

A regular monthly meeting of the Committee of the Whole of Middleton Town Council was held at the Town Hall on Tuesday, May 19, 2015, starting at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Chairing the meeting, Mayor Calvin Eddy; Deputy Mayor Dan Smith; Councillors Darren Boates, Gail Smith, John Himmelman, Marc Britney and Melinda den Haan; Chief Administrative Officer, Rachel Turner; Director of Finance, Marianne Daine; and Recording Secretary, Sharon McAuley.

Also in attendance were: Alice White and Jean Reed; Director of Public Works, John Pearson; Director of Recreation and Community Services, Jennifer Coolen; Chief Mike Toole and Neil Freeman, Middleton Fire Department.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Eddy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

150519.01: It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda, as circulated. Motion carried.

3. PRESENTATION**3.1 Bus Shelter Petition – Alice White and Jean Reed**

Alice White and Jean Reed requested the installation of a bus shelter at the pathway from Commercial Street to Sunset Crescent and informed Committee:

- many seniors take the bus at that location to shop for groceries and other items;
- with the weather this winter the seniors were often cold and wet when they got on the bus;
- they are willing to hold yard sales and dinners to raise money for the bus shelter;
- the bus shelter should be around the same size as the one at the hospital;
- they presented a list of names who would like to have a bus shelter at that location.

Committee members informed A. White and J. Reed:

- the Town could not give an answer this evening, but would review the request during budget discussions;
- there are other organizations that may help with the fund raising, such as the Lions and Rotary Clubs.

Alice White and Jean Reed left the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

150519.02: It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting of April 7, 2015, be approved, as circulated. Motion carried.

5. ACTION ITEMS**5.1 Draft Budgets – 2015/2016****a. General Operating Budget**

CAO Turner presented an overview of the Draft Operating Budget for 2015-16 including:

- the draft budget is based on similar assumptions from previous budget year regarding service levels, programming and staffing;
- expenses have increased 6.43% while revenue has only increased 1.56%;
- a review of the expense and revenue increases;
- various tax rate scenarios;
- a history of tax revenue showing a leveling out of the revenue;
- the year-end surplus and the reasons for the surplus;
- options available to the Town:
 - reduce / adjust service levels and/or programming;
 - re-evaluate grant requests;
 - utilize additional funds from reserves;
 - increase the tax rate;
 - a combination of two or more of the above options.

Committee advised staff to:

- retain the same level of service and programming;
- use 50% of the projected surplus to balance the budget;
- entertain a two to three cent increase in taxes;
- increase recreation revenue to reflect the increase in programming
- adjust the Grants to Organizations.

b. Visitor Information Centre Budget

There were no comments on the Visitor Information Centre Budget.

c. Water Utility Budget

The Town is waiting on the decision from the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board, with respect to the Water Utility Rate Study, to finalize the budget.

5.2 Utility Accounts for Write-Off

CAO Turner informed Committee that the overdue accounts have been sent for Collections without success. A brief discussion around the process in place for account disconnection was held.

150519.03: It was moved and seconded to recommend to Council that the uncollectible water accounts listed in the Water Uncollectible Accounts of May 2015 in the amount of \$10,806.93 be written off. Motion carried.

5.3 Request for Permission to use Town Logo – Rotary Club

Committee reviewed the request from the Rotary Club to use the Town Logo on their pendant and requested that they provide a draft design of the pendant and a clarification as to its use.

6. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

6.1 Management Reports

The Management Reports were circulated to all Committee members.

6.2 Planning Services Reports – April 2015

The Planning Services Report for the month of April 2015 was circulated to all Committee members.

6.3 UNSM Gas Tax Study April 24, 2015 (discussion)

The UNSM Towns Caucus commissioned a study to examine the Gas Tax Funding Formula developed in 2005 with respect to its current relevancy. The study concluded that alternative funding formulas do not change, in an appreciable manner, the amount of gas tax going to regional municipal units vs towns vs rural units.

Municipalities are asked to provide feedback on the study based on the discussions that are held at each Council table.

6.4 UNSM Spring Workshop Report

Councillor Himmelman and CAO Turner attended the UNSM Spring Workshop and provided Committee with an overview of the various workshops attended including:

- Province at a Crossroad – One Year After the Ivany Report;
- How to Encourage Business Development;
- Flood Mitigation & Dyke Management;

- Community Engagement Strategies for Municipalities;
- The Realities of Electronic Voting & the Electronic Voting Services Bulk Purchase.

6.5 Items for APSC Discussion

Mayor Eddy, Deputy Mayor Smith and CAO Turner have been attending the Annapolis Partnership Steering Committee meetings for the past number of years. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 27/28, and Mayor Eddy asked Committee members for items they want brought to the table. It was suggested that the decision by Annapolis County to stop funding office space for police operations be discussed.

7. ANYTHING BY MEMBERS

Councillor Britney suggested that staff conduct some groundwork on the bus shelter such as suppliers, contacts for available funding and specifications from King Transit.

Deputy Mayor Smith informed Committee the Middleton and Areas Business Association meeting will take place on May 20, 2015 at 6:30 pm at Subway.

Mayor Eddy informed Committee that the next Budget Meeting will be on May 25, 2015.

8. ADJOURNMENT

150519.04: It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m. Motion carried.


MAYOR


RECORDING SECRETARY