

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING
March 12, 2024

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 8:00 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 – Absent due to illness
- Andrea Mood-Nickerson – Absent due to vacation

- Chris Frotten, CAO
- Lesa Rossetti, Municipal Clerk

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Being duly moved and seconded that minutes of the Regular Meeting held February 20th and Special Meeting held March 9, 2024 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

OFF-SHORE WIND PRESENTATION

A presentation was scheduled for 7:00 p.m., but had to be rescheduled due to there being no quorum until 8:00 p.m.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There were no matters arising from previous meetings.

REPEAL POLICY NO. 33 “RETURNING OFFICER”

Members were informed that Policy No. 33 “Returning Officer” was put in place under the Clerk-Treasurer system of governance and is no longer required. The Returning Officer is considered a municipal employee and will be subject to duties and responsibilities as outlined in the Job Description for the term position. It is therefore the recommendation of staff that Policy No. 33 “Returning Officer” be repealed.

Notice was given that consideration of repealing the Returning Officer Policy will take place at the next meeting of Council.

REQUEST FROM SHELBURNE COUNTY ATV ASSOCIATION

The Shelburne County ATV Association and the Woodland Multi-use Trails Association are applying to the Province for use of the Road Trails Act for approval of three sections of OHV Road Trail. They are also applying for three amendments from NS DNRR for a Notice of rail bed closure to motorized vehicles including a section of rail bed east of Lyles Road and over the Clyde River rail bridge. Both applications are required in order to connect the 36.9 kms of rail bed between Roseway River and Clyde River. The Associations is requesting a letter of support of their project to connect trails in the Municipality of Barrington to those in the Municipality of Shelburne. This letter will be used when making applications for funding, letters of authority, grants, etc. A copy of their request is attached and forms part of the minutes.

Resolution COW240301

Being duly moved and seconded that it be recommended to Council that the Shelburne County ATV Association and the Woodland Multi-use Trails Association be provided with a letter in support of their project to connect the 36.9 kms of rail bed between Roseway River and Clyde River, as outlined in their letter dated January 10, 2024.

Motion carried unanimously.

LOSS OF HOUSING UNITS IN SHELBURNE COUNTY

A Staff Report was provided informing members that family units owned and operated by the Western Regional Housing Authority in Port LaTour have recently been condemned. It is being suggested that a letter be sent to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing advocating for their repair and reinstatement. A copy of the report is attached and forms part of the minutes.

Resolution COW240302

Being duly moved and seconded that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to inquire about the loss of the family housing units in Port LaTour.

Motion carried unanimously.

REQUEST FROM BARRINGTON LAKE ROAD ASSOCIATION

A request has been received from the Barrington Lake Road Association requesting Council to remove Harold Smith (in care of Dale Smith) from the taxation agreement for improvements and maintenance of the Barrington Lake Road work. During discussion it was noted that this change would require an amendment to By-law No. 40 "A By-law Respecting the Maintenance and Improvement of Barrington Lake Road".

Direction was given to staff to draft the necessary amendments to the by-law for consideration of members.

PROVINCIAL AMBULANCE SERVICE ACT – BILL 338

This matter was placed on the agenda at the request of Councillor El-Jakl.

Concerned community members of Shag Harbour and Woods Harbour have expressed their concern with the current ambulance service and believe that a provincially-run service would be better. A copy of the request is attached and forms part of the minutes.

Much discussion took place regarding this matter and it was agreed that Jeff Fraser, Executive Director of the Department of Health and Wellness, be invited to meet community members and/or municipal officials.

BMHS GYM USAGE – ROSALIN NICKERSON “CARE” FUND GROUP

This matter was placed on the agenda at the request of Councillor El-Jakl.

The Rosalin Nickerson "CARE" Fund Group made a request to use BMHS' gymnasium for their vendors market fundraiser in September 2024. Their request was denied as another group felt it would infringe on their ability to raise funds at their fundraiser. A copy of the request is attached and forms part of the minutes.

Resolution COW240303

Being duly moved and seconded that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to Jared Purdy, Regional Executive Director of Education of the Tri-County Regional Centre for Education, requesting that the decision not to allow the Rosalin Nickerson "CARE" Fund Group the use of BMHS' gymnasium for their vendors market fundraiser be reconsidered.

Motion carried unanimously.

REQUEST FROM SHELBURNE COUNTY FISH AND GAME ASSOCIATION

In advance of the meeting, members were provided with a letter from the Shelburne County Fish and Game Association along with a copy of their grant application.

They are requesting that the requirement of the Municipal Grants Policy for them to ***“fund a minimum of 2/3 of the total project cost from their own funds and have the funds available at the time of making the application”*** be waived. In order for them to access provincial funding which will make up part of the 2/3, municipal financial support is required.

Resolution COW240304

Being duly moved and seconded that it be recommended to Council that the Shelburne County Fish and Game Association be exempt from Section 33.0 of the Municipal Grants and Sponsorship/Advertising Policy requiring them to have 2/3 of the project cost at the time of making application to the Municipality.

Motion carried unanimously.

Direction was given to staff to prepare draft amendments to the policy addressing the concern relating to Section 33.0, for consideration of members.

