

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Minutes of Meeting
February 21, 2011

1. A meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held in the Shannon Studio on Monday, February 21, 2011 at the hour of 6:00 p.m.
2. Present were Mayor W.J. MacLean; Deputy Mayor J. King; Ctr M. MacIver, H. MacDougall, K. Anderson; Town Solicitor, L. Evans; Erin MacEachen, Finance Director; J. Pyke, Recreation Director and M. Freimanis, Chief Administrative Officer.
3. Mayor MacLean called the meeting to order.
4. Addition to the agenda included committee's structure, volunteer of the year.
5. **MOVED BY DEPUTY MAYOR J.KING, SEC'D BY CL'R K. ANDERSON THAT WE APPROVE THE AGENDA AND THE ADDITIONS INCLUDED. MOTION CARRIED.**

POLICING PLAN

6. Cst. Stuart Beselt attended the meeting in the absence of Cpl. Greene, Port Hawkesbury detachment.
7. Police report for the months of September, October, November and December 2010 were presented to the committee also comparison figures for the same period of time from last year.
8. Cst. Stuart Beselt advised that there will be an open house held in the Conference Room on February 23, 2011 re an annual performance plan. This involves community involvement, youth programs, drug enforcement, etc.

FINANCE-ERIN MACEACHEN

9. Erin MacEachen, Finance Director gave a report on the new financial accounting package. Upon review, two software vendors were short listed to present a product demo to the Municipalities. The vendors were Vadim Software and Diamond Municipal Solutions which held demos in the Shannon Studio on February 9 and 10. Town Staff had a chance to view software and listen to the vendor's presentations. On February 25 a voting committee of the Municipal units will make a final selection of vendor. Also, a finalization of an agreement between units who choose to procure the software as a group, which will then be presented to our respective councils. If capital costs are approved, and an inter-municipal agreement can be formed, there will be a phased approach to implementation. She is aiming for a September 2011 implementation lasting 6 months.

PUBLIC WORKS

10. Maris Freimanis, C.A.O. gave a report re the public works in absence of Work Superintendent, Jim MacNeil.

11. Maris Freimanis, CAO advised the committee that we are now utilizing two salt trucks when called out to salt streets. Each truck has an assigned route to follow when salting. Plows have being installed on both salt trucks and are used for snow removal. We have created a route for our sidewalk clearing equipment. The trackless has a route and the 906 loader has a route. The 450 E backhoe plows and clears the water plant, sewer plant, water tanks, fire hall, etc. Clearing of fire hydrants is a priority and is started as soon as the streets are open and clear. After a storm it is also necessary to make sure that the catchpits are cleared and open. We are now using the equipment to full advantage with the installation of the plows on the salt trucks. The men are training and getting familiar with plowing. Working in conjunction with J.L. Sanitation has enabled us to clear and clean the streets after a storm more effectively and faster.
12. Cl'r K. Anderson stated that it is unusual to see the Peterbelt truck on the sidewalk. He stated he didn't know if it was a good idea or not. He stated that flashing lights should be used when they are on sidewalks.
13. Cl'r K. Anderson asked who calls and gets vehicles towed. RCMP call to have vehicles towed and RCMP enforce tickets.
14. M. Freimanis advised that the towing companies are rotated for calls to get their fair share.
15. Cl'r H. MacDougall stated that he noticed that there was some washboard areas on Reeves Street after snow removal. He also stated that our sidewalk route has changed.
16. Cl'r H. MacDougall asked if any work has being contracted out by the Town. M. Freimanis, CAO advised no.
17. Mayor MacLean advised that a great job is being done with the snow removal in the Town.
18. MOVED BY DEPUTY MAYOR J. KING, SEC'D BY CL'R K. ANDERSON THAT WE APPROVE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.

PARKS AND FACILITIES-JIM PYKE
19. Director's report was distributed in the Council package.
20. Jim Pyke reported to the committee re the Town working with the Strait Regional School Board (Terry Doyle) to install heat pumps at the pool to make this facility more energy efficient. SRSB if funding at his project estimated to be in \$400,000 plus range.
21. The SRSB will receive \$164,455 via the Town as a result of a contribution agreement between the Town and the Province under the eco Nova Scotia for Clean Air and Climate Change Funding. Erin MacEachen is working with Terry Doyle and the Finance Director of the SRSB to claim the Municipal Program Contribution.
22. Cl'r H. MacDougall mentioned to Jim Pyke, Director of Parks & Facilities that the NewPage pamphlets (hockey tournament) should be included, along with the March Break activities. Nothing as yet has been done with item #13 re towing of vehicles.
23. MOVED BY CL'R H. MACDOUGALL, SEC'D BY CL'R M. MACIVER THAT WE WRITE A LETTER TO THE SCHOOL BOARD THANKING THEM FOR THEIR CO-OPERATION WITH THE HEAT PUMPS RE STRAIT AREA POOL PROJECT AND A LETTER ALSO BE SENT TO THE EXECUTIVE OF THE SWIM TEAM CONGRATULATING THEM ON THE NOVA SCOTIA JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP.

MOTION CARRIED.

AQUATICS REPORT

24. MOVED BY CL'R H.MACDOUGALL, SEC'D BY CL'R M. MACIVER THAT WE ACCEPT THE AQUATICS REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.

ADDITIONS
COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

25. Mayor MacLean advised that we have a committee structure.

26. Committees are not operating like they have done in the past.

27. CL'r M. MacIver and CL'r H. MacDougall go over committee structure with M. Freimanis, CAO.

28. MOVED BY CL'R K. ANDERSON, SEC'D BY DEPUTY MAYOR J.KING THAT THE CAO, PREPARE A REPORT OF COMMITTEE STRUCTURE WITH RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DUTIES OF THOSE COMMITTEES. MOTION CARRIED.

29. CL'R M. MACIVER AND CL'R H.MACDOUGALL GO OVER COMMITTEE STRUCTURE WITH M.FREIMANIS, CAO.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

30. MOVED BY CL'R K. ANDERSON, SEC'D BY CL'R H. MACDOUGALL TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF STAFF PER POLICY FOR JOE PRAUGHT TO BE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR. CL'R J. KING VOTED NAY. MOTION CARRIED.

31. On Motion the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Feb 16 2012
DATE


APPROVED BY:

A MacLean
RECORDED BY:
A.MACDONALD