

A regular monthly meeting of Middleton Town Council was held at the Town Hall on Monday, February 1, 2010, starting at 7:00 p.m.

### **PRESENT**

Chairing the meeting, Mayor Calvin Eddy; Deputy Mayor Vera Errington; Councillors Lorne Brown, Dan Smith, Darren Boates, and Marc Britney; Chief Administrative Officer, Clayton MacMurtry; and Director of Finance, Marianne Daine.

Councillor Melinda den Haan was not present for this meeting.

Town Solicitor Bruce Gillis arrived at 7:00 p.m. and left the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

#### **.01 Macdonald Museum – Sherry Griffin, Director**

Sherry Griffin, Director of the Macdonald Museum, introduced herself and members of the Board of the Directors present, George Fairn, Edna Livingston, Judy Mosher, Belle Grant Fairn, Harold Pheeney, and Susan MacDonald Dill.

Ms. Griffin gave a brief history of the Museum and provided information on the Board of Directors and Staff. She also commented on the events, festivals, and fundraisers undertaken in the past year. Ms. Griffin provided the Council with copies of the Museum's Statement of Operations and Schedule of Expenditures for the year ending March 31, 2009; the proposed Operating Budget for April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011; and a list of the grants received by the Museum from the Town from 1989 to date.

Ms. Griffin noted that Tourism is down Province-wide and that the Museum has had a decrease in visitors. She noted, however, that 70% of the past year's visitors are from the area and stated that she felt it is very important for the area to support the Museum.

Ms. Griffin thanked Council for its past support, both with grants and in-kind services, and requested that the Council consider the request for a grant from the Town for at least the same as last year, \$3,000.

Mayor Eddy thanked Ms. Griffin for her presentation and the members of the Board for their attendance. The Mayor stated that Council appreciates the Museum and noted that the Community is fortunate to have the Museum in Town. The Mayor advised that the funding request would be considered in the Town's upcoming budget deliberations.

### **PROCLAMATIONS**

#### **.01 National Flag of Canada Day**

Mayor Eddy proclaimed February 15, 2010 *National Flag of Canada Day* in the Town of Middleton.

### **10.02.01 CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

CAO MacMurtry advised that the Solicitor has requested an in camera session to provide advice to the Council on a land acquisition item.

It was **moved by Britney, seconded by Smith that the Council adjourn to in camera at 7:17 p.m. to receive legal advice from the Solicitor on a land acquisition item. The motion was carried.**

It was **moved by Brown, seconded by Smith that the Council return to regular session at 8:15 p.m. The motion was carried.**

Solicitor Gillis advised that he had no further items for Council's attention.

**10.02.02 MINUTES**

It was moved by Britney, seconded by Brown that the minutes of the regular Council meeting of January 4, 2010 be approved as circulated. The motion was carried.

**10.02.03 PRESENTATIONS BY PUBLIC**

There were no further presentations, written or verbal, for this meeting.

**10.02.04 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There were no items to be dealt with from previous Council meetings.

**10.02.05 NEW BUSINESS****ACTION ITEMS****.01 Water Rate Study – Approval of Application**

It was moved by Britney, seconded by Brown that, on recommendation from the Committee of the Whole, the Council approve the inclusion of the following in the application to the NS Utility and Review Board for a water rate review:

“The necessary excavation for the laying of the service pipe, backfilling and replacement of the street and sidewalk surfaces from the water main in the street to the premise including supplying and laying a service pipe and fittings between the main pipe and the premise shall be undertaken by the Utility for all water services. The charge for all such work shall be \$500 which shall be paid for by the customer. A service box (standpipe) and curb stop valve shall be installed at the property line by the Utility.”

The motion was carried.

It was moved by Smith, seconded by Britney that, on recommendation from the Committee of the Whole, the Council approve that the Town of Middleton Water Utility apply to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board for an increase in water rates and amendments to its regulations as set out in the Water Rate Study prepared by G. A. Isenor Consulting Limited in association with W. H. Gates Utility Consultants Ltd. and as accepted by Town Council this date. The motion was carried.

**.02 Membership Application – Middleton Fire Department**

It was moved by Brown, seconded by Errington that, on recommendation from the membership of the Middleton Fire Department and the Committee of the Whole, the Council approve the appointment of Bobby Werner to the membership of the Middleton Fire Department. The motion was carried.

**.03 Appointment of Fire Chief, Fire Wards, & Fire Constables**

It was moved by Errington, seconded by Brown that, in accordance with the results of the elections of the Middleton Fire Department and on recommendation from the Committee of the Whole, the Council ratify the appointments of Chris Barker as Fire Chief; Chris Barker, Mike Toole, and Scott Veinot as Fire Wards; and David McCoubrey, Wayne Forsyth, and John Bath as Fire Constables. The motion was carried.

**.04 Special Reserve Fund Borrowing – 2010 Chev 1-ton Truck**

It was moved by Brown, seconded by Smith that, on recommendation from the Committee of the Whole, the Council authorize the borrowing of \$31,559.36 from the Land Sale Proceeds-Elementary School Special Reserve Fund, with repayment over a five-year term, at an annual interest rate of 2.78% to finance the purchase of a 2010 Chev 1-ton Truck. The motion was carried.

.05 Policy Review – Tax Exemption-Low Income, #A.1.20

Council had requested, at the Committee of the Whole meeting January 18, 2010, that the CAO investigate the current levels of household income and exemption granted from other municipal units.

The CAO circulated his comparison of eight municipal units in western Nova Scotia and, based on the numbers received, recommended that Council increase both the household income level and the amount of exemption.

**It was moved by Smith, seconded by Boates that Council approve to increase the income ceiling to \$18,000 and the exemption amount to \$200 for Policy #A.1.20, Tax Exemption-Low Income for the fiscal year 2010/11 and that Council review this policy at its January 2011 Committee of the Whole meeting.**

On question from Councillor Britney, the CAO explained that he is suggesting the exemption be increased to \$200 so that the Town is as close to the average as possible, noting that next year, when the Province introduces its uniform policy, the Town will not have to make substantial adjustments to its levels.

**The motion was carried.**

.06 Policy Amendment – Casual Employee Wages & Benefits, #D.4.5

**It was moved by Brown, seconded by Errington that, on recommendation of the Committee of the Whole, the Council approve the amendments to the Casual Employee Wages and Benefits Policy, #D.4.5 to include a student wage scale as recommended by the Chief Administrative Officer and that the policy be reviewed yearly. The motion was carried.**

.07 Approval of Integrated Community Sustainability Plan

**It was moved by Smith, seconded by Britney that, on recommendation from the Committee of the Whole, the Council approve the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) as prepared by CBCL Engineering Limited. The motion was carried.**

.08 Letter of Support – Nova Scotia Community College

**It was moved by Errington, seconded by Britney that, on recommendation from the Committee of the Whole, the Council approve to provide a letter of support for the Pilikan Initiative as detailed by the Nova Scotia Community College. The motion was carried.**

.09 Replacement of Well Pump

**It was moved by Britney, seconded by Brown that, on recommendation from the Committee of the Whole, the Council approve the purchase and installation of a new well pump in the amount of \$9,860.00, including HST and installation, and that this amount be paid out of the 2009/2010 budget of the Water Utility Depreciation Fund. The motion was carried.**

.10 Bills

**It was moved by Britney, seconded by Smith that the Council approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$418,998.04. The motion was carried.**

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

.01 Uniform Assessment Report & Preliminary Assessment Roll

A memo from the CAO, attaching copies of both the Uniform Assessment and the Preliminary Assessment Rolls for fiscal year 2010/2011 was circulated to Council.

The memo explained that the total uniform assessment has increased from \$87,006,697 to \$88,399,600 or 1.60% and that the preliminary assessment roll shows an increase in total assessed value of \$1,636,500 or 1.86% over 2009. Residential assessments increased (+3.95%), commercial assessments increased (+0.39%) and business occupancy assessments decreased (-59.61%).

On question from Councillor Britney, the Director of Finance advised that the only occupancy assessments for 2010/11 would be applied to financial institutions and that this assessment will be completely phased out by 2014.

#### **10.02.06      REPORTS**

##### **.01    Committee of the Whole**

All items from the Committee of the Whole meeting of January 18, 2010 have been dealt with earlier in the meeting.

##### **.02    Mayor**

Mayor Eddy tabled his report for the month of January. A copy of the report will be circulated with these minutes.

##### **.03    Managers**

The Management reports have been circulated to all members of Council. There were no concerns or comments on the reports.

##### **.04    Solicitor**

The Solicitor's report was dealt with earlier in the meeting.

##### **.05    Development Officer/Building Inspector/Fire Inspector**

Copies of the reports for the month of January have been circulated to all Council members. There were no comments on the reports.

##### **.06    RCMP**

A copy of the report for the month of December has been circulated to all Council members.

Councillor Smith noted that he feels the RCMP is not doing enough foot patrols. A number of Councillors concurred and Councillor Brown advised that he would bring this up at the next Police Advisory Board meeting.

#### **10.02.07      CORRESPONDENCE**

A list of correspondence for the month has been circulated to all members of Council. There were no questions or comments on the list. A copy of the list will be circulated with these minutes.

#### **10.02.08      ANYTHING BY MEMBERS**

Councillors Brown and Boates, and Deputy Mayor Errington, commented on the excellent job the Public Works Staff has been doing this winter with snow clearing and removal.

There being no further business, it was **moved by Brown, seconded by Smith that the Council adjourn at 8:30 p.m. The motion was carried.**

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MAYOR

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SECRETARY