

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Barrington Municipal Council held by videoconference on Monday, May 25, 2020. The meeting was called to order by the Warden at 7:03 p.m., with the following members present:

- Warden Lindsay (Eddie) Nickerson
- Deputy Warden Jody Crook
- Councillor Murray Atkinson
- Councillor George El-Jakl
- Councillor Shaun Hatfield

- Chris Frotten, CAO
- Leah d'Eon, Director of Finance
- Lesa Rossetti, Municipal Clerk

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

Motion carried unanimously.

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of Conflict of Interest.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Being duly moved and seconded that minutes of the Regular Meeting held April 27, 2020 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

REPORTS

Report of Warden

The Warden gave a brief report on his activities since the last meeting of Council.

Report of Councillors

The Deputy Warden and each Councillor gave a brief report on their activities since the last meeting of Council.

Report Re: Western Counties Regional Library Board

Councillor Hatfield reported on the December 5, 2019, meeting of the Western Counties Regional Library Board. Minutes of the meeting are attached to the agenda on our website.

Report from Committee of the Whole Council

Deputy Warden Crook reported on recommendations from the Committee of the Whole Council.

Electric Vehicle Charging Station

Correspondence has been received from Nova Scotia Power advising that they and the Department of Energy and Mines are seeking Expressions of Interest in partnering to install Electric Vehicle charging stations in our area. The program will cover up to 50% of the charging station infrastructure costs. Each station costs approximately \$7,000.00 - \$8,000.00.

Resolution C200501

Being duly moved and seconded that Nova Scotia Power be advised that the Municipality is not interested in the installation of electric vehicle charging stations at this time.

Motion carried unanimously.

Letter of Support Re: Asset Management Project

A letter of support is required for the funding application we are submitting to FCM for an asset management project. The Municipality will be requesting a grant in the amount of \$50,000.00 to assist with the cost of Phase 2 of our Asset Management Plan. The total cost of this project is \$62,000.00.

Resolution C200502

Being duly moved and seconded that a letter of support be provided to accompany our application to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for funding in the amount of \$50,000.00 to assist with the cost of the development of an Asset Management Plan.

Motion carried unanimously.

Beach Strategy Update

Resolution C200503

Being duly moved and seconded that the Municipality go forward with Phase 2 of the Stoney Island Beach Parking area project as described in the Staff Report with a total budget of \$10,223.73 from the beach facilities capital budget.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution C200504

Being duly moved and seconded that Causeway Computers be awarded the work of fabricating the beach signage for the quoted price of \$22,000.00. + HST.

Motion carried unanimously.

During discussion of this matter it was noted that the signs have a 7 year warranty.

Resolution C200505

Being duly moved and seconded that a short (3-5 questions) survey be launched that would ask residents and visitors to answer general questions about our beaches.

Motion carried unanimously.

Request from Dr. Yee for Plexiglass Separator and Win 7 Upgrade

Correspondence has been received from Dr. Kenny Yee advising that he has installed a plexiglass separator around the reception area of his office to protect his staff and patients and is requesting 50% reimbursement from the Municipality. The total cost of this project was \$2,219.50.

Dr. Yee has also advised that the two desktop PCs in his office, which were purchased by the Municipality, run Windows 7 which is no longer support by Microsoft. He is therefore requesting Council to consider upgrading the PCs to Windows 10, if possible and if not, then to purchase two new PCs for his office.

Resolution C200506

Being duly moved and seconded that the Municipality cost share on a 50/50 basis, the purchase of two new computers for Dr. Yee's Office.

AFFIRMATION

Murray Atkinson
Jody Crook
George El-jakl
Eddie Nickerson

NEGATIVE

Shaun Hatfield

Motion carried.

Resolution C200507

Being duly moved and seconded that the Municipality pay one-half (1/2) of the cost for the installation of the plexiglass separation around the Reception Area in Dr. Yee's Medical Office, to a maximum of \$1,200.00.

AFFIRMATION

Murray Atkinson

Jody Crook

Shaun Hatfield

Eddie Nickerson

NEGATIVE

George El-jakl

Motion carried.

Stoney Island Beach Parking Area Project Alteration

It has been suggested that 4x8 guard rails be used for the Stoney Island Beach Parking Area Project instead of 2x8. The cost of upgrades and extra material will be approximately \$10,000.00 plus hst.

Resolution C200508

Being duly moved and seconded that the Municipality approve the extra cost of \$10,000.00 plus hst for the Stoney Island Beach Parking Area Project alterations.

Motion carried unanimously.

Provincial Capital Assistance Program (PCAP) Application

There is an opportunity for the Municipality to apply to the Provincial Capital Assistance Program for funding to assist with the cost of purchasing new Flow Meters to be installed at the Barrington-Barrington Passage Sewage Treatment Plant as well as the Woods Harbour Sewage Treatment Plant. The total cost of the project is \$20,000.00. The Provincial Capital Assistance Program will provide 50% funding for the project.

Resolution C200509

Being duly moved and seconded that application be made to the Provincial Capital Assistance Program for 50% funding of the cost of Flow Meters for the Barrington-Barrington Passage Sewage Treatment Plant and the Woods Harbour Sewage Treatment Plant.

Motion carried unanimously.

Crosswalk in Barrington Passage

It was reported that concern has been expressed by residents that the crosswalk in Barrington Passage, in the vicinity of Wilson's Home Hardware, is very dangerous and not visible for motorists traveling from the Barrington/Oak Park area to Barrington Passage.

Resolution C200510

Being duly moved and seconded that a letter be written to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal requesting that they explore lighted options for the Crosswalk in Barrington Passage, in the vicinity of Wilson's Home Hardware, to make it more visible to motorists.

Motion carried unanimously.

Littering - Barrington Passage Area

Concern has been expressed regarding the amount of litter in the Barrington Passage Area.

Resolution C200511

Being duly moved and seconded that the RCMP be requested to monitor littering which is taking place in the Barrington Passage area.

Motion carried unanimously.

Staff Report

The Chief Administrative Officer provided his report for the period April 28 to May 25, 2020 of which a copy is attached and forms part of the minutes.

Topics highlighted were as follows:

- Development of Asset Management Plan
- Amenities at Beaches
- COVID-19
- Budget
- Summer Season
- Recreation Planning Initiatives
- Building Permits & By-law Enforcement
- Fire Services and Emergency Management
- Capital Project Update

NEW OR OTHER BUSINESS

2020/21 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Operating and Capital Budgets

The CAO provided a summary of the proposed 2020/21 Operating and Capital Budgets. A copy of the summary is attached and forms part of the minutes.

Resolution C200512

Being duly moved and seconded that the Municipality of the District of Barrington approve its 2020/2021 operating budget in the amount of \$8,914,326.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution C200513

Being duly moved and seconded that the Municipality of the District of Barrington approve its 2020/2021 capital budget in the amount of \$3,766,000.

Motion carried unanimously.

Tax Rates

Resolution C200514

Being duly moved and seconded that the Municipality of the District of Barrington approve a 2020/2021 residential tax rate of \$1.05 per \$100 of assessment, resource tax rate of \$1.05 per \$100 of assessment, and commercial tax rate of \$2.56 per \$100 of assessment.

Motion carried unanimously.

Farm Acreage Tax

Resolution C200515

Being duly moved and seconded that the Municipality of the District of Barrington approve a 2020/2021 farm acreage tax rate of \$2.98 per acre for all land that is assessed as exempt farmland.

Motion carried unanimously.

Sewer Service Charges

Resolution C200516

Being duly moved and seconded that the Municipality of the District of Barrington approve sewer rates for the 2020/2021 fiscal year at \$350.00 for Woods Harbour and Barrington/Barrington Passage.

Motion carried unanimously.

Fire Rates for 2020/2021

Resolution C200517

Being duly moved and seconded that the Municipality of the District of Barrington approve the 2020/2021 fire area rates as \$0.172 per \$100 of assessment for the area covered by the Woods Harbour Shag Harbour Volunteer Fire Department, \$0.113 per \$100 of assessment for the area covered by the Barrington/Port La Tour Volunteer Fire Department, \$0.114 per \$100 of assessment for the area covered by the Island and Barrington Passage Volunteer Fire Department.

Motion carried unanimously.

Fire Department Capital Rate 2020/21

Resolution C200518

Being duly moved and seconded that the Municipality of the District of Barrington approve a 2020/2021 fire department capital rate of \$0.015 per \$100 of assessment.

Motion carried unanimously.

Various Rates and Fees for 2020/2021

Resolution C200519

Being duly moved and seconded that the Municipality of the District of Barrington approve various rates and fees for the 2020/2021 fiscal year as indicated on the attached schedule.

Motion carried unanimously.

Temporary Borrowing Resolution

Resolution C200520

Being duly moved and seconded that:

WHEREAS the combined total of taxes levied by the Municipality and the amounts in lieu of municipal rates received or to be received by the Municipality from her Majesty in Right of Canada, or in Right of the Province of Nova Scotia, or from an agency of her Majesty, from the previous year ended the 31st day of March 2020, was \$6,413,385.

