

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Minutes of Meeting
March 21, 2011

1. A meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held in the Shannon Studio on Monday, March 21, 2011 at the hour of 6:00 p.m.
2. Present were Mayor W. J. MacLean; Deputy Mayor J. King; C'hs M. MacIver, H. MacDougall, K. Anderson; Town Solicitor, L. Evans and C.A.O., M. Freimanis; E. MacEachen, Finance Director; J. Pyke, Director Parks and Facilities and J. MacNeil, Work Superintendent.

3. Mayor MacLean called the meeting to order.
4. Additions to the agenda included update on By Law Enforcement Officer, By Law Policy Review, Legion and Nautical School.

5. MOVED BY CL'R H. MACDOUGALL, SEC'D BY CL'R M. MACIVER THAT WE APPROVE THIS PART OF THE AGENDA WITH THE ADDITIONS INCLUDED. MOTION CARRIED.

PRESENTATIONS
STRAIT AREA GROUND SEARCH AND RESCUE-CECIL CASHIN AND
ALBERT BOUDREAU

6. Cecil Cashin and Albert Boudreau made a presentation to Town Council requesting the Municipality to endorse their application for Registration as an Emergency Services Provider.

7. MOVED BY CL'R K. ANDERSON, SEC'D BY CL'R H. MACDOUGALL THAT THE TOWN RECOGNIZE STRAIT AREA GROUND SEARCH AND RESCUE ASSOCIATION AS AN EMERGENCY SERVICE PROVIDER. MOTION CARRIED.

EMO-REPORT- RODDIE MACISAAC

8. Roddie MacIsaac updated Council on the progress that has been made since the original report of hazards existing in the Town.
9. CL'R K. Anderson mentioned re power poles on Reeves Street. The committee advised they will refer it to the next Council meeting.
10. CL'R K. Anderson inquired re "Your Emergency Preparedness Guide" booklet that came out 3 years ago. It was advised that a summer student will deliver these to each homeowner.
11. CL'R K. Anderson asked re Rail Tex and Rod MacIsaac advised that they have contacted Rail Tex, and they now park them in Havre Boucher and advised that we met with Rail Tex Safety Personnel to discuss what action would be taken by local fire departments in the event of a derailment within Town. Their instructions were that the fire departments would only monitor the situation, until Rail Tex safety personnel arrive on the scene.
12. MOVED BY CL'R K. ANDERSON, SEC'D BY CL'R M. MACIVER THAT WE ACCEPT REPORT FROM RODDIE MACISAAC, EMERGENCY MEASURES CO-ORDINATOR ON THE EMO UPDATED STATEMENT. MOTION CARRIED.

MUNICIPAL PHYSICAL ACTIVITY LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

13. Michael Arthur and Larry Maxwell gave a presentation on the Municipal Physical Activity Leadership Program-essentially a partnership between the Department of Health & Wellness and Municipalities to increase the number of staff in local governments that are implementing comprehensive plans to increase physical activity.
14. Municipal units should submit an expression of interest by September of each year for the following fiscal year. A meeting with Health Promotion and Protection staff prior to completing an application is required.
15. Health Promotion and Protection will fund 50% per municipal unit \$20,000 annually. This amount must be matched by participating municipalities. To encourage inter-municipal co-operation, an additional \$5,000 will be provided for each additional municipal unit involved.
16. The number of approval agreement will depend upon the level of funding available. Municipalities accepted into the program are not required to reapply each year.
17. Council agreed staff bring recommendation to Council re Municipal Physical Activity Leadership Program.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

18. Maris Freimanis, advised the committee that a meeting was held on February 28, 2011 with Cl'r MacIver and MacDougall regarding the Committee Structure of Council.
19. MOVED BY CL'R K. ANDERSON, SEC'D BY CL'R J.KING TO ACCEPT THE COMMITTEE STRUCTURE OF COUNCIL. ON THE QUESTION CL'R H.MACDOUGALL ASKED TO NOT CHANGE THE COMMITTEE STRUCTURE OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE. CL'RS K.ANDERSON, M.MACIVER AND CL'R H. MACDOUGALL VOTED NAY. MOTION DEFEATED.
20. MOVED BY CL'R K. ANDERSON, SEC'D BY CL'R H. MACDOUGALL TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION FROM CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER ON COMMITTEE STRUCTURE OF COUNCIL EXCEPT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE. MORE DISCUSSION AND WORK ON COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE WITH C.A.O., AND COUNCIL IS REQUIRED. DEPUTY MAYOR J.KING VOTED NAY. MOTION CARRIED.

