

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING
May 9, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:06 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
- Andrea Mood-Nickerson – Arrived at 7:36 p.m.

- 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 last meeting held April 18, 2023, be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

RCMP REPORT

Staff Sgt. Mark MacPherson, Shelburne Detachment Commander, appeared before the meeting to provide additional information regarding the formation of the District Detachment for Shelburne County. He once again made it clear that residents should see no change in the delivery of service. Both detachments will remain in place and visually things will remain the same. Most changes will be internal. He informed members that he has been holding community meetings in the eastern end of the county and would like to hold meetings in the western end to make residents aware of the district policing model. These discussions are important before moving forward with the Letter of Agreement for the Department of Justice.

The CAO agreed to assist with arranging meetings in our area.

A brief discussion took place regarding the Barrington Police Advisory Board. Contact has been made with the Department of Justice and the Municipality will take steps to restart the Board.

The construction of the Barrington Cell Block is ready to go to tender. It is anticipated that the project will be completed and ready for use by October, 2023.

Members were advised that discussions have taken place regarding a Justice Centre for Shelburne County.

At 7:55 p.m. a 20 minute recess was held to show Staff Sgt. MacPherson space in the Administrative Centre which was previously leased to the Department of Justice for court and lock-up services.

PRIDE MONTH

It was reported that an email has been received requesting the Municipality to announce Pride Month in June on social media, similar to other awareness announcements.

It was agreed that the Municipality will announce Pride Month on social media, as requested.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There were no matters arising from previous meetings.

POLICIES

Policy 7 "Wood Cutting Policy"

At a previous meeting it was suggested that the Wood Cutting Policy be amended to provide for a fee to be charged for each Wood Cutting Permit issued.

It is therefore suggested that the Policy be amended by adding a new Section 4 to read as follows:

"- A fee will be charged for the permit, which is set by Resolution of Council."

Notice was given that consideration of amendments to Policy 7 "Wood Cutting Policy" will take place at the May Council Meeting.

Resolution COW230501

Being duly moved and seconded that it be recommended to Council that the fee for a Wood Cutting Permit be set at \$50.00, effective July 1, 2023.

Policy 8 "Annual Remuneration and Benefits for Councillors"

It is proposed that amendments be made to Policy 8 to make it consistent with the Personnel Policy that deals with the cost of living adjustment. The cost of living adjustment will be based on the Nova Scotia Consumer Price Index, instead of the National Consumer Price Index and the adjustment will be based on statistics as of January 31st of each year as opposed to February 28th.

It is also proposed that Section 5 be amended to bring the maximum matched pension contribution to 7% to be consistent with the Pension Plan Contract.

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Notice was given that consideration of amendments to Policy 8 “Annual Remuneration and Benefits for Councillors” will take place at the May Council Meeting.

Policy 38 “Construction and Demolition Debris Disposal Site Policy”

It is proposed that the Construction and Demolition Debris Disposal Site Policy be amended to provide for residents of the Municipality and others, as approved by Council, to dispose of a maximum of 200 kg of unsorted residential C & D waste, per household, per week, at the C & D Disposal Site, free of charge. Eligible waste must be generated from within the identified jurisdictions.

Notice was given that consideration of amendments to Policy 38 “Construction and Demolition Debris Disposal Site Policy” will take place at the May Council Meeting.

Policy 41 “Low Income Property Tax Exemption”

Previously, concern had been expressed regarding household income levels in situations involving the death of a spouse.

Proposed amendments clearly state that household income is to exclude War Veterans Allowances and Pensions and also provides an exception relating to the income of a deceased spouse.

Notice was given that consideration of amendments to Policy 41 “Low Income Property Tax Exemption Policy” will take place at the May Council Meeting.

Policy 59 “Policy on Committees of Council”

It is proposed that amendments be made to the Policy on Committees of Council to make it more consistent with Policy 52 “Council Meetings and Proceedings Policy” as it relates to presentations to committee.

Notice was given that consideration of amendments to Policy 59 “Policy on Committees of Council” will take place at the May Council Meeting.

Policy 89 “Community Litter Clean-up Program”

As a result of previous discussions, it is proposed that the Community Litter Clean-up Policy be amended to increase the incentive rate paid.

It is proposed that an incentive rate of \$150.00 be paid for regular clean-up and \$200.00 be paid for heavily littered and difficult areas to reach. These incentive rates are per kilometer and for both sides of the road. Areas eligible for the \$200.00 incentive rate will be determined by the Community Litter Co-ordinator.

Resolution COW230502

Being duly moved and seconded that it be recommended to Council that the increased incentive rates become effective April 1, 2023.

Motion carried unanimously.

Notice was given that consideration of amendments to Policy 89 “Community Litter Clean-up Program” will take place at the May Council Meeting.

Personnel Policy No. 3 “Employee Definition”

It is proposed that Personnel Policy No. 3 “Employee Definition” be amended to apply to all employees of the Municipality and to change the reference to “Department Heads” to “Directors”.

Notice was given that consideration of amendments to Personnel Policy No. 3 “Employee Definition” will take place at the May Council Meeting.

FLAG POLICY RE: TIMEFRAME LIMIT EXEMPTION REQUEST

The CAO informed members that Kennedy Stoddard is once again requesting that the 2 week maximum period of time for a single flag to be flown be extended to allow the Pride Flag to be flown for the entire month of June.

During discussion it was noted that the Access Awareness Week Flag will be flown from May 28th to June 3, 2023.

It was the consensus of members that Kennedy Stoddard be provided the two week extension as requested, subject to no other request being received, allowing the Pride Flag to be flown from June 4th to June 30, 2023

REVIEW OF CAMP SITE LEASE ANNUAL FEE

It has been suggested that the Camp Site Lease Annual Fee be reviewed. The fee was last increased to \$400.00 plus hst in 2019. During discussion it was noted that the Provincial Camp Lease Fee is \$570.74 plus hst.

Resolution COW230503

Being duly moved and seconded that the Camp Site Lease Annual Fee be increased to \$500.00 plus hst, effective April 1, 2024.

AFFIRMATIVE

Jody Crook
George El-Jakl
Shaun Hatfield
Andrea Mood-Nickerson

NEGATIVE

Lindsay (Eddie) Nickerson

Motion carried.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Councillor Hatfield declared conflict of interest, vacated his seat and left the meeting room.

Councillor Hatfield and Stephen Goreham are members of the same organization.

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2023 VOLUNTEER REPRESENTATIVE

Correspondence has been received from the Director of Recreation, recommending that Stephen Goreham be selected to represent the Municipality at the Nova Scotia Awards Ceremony to be held in Halifax, on September 25, 2023.

Resolution COW230504

Being duly moved and seconded that it be recommended to Council that Stephen Goreham be recognized as the Provincial Volunteer Representative for the Municipality of Barrington for 2023.

Motion carried unanimously.

Councillor Hatfield returned to the meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

It was agreed that the following items be added to the next agenda.

- Flag Policy – Councillor Hatfield
- Additional Community Flagpole – Councillor Hatfield.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting