, we recommend the following:

1. Solicit donations of either a new trap or good used trap (with specific dimensions) from our local fishers/residents/businesses. Each trap could have a tag placed on it with either details on who it has been donated by or in memory of a loved one. Such a campaign could start in the summer and run until October, or until we reach our goal.
2. Form a committee to help build the tree. We could issue a call for volunteers to work on the tree for a few days and the team could meet prior to building it to go over the construction process and how that will work.

SUGGESTED MOTION

N/A

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

- News Articles – Rockland, Maine Tree
 - <https://www.newscentermaine.com/article/news/local/lobster-trap-christmas-tree-lights-up-rockland/97-d3f4b6ae-81c8-411f-b9cd-3541c4fe20ea>
 - <https://www.newscentermaine.com/article/news/local/207/rockland-builds-largest-lobster-trap-christmas-tree/97-569cd039-4021-460b-ba8b-337671247a7f>
 - <https://www.penbaypilot.com/article/rockland-s-lobster-trap-tree-rises-its-20th/141201>
- News Articles Gloucester, Massachusetts Tree
 - https://www.gloucestertimes.com/news/holiday-tree-stands-tall/article_7a716f99-3f2c-5748-a58c-8be346891161.html
 - <https://goodmorninggloucester.com/tag/gloucester-lobster-trap-christmas-tree/>
- Assembly Videos – Rockland, Maine Tree
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZsKJpQ49MMw>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HYEH0wgP9jc&t=71s>
- Assembly Video – Gloucester, Massachusetts Tree
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ceF2ylsx3ns>