DIRECTOR REPORT FINANCE-ERIN MACEACHEN

21. Erin MacEachen, Finance Director gave a report on budget to the committee. She stated that our preliminary budget process is underway, and she has received budget submissions from most of the departments. These submissions are very preliminary and will be reviewed and adjusted in upcoming weeks.
22. In the final budget submission to Council there will be a line item relating to a transfer of funds to a reserve account for upcoming expenditures. She stated she would like to improve the health of the reserve accounts to allow for emergency financing that is readily available, as well to have a strong financial position for cost sharing on projects with the Provincial and Federal government.

23. We will be faced with the following expenses in the upcoming years:- Principal repayment of the Civic Centre debt. Our fund-raised dollars will be fully utilized by fiscal 2013. From that point, this is a cost that will be covered by the Town. The current principal repayment is \$340,000 and the debt is not fully retired until 2027.
24. Policing contract will be renewed in 2012, which has unknown price tag. If our contract were to increase by \$100,000 this could mean approx. 8 cents on our residential tax rate.
25. Infrastructure costs will be significant in upcoming 5 years. Water Treatment plant expansion and work on existing water tanks to retain redundancy, underground infrastructure renewal, emergency power at the wastewater plant, potential paving, waterfront and IT projects. These items will require financing through reserve accounts, debt, or operations.
26. The Province has implemented a "Bank to Balance" initiative which they hope to have a balanced budget by 2013. This could impact the level of funding that Municipal units are required to share for provincial initiatives and could also affect our equalization funding. This may impact the level of infrastructure funding that is available.
27. Other items include an underfunded clerk's pension, internal initiatives surrounding employee benefits, leachate sharing, aging infrastructure, etc.
28. The Director of Finance recommended maintaining the current tax rate for the upcoming fiscal year. Should the Nova Scotia Municipalities be successful at having the CAP program removed, a reduction in tax rate would be considered at that point in time.

MUNICIPAL FINANCE SOFTWARE SOLUTION

29. Diamond Municipal Solutions is the selected vendor. Their implementation and year one maintenance and support costs will be approx. \$120,000 which includes data extraction from our current system. There are also anticipated hosting fees of approx. \$4,000. Director of Finance requested Council allow for these amounts in the upcoming capital and operating budgets. Also sought approval of an inter-municipal services agreement.
 30. Director of Finance stated that this is a wise investment and that we are at a high risk with the system we have if something happens to Thistle Systems. Diamond Solutions will improve efficiency.
 31. Chief Administrative Officer stated that there is a formal process to go through at a public meeting.
 32. MOVED BY CL'R H. MACDOUGALL, SEC'D BY CL'R M. MACIVER THAT WE CONFIRM DIAMOND MUNICIPAL SOLUTIONS IN PRINCIPAL. MOTION CARRIED.
- PARKS AND FACILITIES - JIM PYKE
33. Parks and Facilities, J.Pyke presented a report to the committee outlining Heat Pumps, Strai Area Pool; 31 st Annual New Page Invitational Minor Hockey Tournament, Cape Island Pathways Association, Waterfront Buildings and Fire Hall.

34. MOVED BY CL'R K. ANDERSON, SEC'D BY CL'R H. MACDOUGALL THAT WE ACCEPT PARKS & FACILITIES REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC WORKS -JIM MACNEIL

35. Public Works, Jim MacNeil presented a report to the committee on work completed from February 1, to February 28, 2011.

36. MOVED BY CL'R J KING, SECD BY CL'R H.MACDOUGALL THAT WE ACCEPT PUBLIC WORKS REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.

37. Protocol re Works Department is to refer to Jim MacNeil then to Maris Freimanis on call.

NEW BUSINESS- BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

38. The committee advised that M. Freimanis meet with John Bain. Explore other Municipal units served by Regional Planning Division and report back to Council. Cl'r K. Anderson asked when this will be in place.

NEW BUSINESS-BY-LAW POLICY REVIEW

39. Cl'r K. Anderson stated that we pick a date and stick to it to have By-Laws and Policies done.

40. M. Freimanis stated that he and L. Evans, Town Solicitor will get together and prepare a schedule.

NEW BUSINESS-LEGION

41. Mayor MacLean informed the committee that he met with Belle MacIntyre re planting flowers and he assured her that he would bring message to Council to assist.

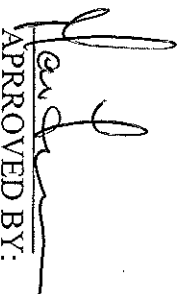
42. Town Solicitor advised that we do not have legal authority to put Town equipment on private property.

NAUTICAL SCHOOL

43. Mayor MacLean advised that he will be meeting in Halifax with Minister of Education re a cut back of a program at NSCC.

44. On Motion, the meeting recessed to In Camera at 8:09 p.m. The In Camera session ended at 8:45 p.m.

Feb 16, 2012
DATE


APPROVED BY:

A Macdonald
RECORDED BY:
A.MACDONALD