And the aggregate amount of the taxes to be levied for the current year will exceed \$6,563,809. And it may be necessary to borrow the sum of \$1,500,000 from Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce to defray the current expenditure of the Municipality, which was authorized by Council on the 25th of May 2020, until such time as the taxes levied can be collected.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Municipal Council of the Municipality of the District of Barrington (hereinafter called the "Corporation").

1st THAT the Warden with the Chief Administrative Officer of the said Corporation be, and they are hereby authorized under the Seal of the said Corporation, to borrow from Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce the sum of \$1,500,000 as the same may be required from time to time for the purpose of defraying the annual current expenditure of the Corporation.

2nd THAT the said Warden with the Chief Administrative Officer aforesaid, be, and they are hereby authorized to pay or allow to the said Bank, interest on the said sum of \$1,500,000 at the Bank prime interest rate prevailing from time to time, which may be paid or allowed in advance by way of discount or otherwise howsoever as they may deem best.

3rd THAT the Promissory Note or notes of the said Corporation, sealed with the Corporate Seal and signed by the Warden and Chief Administrative Officer of the said Corporation, be given from time to time as required, in security of the amount borrowed from time to time under the provisions of the Resolution.

4th THAT the said sum of \$1,500,000 so to be borrowed shall be payable on or before the 31st day of March next, and the Promissory Note or Notes of the said Corporation given therefore, which shall be signed by the Warden and the Chief Administrative Officer and be under the Seal of the Corporation, and if made payable before the said 31st day of March 2021, may be renewed by the said Warden and Chief Administrative Officer from time to time, but no renewal thereof shall fall due later than the said 31st day of March next.

5th THAT the giving of such notes or renewal notes, as aforesaid, shall not be deemed satisfaction to the said Bank of the said advance or interest, but as evidence only of indebtedness.

Motion carried unanimously.

Policy 41 "Low Income Property Tax Exemption Policy"

As a result of discussions at the Committee of the Whole Council Meeting it is being suggested that the income brackets and exemptions listed in Policy 41 "Low Income Property Tax Exemption Policy" be increased as indicated below, for a one year period, to provide financial assistance as a result of COVID-19. Since this is a temporary measure it is not recommended that the policy be amended at this time.

Resolution C200521

Being duly moved and seconded that Council approve changes to the Low Income Property Tax Exemption Policy to increase the income brackets and exemptions as follows for a one-year period and reassess thereafter.

| Threshold | Amount |
|---------------------|--------|
| \$0 - \$21,000 | \$400 |
| \$21,001 - \$25,000 | \$300 |
| \$25,001 - \$30,000 | \$200 |

Motion carried unanimously.

Building Permits Annual Report

A Report showing building permits issued for the year ending March 31, 2020, was circulated to members in advance to the meeting. The Report also contained a summary for the last 10 year period.

Ratify Decision Re: Letter to Dr. Strang - Beaches

Due to its urgency, Council members on May 2, 2020 agreed, by email, to send a letter to Dr. Robert Strang, Chief Medical Officer, regarding the closure of beaches as a result of COVID-19. The letter urged Dr. Strang to consider reopening beaches as soon as possible and conveyed thoughts of council and residents.

It was noted that since that time beaches have been reopened to the public.

Resolution C200522

Being duly moved and seconded that the decision to send a letter to Dr. Robert Strang urging him to consider reopening beaches as soon as possible, be ratified.

Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCEShelburne Port of Entry

Correspondence has been received from the Town of Shelburne and the Municipality of Shelburne advising that Shelburne Harbour has been removed as a designated Port of Entry for vessels arriving in Canada from overseas ports, due to COVID-19 and requesting Council's support to have the decision reversed. Shelburne has already developed and worked successfully with CBSA to safely clear boats, provisioning them and offering protected moorings for 14-day quarantines. The Town and Municipality have indicated that the closure of Shelburne as a Port of Entry, even temporarily, will have negative impacts from both a safety and an economic perspective.

Resolution C200523

Being duly moved and seconded that the Municipal Council support the request of the Town of Shelburne and the Municipality of Shelburne to have the decision, to remove Shelburne Harbour as a designated Port of Entry for vessels arriving in Canada from overseas ports, reversed and letters be written to the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, MP Bernadette Jordan and MLA Colton LeBlanc expressing Council's support.

Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

No items were brought forward.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Warden

Chief Administrative Officer

Secretary for the Meeting