

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING
November 9, 2020**

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:05 p.m., in the Multi-Purpose Room, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington, NS, with the following members present:

- Lindsay (Eddie) Nickerson, Chair
- Jody Crook
- George El-Jakl
- Andrea Mood-Nickerson

- Chris Frotten, CAO
- Lesa Rossetti, Municipal Clerk

- Absent was Shaun Hatfield.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following item was added to the agenda:

- Canada Post issue.

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 Committee of the Whole Council Meeting held September 21, 2020 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

PETITION RE: SANDY WICKENS MEMORIAL ARENA

A petition containing names of 82 supporters was presented to members requesting that spectator limits at the arena be revisited, in light of recently announced federal funding to be provided to NS municipalities. Citizens are suggesting that spectator limits be increased from 80 to 200, by dividing the arena in two sections as outlined in the petition. A copy of the petition is attached and forms part of the minutes.

The CAO provided clarification on the funding announcement. The Safe Restart Funding provides support from the financial pressure caused by COVID-19. The funding can be used at the arena, but was not specifically provided for the arena. The funding will assist with increased operating costs resulting from the loss of revenue, cleaning protocols, purchase of PPE, etc.

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The size and layout of our building is the determining factor in selecting spectator limits. Current spectator capacity is 90 for high school games and 80 for minor hockey games. The balcony is open for high school games. An additional 50 people are allowed for individuals on the ice, coaches, arena personnel, etc. for a grand total of 130 – 140. These limits have been put in place to keep within guidelines of the Department of Health.

After much discussion, it was agreed that the CAO would take another look at building capacity keeping in mind the possibility of “family bubbles”. Information will be brought back to the next meeting of the Committee.

COMMITTEE AND BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Due to the absence of Councillor Hatfield, it was agreed that Committee and Board appointments be deferred to the next meeting.

APPLICATION – ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

An application to serve on the Accessibility Advisory Committee was received from Denise Nickerson, representing Southwest Employment Services - Nova Scotia Works. This organization works with the community to create innovative approaches for youth, parents and job seekers, including those with barriers, to integrate themselves in to the labour market.

Resolution COW201101

Being duly moved and seconded that it be recommended to Council that Denise Nickerson, of Southwest Employment Services, be appointed to serve on the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

In accordance with Section 42 of the Municipal Government Act, Council is required to appoint a municipal auditor, yearly, who is registered pursuant to the Act. It was noted that the Municipality currently has a contract with Grant Thornton to provide auditor services to December 31, 2024.

Resolution COW201102

Being duly moved and seconded that it be recommended to Council that Grant Thornton be appointed to serve as Municipal Auditors for the Municipality of Barrington.

Motion carried unanimously.

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BY-LAWS

Proposed Amendments to By-law No. 25 "Tax Exemption By-law"

It is proposed that By-law No. 25 "Tax Exemption By-law" be amendment to remove Agape Youth Café from Schedule "A" as they no longer own the property identified as AAN 01612204.

It was agreed that this proposed amendment be referred to Council for First Reading.

Redrafted By-law No. 11 "Animal By-law"

It is proposed that By-law No. 11 "Animal By-law" be repealed and replaced with the redrafted by-law entitled "Animal Control By-law". The old by-law is outdated and the Municipal Solicitor has recommended that it be updated. The new by-law provides more detail on what is required when an animal is impounded, how long it will be held, etc.

It was agreed that the redrafted By-law No. 11 "Animal Control By-law" be referred to Council for First Reading.

IMPOUND FEE AND DAILY POUND FEE

Resolution COW201103

Being duly moved and seconded that it be recommended to Council that the following Impound Fee and Daily Pound Fee be set by resolution of Council:

- Impound Fee - \$25.00
- Daily Pound Fee - \$10.00

Motion carried unanimously.

It was noted that in recent years steps have been taken to remove fees from various by-laws and policies allowing fees to be set by resolution of Council.

FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY RINKS

A copy of a letter has been received which was sent to the Premier by the Municipality of Pictou regarding funding for community rinks. The Municipality of Pictou has expressed concern that there is a real risk that rinks will not be viable for the 2020/21 season and is urging government to consider providing some measure of financial relief that would see them through the current season.