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting

Shelburne County ATV Association

10 January 2024

Municipality of Barrington
2447 Highway 3, PO Box 100,
Barrington, Nova Scotia, B0T 1E0

Re: Letter of support for trail development

The Woodland Multi-Use Trail Association has been established in Shelburne County since June 2006 under the Nova Scotia Societies Act. It is developing a trail system using primarily the 125 kilometers of abandoned rail corridors throughout the County. It has worked in close collaboration with the Shelburne County ATV Association, both of which are non profit registered Joint Stocks Societies. Since 2006 the WMTA has developed, operated and managed 79 kilometers of shared multi use trail in Shelburne County. Our shared multiuse trails will form the backbone of a county wide trail system for the benefit of members and users linking to adjacent trail systems in southwest Nova Scotia as part of the Trans Canada Trail. It is also shared with a wide range of recreational users and tourists for the benefit of active living and business.

The next phase of development is in the western part of the Municipality of Shelburne connecting to the Municipality of Barrington. The SCATVA and WMTA are applying to the Province for use of the Road Trails Act for approval of three sections of OHV Road Trail. We are also applying for three amendments from NS DNRR to a Notice of rail bed closure to motorized vehicles including a section of rail bed east of Lyles Road and over the Clyde River rail bridge. Both sets of applications are requested in order to connect the 36.9 km (23 miles) of rail bed between Roseway River and Clyde River. We would be pleased to advise you on any further details of our applications as you wish or need.

We are currently seeking letters of support for this improvement of the trail, recreational and tourism infrastructure in the area. It would be very much appreciated if MoB could provide us with a letter of support for this project to connect trails in MoB to those in MDS. This letter would accompany our various applications for approval, letters of authority, grants, etc.

Your attention and support is very much appreciated by many.

Sincerely,

OSB

S. B. Embree for
Shelburne County ATV Association

Attachments: OHV Road Trail Act Requests, Map of Clyde River Road Trail





STAFF REPORT

SUBMITTED BY: Chris Frotten & Shawna Symonds

DATE: March 11, 2024

SUBJECT: Loss of Housing Units in Shelburne County

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE: N/A

ORIGIN

Family units owned and operated by the Western Regional Housing Authority in Port LaTour have recently been condemned. This is a cause for concern, so we are requesting that a letter be sent to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing advocating for their repair and reinstatement.

BACKGROUND

In total 6 family units have been condemned, which includes 2 4-bedroom units and 2 3-bedroom units.

In 2023 alone, the County has lost the 6 housing units in Port LaTour, a housing property on the Browns Pit Road and the Courtney House.

In addition, 36 homes were lost in the wildfire which displaced many people. This exacerbated the issue with many still searching the limited housing market.

DISCUSSION

This is a major blow to the already minimal affordable housing inventory in our municipality and negatively impacts our low-income families, forcing them into homelessness and unsafe conditions or to leave our area.

We reached out to the NS Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing following a recent announcement of more public housing for Nova Scotians (<https://news.novascotia.ca/en/2024/02/23/more-public-housing-nova-scotians>) which mentioned Barrington. We were told that some of the units originally acquired for wildfire relief have been reallocated to help reduce the public housing waitlist in our area. That said, there are no plans to repair or reinstate the Port LaTour units.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

N/A

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

PUBLIC CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATIONS

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

Due to the lack of affordable housing already available in our municipality, I would recommend sending a letter to the Minister to learn more about their plans to repair and/or reinstate these units.

SUGGESTED MOTION

Move to recommend to Council to send a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to inquire about the loss of the family housing units in Port LaTour and ask for the units to be repaired and/or reinstated.

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

ATTACHMENTS



Request for Agenda Item

Date of Committee of the Whole Council Meeting: March 12, 2024

(Requests must be submitted to the Municipal Clerk's Office by end of day on the Wednesday before the meeting)

Subject: Provincial Ambulance Service Act - Bill 338

Motion to be Considered: Being duly moved and seconded that a letter in support of Bill 338 be sent to the Minister of Health and Wellness, the Honourable Michelle Thompson, with copies sent to the Leader of the Official Opposition, the Honourable Zach Churchill, the New Democratic Party Leader, Claudia Chender, Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin and all municipalities in Nova Scotia.

Reason:

Last fall, MLA Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin tabled Bill 338 - An Act Respecting the Creation of a Provincial Ambulance Service (<https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/bills-statutes/bills/assembly-64-session-1/bill-338>), which would direct the Minister of Health and Wellness to create an ambulance service owned and operated by the Department of Health and Wellness (DHW).

Concerned community members in Shag Harbour and Woods Harbour have expressed their concern with the current ambulance service and believe that a provincially-run service would be better.

This bill did not pass but does still sits on the order paper and could be called to debate this spring. For that reason, I am requesting the Council support this bill by sending a letter to the Minister of Health and Wellness, with copies going to the other provincial parties and municipalities.

Name: Goerge El-Jakl

Date: March 4, 2024



Request for Agenda Item

Date of Committee of the Whole Council Meeting: March 12, 2024

(Requests must be submitted to the Municipal Clerk's Office by end of day on the Wednesday before the meeting)

Subject: BMHS Gym Usage - Rosalin Nickerson "CARE" Fund Group

Motion to be Considered: Being duly moved and seconded that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to Jared Purdy, Regional Executive Director of Education of the Tri-County Regional Centre for Education, requesting that the decision not to allow the Rosalin Nickerson "CARE" Fund Group the use of BMHS' gymnasium for their vendors market fundraiser be reconsidered.

Reason:

The Rosalin Nickerson "CARE" Fund Group made a request to use BMHS' gymnasium for their vendors market fundraiser in September 2024. Their request was denied as another group felt it would infringe on their ability to raise funds at their fundraiser. Fundraisers are not competitions, and the Rosalin Nickerson "CARE" Fund Group deserves the right to use the school gym like any other group. I do not believe this is proper community use of schools and the decision should be reconsidered.

Name: Goerge El-Jakl

Date: March 4, 2024