

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING

January 20, 2020

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:02 p.m., in the Conference Room, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington, NS, with the following members present:

- Jody Crook, Chair
 - Lindsay (Eddie) Nickerson
 - Murray Atkinson
 - George El-Jakl
 - Shaun Hatfield – Absent due to a family matter.
-
- Chris Frotten, CAO
 - Lesa Rossetti, Municipal Clerk

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

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 last meeting held January 13, 2020, be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

DAVID HODD, NOVA SCOTIA NATURE TRUST

At the request of the Committee, David Hodd of Nova Scotia Nature Trust appeared before the meeting to discuss access and parking at Crow Neck Beach. This matter was brought up by the Committee when considering the Beach Strategy.

The first item discussed with Mr. Hodd was the lobster traps collected during a beach clean up in July which still remain on the beach. Mr. Hodd advised that they have been unable to find a contractor to pick up the traps. Access to the traps seems to be the issue. The Chair informed Mr. Hodd that the Municipality has been requested to provide pick up but now is not a good time due to snow removal and maintenance. Time will always be a challenge for the Municipality due to other duties and responsibilities of staff. Mr. Hodd indicated that he would go back to the Department of Lands and Forestry to obtain a solid plan to have the traps removed from the beach.

Discussion then took place regarding access and parking at the beach. Currently users have to park on the side of the highway which creates a safety issue and access down over the rocks is difficult for users, especially seniors.

Page 2, Committee of the Whole Council Meeting, January 20, 2020.

Mr. Hodd made reference to the Conservation Easement between the Department of Lands and Forestry and Nova Scotia Nature Trust which outlines permitted and prohibited uses. He reported that the purpose of the easement is to safeguard natural features at the beach which would include the piping plover. Mr. Hodd agreed to provide a copy of the easement to the Municipality.

Mr. Hodd was informed that the Municipality is proposing the development of a 6 car parking lot, a wooden structure over the rocks leading to the beach that would be installed in the spring and removed in the fall of each year and the installation of signage as suggested by Nature Trust. Mr. Hodd made it clear to members that Nature Trust would not be interested in increasing use of the beach. Any increased access would have to be tied to protecting the piping plover.

During discussion of this matter it was noted that it is not the intent of the Municipality to promote Crow Neck Beach and to establish facilities there. It is the feeling of members that the beach will be used as an undeveloped local beach.

Mr. Hodd agreed to review the Conservation Easement in more detail to determine whether the proposal of the Municipality would be permitted. He suggested that the Municipality prepare a proposal for review by Nature Trust and then once finalized it could be forwarded to the property owner, the Department of Lands and Forestry, for consideration.

Mr. Hodd was thanked for taking time to meet with members to discuss Crow Neck Beach and left the meeting

FINANCIAL REPORT

Leah d'Eon, Director of Finance, provided information to members on the Financial Report Summary to December 31, 2019 and provided explanation where required.

Much discussion took place regarding the Deed Transfer Tax being used for recreational purposes. Discussion of this matter will continue during budget deliberations.

MUNICIPAL CAPITAL PLAN DISCUSSION

2020-21 Capital Planning Process Handbook

In advance to the meeting members were provided with a 2020-2021 Capital Planning Process Handbook which provides the whys and hows of the capital planning and budgeting process.

Capital Projects

A listing of Capital Projects for 2019-2020 was circulated to members for review and comment.

A listing of proposed Capital Projects for 2020-2021 was circulated to members along with Long Term Projects for 5 and 10 to 15 year terms. Members were asked to review listings and provide comments.

PROVINCIAL TREE HARVESTING PLANS

As a result of direction given to the CAO at the last meeting, a draft letter in response to the proposed forest harvest in the Deception Lake area was circulated to members for consideration. The letter requests that harvesting plans be put on hold until the ecological forestry practices included in the Lahey Report are seriously considered and assessed for implementation. The letter further stated the importance of the economic benefit of forest harvesting being properly balanced with the ecological sustainability and recreational uses of local residents.

Resolution COW200108

Being duly moved and seconded that it be recommended to Council that the letter drafted by the CAO regarding the proposed forest harvest in the Deception Lake area be accepted as presented and forwarded to the Minister of Lands and Forestry.

Motion carried.

AFFIRMATION

Jody Crook
Murray Atkinson
George El-Jakl

NEGATIVE

Eddie Nickerson

FIRE CAPITAL PURCHASING PLAN

Dwayne Hunt, Fire Services Co-ordinator was present for this portion of the meeting.

A Staff Report prepared by the CAO and Fire Services Co-ordinator was provided to members in advance to the meeting. This report is an update to the report presented at the December 2, 2019 Committee Meeting. A copy of the Staff Report is attached and forms part of the minutes.