Federal funding announced last week was questioned. It was noted the funding was provided to alleviate some pressures caused by COVID-19 and was not specifically provided for arenas.

Resolution COW201104

Being duly moved and seconded that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality support the request of the Municipality of Pictou and a letter be forwarded to the Premier requesting a program of financial support to help community rinks survive the 2020-21 season.

Motion carried unanimously.

WESTERN REGIONAL ENTERPRISE NETWORK

It was reported that the Chair of the Liaison and Oversight Committee has received correspondence from the Western Regional Enterprise Network Chair regarding municipal councillors directly contacting WREN staff. As per the IMA, members of the LOC are responsible for communicating their respective Council's thoughts on the WREN to the LOC. The Board Chair is asking that if Councils have concerns that cannot wait until the next Annual Joint Meeting, then please advise both the LOC and the Board so that they can discuss and determine if the Board must provide further direction to the CEO.

LOAN GUARANTEE – ISLAND & BARRINGTON PASSAGE VOL. FIRE DEPARTMENT

The following loan guarantee in the amount of \$775,000.00 is required for the purchase of the quint fire truck by the Island & Barrington Passage Volunteer Fire Department.

Resolution COW201105

Being duly moved and seconded that it be recommended to Council that the following resolution be approved:

WHEREAS the Island & Barrington Passage Fire Department is a registered fire department with the Municipality of the District of Barrington;

WHEREAS the Island & Barrington Passage Fire Department is incorporated by the Societies Act;

WHEREAS the Island & Barrington Passage Fire Department has determined to borrow the aggregate principal amount of Seven Hundred Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (775,000.00) for the purpose of a fire truck by special resolution on the 23rd day of November, 2020, as per Section 10(d) of the Societies Act;

WHEREAS the Island & Barrington Passage Fire Department has requested the Municipality of the District of Barrington to guarantee the said borrowing;

WHEREAS Section 294(6) of the Municipal Government Act provides that a municipality may grant or lend money to, or guarantee a loan for, a registered fire department for operating or capital purposes; and

WHEREAS Section 88(3) of the Municipal Government Act provides that no guarantee of a borrowing by a municipality shall have effect unless the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing has approved of the proposed borrowing or debenture and of the proposed guarantee;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED

THAT the Municipality of the District of Barrington does hereby approve the borrowing by the Island & Barrington Passage Fire Department of Seven Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$775,000.00) for the purpose set out above;

THAT subject to the approval of the Minister of the Municipal Affairs and Housing of the guarantee, the Municipality unconditionally guarantee repayment of the principal and interest of the borrowing so made;

THAT upon the issue of the debentures, the Warden and Clerk of the Municipality do sign the guarantee attached to each of the debentures and affix thereto the corporate seal of the Municipality.

Motion carried unanimously.

WHSVFD REQUEST RE: HONOR GUARD ITEMS

The Woods Harbour Shag Harbour Volunteer Fire Department is requesting the Municipality to purchase various honor guard items to be accessible to fire departments when needed.

Items requested are listed below:

- 1 - Brass Bell and Hammer
- 2 - Fire Axes
- 2 - Pike Poles
- 1 - Large Canadian Flag.

Resolution COW201106

Being duly moved and seconded that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality expend \$2,500.00 of the \$4,000.00 earmarked for the volunteer firefighter's banquet to purchase a large Canadian Flag, Honor Guard Kit and bell.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was noted that due to COVID-19 the Volunteer Firefighter's Banquet will not be held this year.

CANADA POST COMMUNITY MAIL BOXES

Concern was expressed regarding the condition of the property where community mail boxes are located in Upper Port LaTour. The area where cars pull off of the road is in need of gravel.

Resolution COW201107

Being duly moved and seconded that it be recommended to Council that Canada Post be requested to provide additional gravel at the location of the Upper Port LaTour Community Mail Boxes.

Motion carried unanimously.

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During discussion of this matter it was noted that there are also concerns with the Community Mail Boxes located in Stoney Island as it relates to public safety and damage to private property.

Resolution COW201108

Being duly moved and seconded that it be recommended to Council that a representative of Canada Post be invited to attend a Committee Meeting to discuss issues with community mail boxes within the Municipality of Barrington.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting