

A regular monthly meeting of Middleton Town Council was held at the Town Hall on Monday, May 7, 2012 starting at 7 p.m.

PRESENT

Chairing the meeting, Mayor Calvin Eddy; Deputy Mayor Vera Errington; Councillors Dan Smith, Marc Britney, Melinda den Haan, and Gail Smith; Chief Administrative Officer Clayton MacMurtry; Director of Finance, Marianne Daine and Recording Secretary, Sharon McAuley. Also in attendance were Heather Frenette and Audrey Shields, Community Dialogue on Gambling; Heather Killen, Annapolis County Spectator and twelve (12) members of the public.

Regrets: Councillor Boates.

12.05.01 PROCLAMATION**.01 Emergency Preparedness Week**

Mayor Eddy proclaimed May 6th to 12th as Emergency Preparedness Week in the Town of Middleton and that people should "Be Prepared for 72 Hours".

12.05.08 NEW BUSINESS**Information/Discussion Items****.06 Mink Farming**

Mayor Eddy advised the public that the topic on mink farming was an update from the CAO on a meeting he attended in Tupperville and that Council would not be making any decisions on mink farming. The public decided that they would remain to hear the discussion.

CAO MacMurtry advised Council that:

- as a result of information that there may be mink farms constructed on the outskirts of Town, he contacted Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture (NSDA) to ask if they could make presentation to Council on mink farming;
- he was advised of the Mink Farm Information Meeting taking place on May 1, 2012 in Tupperville which he attended with Councillor den Haan;
- there were comments both positive and negative on the issue including the smell, flies and the new regulations.

Council asked CAO MacMurtry to contact Annapolis County regarding any resolutions they will make at their Committee of the Whole meeting on May 8, 2012 concerning mink farming.

A member of the public stated that:

- the new regulations do not go far enough;
- the open lagoons should be closed lagoons;
- the manure from mink does not crust over like cattle manure and thus the smell and flies;
- there is no ground water testing only surface water testing;
- once the regulations are passed, the mink farmers will have three years to comply;

- the proposed setbacks are three hundred metres, Yarmouth has just passed regulations stating that the setbacks must be six hundred metres and Newfoundland's rules state the setbacks must be eight hundred metres;
- if the Town had a presentation from NSDA, they should also have one from the Sierra Club and the Clean Annapolis River Project (CARP) to hear all sides of the issue.

Twelve (12) members of the public left at 7:20 p.m.

12.05.02**PRESENTATIONS****.01 Community Dialogue on Gambling**

Heather Frenette, Coordinator and Audrey Shields, Clinical Therapist gave Council a presentation on the Community Dialogue on Gambling Workshops taking place in Annapolis County including an overview of the workshop and that;

- there are approximately fifteen video lottery terminals (VLTs) in Middleton with each machine making approximately \$50,000.00 per year for a total of approximately \$750,000.00 leaving the community each year;
- the greatest harm from gambling is to the community's most vulnerable: seniors, the poor, people with substance abuse and people with mental health issues;
- treatment is good, but prevention is better;
- it is important to know the gambling products and which ones pose the most harm to the population;
- they are meeting with municipal councils, ministers and business owners and inviting them to attend the workshops;
- there are regulations for tobacco, alcohol but very little for gambling;
- gambling has an amazing impact on people's lives, is very secretive and that most people suffer with it alone;
- everyone is invited to attend the dialogue as these are the types of conversations they will be having.

Heather Frenette and Audrey Shields left the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

12.05.03**CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

The CAO advised that there are no changes to the agenda.

12.05.04**SOLICITOR**

The Solicitor was not present for this meeting.

12.05.06**MINUTES**

Mayor Eddy noted that on page 5, the date of the Police Advisory Board meeting should be May 24, 2012 and not May 27, 2012 as written.

It was moved by Councillor Britney, seconded by Councillor D. Smith, that the minutes of the regular Council meeting of April 2, 2012 be approved as amended. Motion carried.

12.05.07

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The Business Arising Report has been circulated to all members of Council. On questions from Council, CAO MacMurtry advised that:

- He will follow up with the new NCO at the RCMP regarding collecting the Canada Post overdue invoices for False Alarms and if Canada Post is not paying to provide written proof of their exemption.
- There will be two representatives from Nova Scotia Justice attending the June 4, 2012 Council Meeting.

Council requested that CAO MacMurtry develop ideas on how the Town can recognize the Fire Department volunteers who have served a minimum of twenty years.

12.05.08

NEW BUSINESS**Action Items**1. E-voting

It was moved by Councillor D. Smith, seconded by Councillor den Haan, that Council approve that voting in the October 20, 2012 Municipal Election be done by E-voting, that Intelivote Systems Inc. be contracted to provide the E-voting service and that a Bylaw be developed to authorize the voting by internet, telephone and on-site on election day with touch screen monitors for the 2012 municipal elections. Motion carried. 1 nay vote (Deputy Mayor Errington).

Council stressed that the advertising would be very important and that the message should be that a person can vote at home or, as in the past, come in on Election Day and cast their vote. Council would like to see the advertising prior to publishing.

2. Soldiers' Memorial Hospital Foundation

It was moved by Councillor Britney, seconded by Deputy Mayor Errington, that Council appoint Brian Neville as the Town of Middleton's appointment to the Soldiers' Memorial Hospital Foundation Society from June 2012 to June 2014. Motion carried.

3. Surplus Equipment – Loader and Plow

It was moved by Councillor Britney, seconded by Councillor D. Smith, that Council declare the 1994 L70B loader and plow surplus and that it be tendered for sale. Motion carried.

4. Special Reserve Fund Withdrawal – Industrial Park Improvements

CAO MacMurtry advised Council that the Town was aware that there would be some costs involved in the land clearing including the cost of the survey.

Director of Finance Daine advised Council that there is approximately \$200,000.00 in the Industrial Park Special Reserve account.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Errington, seconded by Councillor den Haan, that Council authorize the withdrawal of \$6,992.20 from the Industrial Park Special Reserve account for improvements to lots 6 to 11 in the Industrial Park. Motion carried.

5. Committee of the Whole Recommendations

a. Approval of Bills

It was moved by Councillor D. Smith, seconded by Councillor Britney, on recommendation of Committee of the Whole, that Council approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$242,079.08. Motion carried.

Information/Discussion Items

6. Mink Farming

The item was also dealt with earlier in the meeting. Councillor den Haan advised Council that:

- there are a number of concerns that the proposed regulations are not tight enough and that there is no guarantee that they will be passed in June;
- all mink farms will fall under the regulations and that they will have three years to comply;

LeRoy Lenethen entered the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

Councillor den Haan advised Council that:

- ten lakes in Digby County have been affected by mink farming;
- it is important to conduct a baseline water test prior to mink farming coming to the area;
- the three hundred metre setback is not enough;
- escaped mink can run four miles, so they may be in Town;
- there are no site inspection processes in place;
- the vet discussed some of the diseases the mink can carry.

CAO MacMurtry added that:

- zoning in the area being considered does not prevent mink farming;
- the Town has spent a lot of money on the Brooklyn Road development and there are concerns on the effect the mink farms will have on the development;
- the potential for mink farms has put a hold on one development in Town at the current time.

Council, agreed to send a letter to the County asking what their intentions are regarding mink farming and invite NSDA and the biologist from Tupperville to make presentation to Council.

Heather Killen left the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

12.05.05

IN-CAMERA

It was moved by Councillor Britney, seconded by Councillor D. Smith, that the Council adjourn to in-camera at 8:04 p.m. to discuss contract negotiations. Motion carried.

LeRoy Lenethen left the meeting at 9:07 p.m.

It was moved by Councillor D. Smith, seconded by Councillor Britney, that council return to regular session at 9:18 p.m. Motion carried.

12.05.09

REPORTS**.01 Committee of the Whole**

All items from the Committee of the Whole meeting of April 16, 2012 have been dealt with earlier in the meeting.

.02 Mayor

Mayor Eddy tabled his report for the month of April. A copy of the report will be circulated with these minutes. Mayor Eddy thanked Deputy Mayor Errington for standing in for him on a number of occasions.

.03 Managers

The Management reports have been circulated to all members of Council.

.04 Planning Services

The report for the month of March has been circulated to all Council members.

.05 RCMP

The RCMP report for the month of March has been circulated to all Council members. Mayor Eddy advised Council that when Cpl. Pemberton's replacement arrives, the new Staff Sergeant and Cpl. Pemberton's replacement will introduce themselves to Council and review any issues that Council has.

12.05.10

CORRESPONDENCE

A list of correspondence for the month of April has been circulated to all Council members. Mayor Eddy showed the award that the Town received from the Valley Autism Team in recognition of the Town's generous support for the 2nd annual Walk the Walk for Autism.

12.05.11

ANYTHING BY MEMBERS

Councillor den Haan stated that she has received numerous complaints about speeding on Oakland Drive and has been talking to CAO MacMurtry regarding solutions. People are being advised to phone the RCMP with the license plate number, car descriptions or name of the driver. The RCMP will talk to the people involved about the speeding. Other solutions include putting up a three way stop sign, putting up a "children at play" sign, or putting up one of the new digital speed signs in the area.

Deputy Mayor Errington stated that the Mayor will be asked to attend the car show on June 16 and pick the "Mayor's Choice" once again this year.

On question from Councillor G. Smith, CAO MacMurtry will talk to the RCMP about patrolling Rotary Park at night on weekends.

Councillor G. Smith advised Council that she had received a number of compliments about the hedge being removed on the walkway from McKenzie Drive to King Street.

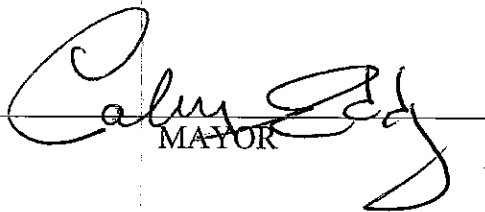
Mayor Eddy advised Council that:

- He and Deputy Mayor Errington had attended a meeting in Halifax at one of the GEM retirement homes and that the plans for the second phase of their Middleton development were presented. GEM is looking at constructing fifteen to twenty-five independent living units and hope to start construction next year.
- The 3rd annual wreath laying ceremony to commemorate VE day will take place on May 8, 2012 at Soldiers' Memorial Hospital.
- The Honourable Jamie Baillie, Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Nova Scotia will meet with council members on May 23, 2012.
- The joint meeting of the Town of Middleton and Annapolis County Police Advisory Boards will take place on May 24, 2012 at 7 p.m. at the Firehall.

12.05.12

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Deputy Mayor Errington, seconded by Councillor D. Smith, that the Council adjourn as 9:36 p.m. Motion carried.


MAYOR


SECRETARY