

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY, June 5th, 2008

The Town Council met in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall at Shelburne, Nova Scotia on Wednesday, June 5th, 2008 at 7:00pm.

Those present were His Worship Mayor P.G. Comeau, Deputy Mayor Tony Mahaney, and Councillors Elizabeth Acker, Alan Delaney, Bernard Nickerson, and Bill Murray.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Comeau.

Mayor Comeau acknowledged and welcomed Warden Sherman Embree from the Municipality of the District of Shelburne.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Mahaney and seconded by Councillor Delaney, "Resolved that Minutes of a regular meeting of Town Council held on May 7th, 2008 be received and adopted as circulated". Motion Carried

Local Physicians Dr. Riley and Dr. O'Sullivan came before Council to comment on the situation at the Roseway Hospital emergency outpatient services and the need for recruiting new physicians. There are presently four (4) physicians working outpatients at the Hospital. These physicians have now become part time outpatient doctors and part time family physicians. The out patient service has seen increases in patients as the Roseway Hospital is becoming known for their efficiency in serving patients from outside of the immediate area. The outpatients at Roseway Hospital have doubled in the last five (5) years. The hospital will be facing closures as it will not be able to continue on a 24 (twenty-four) hour seven (7) days a week schedule. There is presently only one fully funded Emergency Response Facility (Yarmouth Hospital) per District. A committee should be struck with a wide range of expertise involved and should not be physician lead as in the past. The focus must be on recruiting and obtaining physicians to the area. It was noted that this needs to be an ongoing commitment in order to work efficiently around retirements, health problems or relocating of physicians. The general census was not to compete with other areas that were offering enticement payments to relocate, but, to create a plan and market the area. Within that plan there may be a need for a modern facility. It was noted that new physicians have been trained and will expect to relocate to a facility with electronic records. It was further noted that a healthy medical service in the Town makes a community more attractive. Mayor Comeau thanked Dr's Riley and O'Sullivan for their presentation.

Barbara MacLean gave a brief presentation regarding a Community Pool. Mrs. MacLean noted the need for a needs assessment study before funding can be accessed through the Province. The Provincial and Federal government has increased their commitment from two (2) million to seven (7) million for recreation purposes. She noted other new facilities that have been allocated funding and have already started building. The closest indoor pool to Shelburne residents is a private pool at White Point. She noted that the Committee had received several letters of support from different organizations within the Town, a physiotherapist and the Tri County Regional School Board. She further noted that obesity rates are rising and this would help improve the health of residents regardless of age, and be an asset to the community's infrastructure. Mrs. MacLean further noted that many questions were yet to be answered but, the Committee felt that the challenge is well worth it and would like Council's support to continue. It was moved by Councillor Delaney and seconded by Councillor Acker,

"Resolved that Council support the concept in principle and allow the Committee to continue doing the appropriate leg work needed." Motion Carried Mayor Comeau thanked Mrs. MacLean for her presentation.

Phil Landry, Superintendent of the Tri-County Regional School Board and Nicholas Pippy, School Board Representative came before Council to discuss the funding formula and the impact pertaining to the short-fall of Provincial funding. Mr. Landry noted major cuts have taken place for 2008/09 with 42 people being cut from the Tri-County Region. The total funding allocation is done through the "Hogg Funding Model" and this formula is not transparent and not working for the Board. Comparisons were noted between the Tri-County Regional School Board and the Strait Regional School Board because of similar student enrollment. The Tri-County Region School Board will have twelve million less to work with than the Strait Regional School Board. The Strait Board has an additional 1.8 million more for transportation than the Tri-County Region Mr. Landry noted that without the funding, the school board can not provide the necessary support needed, and the classrooms will be affected. Meetings are being held and the provincial government may provide some relief. The Board is in a deficit this year due to the increased cost of diesel fuel and heating oil, which puts another strain on the budget. Discussion took place on the support services, teachers and programs being cut, as well as, the loss of the Junior French Immersion Program.

It was moved by Councillor Acker and seconded by Councillor Nickerson, “Resolved that Shelburne Town Council request appropriate funding for the Tri-County Regional School Board to support students and staff in all schools, and ask that a review of the “Hogg Funding” formula be addressed so that equity in education exists across this province.” Motion Carried Mayor Comeau thanked Mr. Landry and Mr. Pippy for their presentation.

It was moved by Councillor Delaney and seconded by Councillor Murray, “Resolved that the Correspondence be received as circulated”. Motion Carried

The Correspondence was dealt with in the following manner.

Information was received from the Municipality of the District of Barrington, regarding damage being caused to lobster habitat by scallop draggers. It was moved by Councillor Acker and seconded by Councillor Deputy Mayor Mahaney,

“Resolved that a letter of endorsement be sent on behalf of Shelburne Town Council”. Motion Carried

A letter from J & D Faith Ltd. was received in regards to opening a new business. It was moved by Deputy Mayor Mahaney seconded by Councillor Murray,

“Resolved that permission be given to Jeff Strang to open a new business “Bizness Wizard Office & Studio Solutions” at 99 King Street subject to the appropriate licenses and By-Laws.” Motion Carried

A letter was received from Penny Smith, Chair of the Shelburne Founders’ Days. It was agreed by Council to close to vehicular traffic portions of Dock Street and various streets and lanes to ensure the publics safety.

A letter from Robert Guay President, Shelburne Reenactment Association was received. It was moved by Deputy Mayor Mahaney seconded by Councillor Delaney,

“Resolved that Council approve the use of the William Norman Park for the Shelburne Reenactment Association to stage a mock encampment on the waterfront for a NBC TV segment surrounding the Revolutionary War.” Motion Carried

It was moved by Councillor Delaney seconded by Councillor Murray, “Resolved that the Building Inspector’s Report for April be received.” Motion Carried

It was moved by Councillor Nickerson and seconded by Deputy Mayor Mahaney, “Resolved that the Special Constable’s Report for May be received.” Motion Carried

It was moved by Councillor Nickerson and seconded by Councillor Murray, “Resolved that the Parks and Recreation Director’s Report for April be received.” Motion Carried

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Mahaney and seconded by Councillor Murray, “Resolved that bills as approved amounting to \$ 114,166.96 be received and paid.” Motion Carried

Mayor’s Items

Mayor Comeau reported that the Water Treatment Plant should be completed in July, and the Town is doing due diligence. Notices have been prepared and will be sent out regarding the changes.

On May 17th, Mayor Comeau attended the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Bob & Ruth Jeffrey.

Mayor Comeau reported on the Finance and Audit Meeting held Wednesday, May 14th. He noted that two (2) requests were received for additional street lighting. The Town has taken possession of a new water utility vehicle, and discussion had taken place on the increase in vandalism. Public Works have been working to help address the vandalism issues on Elliott Street by cutting trees in the area making it visually easier for the Police. Further noted was the discussion of purchasing a new fire truck, the hiring of a consultant for an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan, and a reduction was made on an interim tax bill due to property destroyed by fire. It was moved by Councillor Reid and seconded by Councillor Delaney,

“Resolved that the Minutes from the Finance and Audit Committee held on May 14th, 2008 be received and adopted”. Motion Carried

Committee Reports were given

Deputy Mayor Mahaney reported on the Personnel Meeting held on May 14th. He noted the need for an Assistant Sewage Treatment/Water Utility person was discussed and it was agreed to advertise internally. A short list was compiled for the position of Student and Adult Councillors at the Shelburne Information Centre. Interviews took place on May 27th for the adult position and all students had found employment elsewhere, so another advertisement for the student position will be advertised. It was moved by Deputy Mayor Mahaney, seconded by Councillor Reid,

“Resolved that these Reports and Minutes of the Personnel Committee held on May 14th, 2008 be received and adopted.” Motion Carried

Councillor Delaney thanked Public Works for the help in mounting the Loyalist Landing 2008 banners, and thanked the businesses and the citizens in supporting the celebrations. He also reminded Council of the Town Wide Yard Sale and Auction on Saturday, June 7th.

Councillor Reid gave a verbal report on the Waterfront Development Committee. He noted that the Committee had received approval from ACOA to re-allocate the \$18,000 from the historic lookout project to signage, that the 200 amp service at the Guild Hall will soon be completed, the concrete patio tables and canopy will soon be arriving, trees have been planted, and a silhouette of the Schooner Kingfisher will be on the Cox Muir Shipyard Sign. Councillor Reid was requesting permission from the Town on behalf of the Waterfront Development Committee to tender for street signs and locator signs. Considerable discussion took place regarding the locator sign with businesses within the Historic District being named on the sign. The Land Use By-Law stipulates regulations regarding signage and the advertising of businesses. It was noted that locator signs need to show locations within the Historic District to increase traffic and the stay time of the traveler, but it was also noted that Council has no authority to violate their own By-Laws. Several comments were made regarding the locator signs and it was decided that Council become more familiar with the Land Use By-Law and table the discussion until July's Council meeting.

Councillor Acker gave a brief report on the May 21st, Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting. She noted that there has not been a response from the Municipality of the District of Shelburne regarding the Albert Acker Field, that Doug Langley was thanked for the trees planted and all the great work that has been done by the Waterfront Development Committee.

Councillor Nickerson gave a Report on the Occupational Health & Safety Committee meeting on May 15th. He noted that the NSCC would be called for scheduling the First Aid training, an ammonia hydroxide mask and cartridge was ordered for the Water Treatment Plant, and the Recreation Department and Cemetery had audits completed with minor issues noted. It was moved by Councillor Nickerson and seconded by Deputy Mayor Mahaney, “Resolved that this Report and the Minutes of the Occupational Health & Safety Committee Meeting held on May 15th, 2008 be received and adopted.” Motion Carried.

Councillor Nickerson reported on the Information Meeting of the Shelburne Library Building Association on May 21st, 2008. He reported that next years lawn care contract would require quotes to be submitted before December 31st for the spring/summer season. He further noted that James Graham, Architect outlined the first steps needed for the expansion. Councillor Nickerson noted that local crafts people would be used where possible and that Joan Bower from the RDA would be approached to help secure funding.

Clerk's Items

The Clerk noted public notice was placed in the Coast Guard regarding an increase in taxi fares from \$3.50 to \$4.00, and the first reading of the By-Law to amend the Trade and Licenses By-Law Amendment – Section 47(a) Part V Taxis was approved at the May 7th Council Meeting and pursuant to the Municipal Government Act, second reading and approval can be undertaken at tonight's Council Meeting. It was moved by Deputy Mayor Mahaney and seconded by Councillor Reid,

“Resolved that the second reading of the By-Law to amend the Trade and Licenses By-Law Amendment – Section 47(a) Part V Taxis be approved and the documents be incorporated in the Town's Trade and Licenses By-Law.” Motion Carried

It was moved by Councillor Acker seconded by Councillor Nickerson, “Resolved that Building Inspection Services from the Municipality of Lunenburg for one (1) day per week from the period of May 21st to June 4th, inclusive be acknowledged.” Motion Carried

Three tenders were received and opened for the sale of the 1997 white Ford Ranger. The Tenders received were:

Frank Stewart	\$849.00
Dudley Stewart	\$549.00
Frank Christie	\$575.00

It was moved by Councilor Reid seconded by Councillor Delaney, Resolved that the tender from Frank Stewart in the amount of \$849 for the 1997 white Ford Ranger as is where is be accepted.” Motion Carried

The Clerk noted that the organic waste collection would be beginning their weekly collection service after the regular service dates of June 19th for the south end of Town and June 20th for the north end of Town. It was noted that the service would continue until August 28th and 29th and it is an extra service that the Town pays in addition to regular bi-weekly service.

New Business

Deputy Mayor Tony Mahaney reported on three (3) properties that have been sent letters under the Dangerous and Unightly Properties. It was agreed that if the properties are not cleaned up the owners would be invited to appear before July’s Council Meeting.

Councillor Murray noted that the Yacht Club would like to request that the management parking space be changed to a loading zone parking space. It was agreed by all to have the changes made.

Councillor Delaney reported that a Tourism Coordinator Meeting was being held and it was expected that all five (5) municipal units would acknowledge their financial commitments. Discussion followed on the Town being able to commit financially before the 2008/09 Budget was completed. Further discussion took place on the amount expected for the Town to contribute and what this figure was based on. It was noted that it could not have been based on the uniform assessment or other municipal units would be expected to pay more and the Town would be expected to pay less than the \$10,000 requested. Councillor Delaney noted that if all five municipal units participate, that money can be used to leverage more money from the RDA to develop a five (5) year plan. He further noted that Queens County had four (4) full time employees and Yarmouth has five (5) full time employees working for the promotion of tourism. While Shelburne County has none. It was moved by Deputy Mayor Mahaney seconded by Councillor Delaney, Resolved that Shelburne Town Council agree in principle for the funding of a Tourism Coordinator subject to the Town’s final budget.” Motion Carried

Councillor Acker stressed the impact of the Tri- County Regional School Boards cut in funding. She noted that two (2) full time teachers from Hillcrest Academy and three (3) full time teachers from Shelburne Regional High School will be lost. This will create larger class sizes, fewer courses offered such as grade ten geography, the loss of the Junior French Immersion Program, and lack of funding for sociologist to work with students. Councillor Acker noted that a list of addresses will be left at the Town office for anyone that wishes to write to the politicians regarding the cut backs. It was noted that every child has the right to an equal education regardless of where they live. It was agreed that a letter from Shelburne Town Council would be sent requesting a detailed explanation on the Hogg Funding formula used for funding allocations.

Further Business

Councillor Acker reported on the Shelburne County Lobster Festival taking place on June 5th- June 8th with the opening ceremonies being held in Sandy Point, and the Parks and Recreation Summer Fun Guide are being distributed around Town and can be viewed on the Parks and Recreation web page.

Deputy Mayor Mahaney noted that the Joint Services Board garbage haulers work 32 1/2 hours per week, and the workers have been used by the Town for painting during their spare time, but it was requested to see if there can be an allocated time set aside for the Town on a bi-weekly basis. A schedule would assist the Town in planning for days that extra work could be completed. Deputy Mayor Mahaney further noted the need for civic numbers to be visible within the Town. It was noted that Town Council would need to develop a By-Law in order to implement civic numbers to be displayed.

A Finance and Audit Meeting was set for June 24th at 6:30 pm.
A Civic Building and Properties Meeting was set for June 18th at 6:30 pm.
A Personnel Meeting was set for June 18th at 7:15 pm.

There being no further business at 9:30pm, on Motion the meeting adjourned.

P.G. Comeau, Mayor

C. Wilmont Hardy, Town Clerk