Resolution COW200109

Being duly moved and seconded that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality set a Municipal Fire Capital Purchasing Tax Rate of 1.5 cents per \$100.00 of assessment and that the revenues accumulated from this rate be divided equally amongst the three fire departments and used for capital purchases.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution COW200110

Being duly moved and seconded that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality set fire area rates every three (3) years rather than every year to help stabilize fire area rates and allow the Municipality and the fire departments to better plan financially for the future.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Fire Services Co-ordinator and Director of Finance were both thanked for appearing before

the Committee and providing their input.

BILINGUAL STOP SIGN PROJECT

Correspondence has been received from a group of students from Ecole secondaire de Clare who is trying to change the law to bring bilingual stop signs to the Municipality of Clare. The group believes that a letter of support from an English-speaking region could bring a lot of strength to their request.

Resolution COW200111

Being duly moved and seconded that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality provide a letter in support of the student's request to bring bilingual stop signs to the Municipality of Clare.

Motion carried.

AFFIRMATION

Eddie Nickerson
George El-Jakl
Murray Atkinson

NEGATIVE

Jody Crook

QUARTERLY REPORTS - BUILDING PERMITS

In advance to the meeting, members were provided with Quarterly Reports showing the number of building permits issued during the period October to December 2019 and values.

TREATMENT PLANT ASSESSMENT RFP

A copy of the Proposal Evaluation Report was attached to the agenda which provided information on the Request for Proposals for the evaluation of the current condition of the Brass Hill Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Proposals were received from the following:

Details of Proposals Received:

Proposals	Proposal Sums (lowest first) + HST
Dillon Consulting Limited	\$9,740.00
ABLE Engineering Services Inc.	\$17,000.00
CBCL Limited	\$36,305.00

It is the recommendation of staff that although CBCL Limited did not attain the most points in their evaluation of the proposals using the evaluation matrix, that their proposal be selected for the following reasons:

1. They performed a cursory evaluation of the plant in 2009, therefore they have a good understanding of our treatment plant and a good baseline upon which to evaluate data provided in this study.
2. Their approach and methodology were clear and detailed and closely reflected our desired goals and outcomes of the assessment.
3. The project team has decades of experience and they have completed a number of recent projects, both locally and in the Province, similar in scope to this project.

During discussion of this matter it was noted that both proposals from Dillon Consulting Limited and ABLE Engineering Services Inc. fall within the budget. The proposal from CBCL Limited will be \$5,500.00 over budget.

Resolution COW200112

Being duly moved and seconded that it be recommended to Council that the proposal received from CBCL Limited for the evaluation of the current condition of the Brass Hill Wastewater Treatment Facility, in the amount of \$36,305.00 plus hst, be accepted as recommended by staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Recent legislation requires municipalities to form an Accessibility Advisory Committee by April 1, 2020 and have an Accessibility Plan in place by April 1, 2021. Municipalities, under the Act, may agree to have a joint Accessibility Committee to develop one Accessibility Plan. Correspondence has been received from the Municipality of Shelburne inviting us to consider working together to establish a Joint Municipal Accessibility Committee to develop one Plan for all of the municipalities in Shelburne County.

After careful consideration, it was decided that the Municipality would form their own Accessibility Advisory Committee, at the present time, but may want to join forces at a later date once everyone has had an opportunity to assess their own facilities.

It was agreed that the CAO respond to the invitation from the Municipality of Shelburne.

2020 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

It was reported that the Municipal Elections Act requires the Municipality to appoint a Returning Officer not later than March 15, 2020 and a decision must be made on the method of preparation of the preliminary list of electors by April 15, 2020.

Each member was provided with a copy of an advertisement inviting applications for the position of Returning Officer and a copy of the Returning Officer Policy. The advertisement will appear in the Vanguard Newspaper on January 23rd and 30th as a display ad and has been posted on social media. Deadline for applications is February 5, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

Resolution COW200113

Being duly moved and seconded that it be recommended to Council that the Provincial list of electors be used for the upcoming Municipal Election.

Motion carried unanimously.

Election fees were then discussed.

Resolution COW200114

Being duly moved and seconded that it be recommended to Council that the following fees be paid for the upcoming Municipal Election:

Returning Officer - \$6,000.00
Deputy Returning Officer - \$200.00 per day
Poll Clerks - \$150.00 per day
Training Session - \$50.00 per session
Hall Rental - \$100.00

Motion carried unanimously.

IN-CAMERA SESSION

At 10:32 p.m. an In-Camera Session was held in accordance with Sections 22(2)(c)(e) of the Municipal Government Act to deal with a personnel matter and contract negotiations.

The personnel matter was discussed in the presence of the Municipal Clerk in the absence of the CAO.

The Municipal Clerk then left the meeting and the CAO returned to discuss contract negotiations.

The regular Committee meeting was called back to order.

REPORT ON IN-CAMERA SESSION

It was reported that during the In-Camera Session discussion took place regarding a personnel matter as well as contract negotiations.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 p.m.

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting

