

A regular monthly meeting of Middleton Town Council was held at the Town Hall on Monday, March 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; Director of Finance, Marianne Daine; and Director of Recreation, Jennifer Coolen.

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 7:25 p.m.

### **10.03.01 CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

There were no changes made to the agenda.

### **10.03.02 MINUTES**

It was **moved by Britney, seconded by Boates that the minutes of the regular Council meeting of February 1, 2010 be approved as circulated. The motion was carried.**

### **10.03.03 PRESENTATIONS BY PUBLIC**

#### **.01 Ambassador Program – Judy Marshall**

Mayor Eddy welcomed Judy Marshall, Coordinator of the Ambassador Committee for the Town of Bridgetown, and Jessica Shields, the Town's current Ambassador, noting that Council had expressed an interest in the program and requested a presentation.

Mrs. Marshall explained that, despite the effort put into acquiring a princess candidate in 2007, the Town of Bridgetown was unable to find a representative.

She explained that one of the problems was the availability of the student, usually a person in university/college, to attend events throughout the year. She noted that the Ambassador Program is aimed at Grade 12 students, clarifying that the ambassador is chosen in the Grade 11 year and serves during their Grade 12 year.

Mrs. Marshall advised that the criteria for a candidate is someone of good character, responsible, willing to give of their time, in Grade 12 the year in which they are selected, and available throughout this year and the summer following. She also noted that the ambassador is required to undertake a project, attend Government events with the Mayor, and make a presentation to Town Council. She also advised that the program is open to both male and female students.

Mrs. Marshall advised that a presentation was made to the Grade 11 students at the High School, noting that the program was well received and there seemed to be more interest in this type of program. She advised that candidates are required to present their projects to the Chamber of Commerce and, when the selection process is complete, the Ambassador is chosen at the annual Ciderfest celebrations.

Mrs. Marshall advised that funding for the Ambassador is a \$500 scholarship from the Chamber of Commerce and a \$1,000 scholarship from the Town of Bridgetown.

Mrs. Marshall noted that there has been very good feedback on this program.

Jessica Shields addressed the Council and explained what being the Town's Ambassador has entailed, noting that she feels it is a great learning experience. Ms. Shields listed some of the events she attended or in which she participated. She also explained her project, enhancing Bridgetown's Park.

Ms. Shields advised that she feels being Bridgetown's Ambassador has improved her confidence and given her skills in dealing with people and being in public. She also noted that she feels the \$1,500 in scholarships is more beneficial than funding received for the princess program, where

monies generally go toward a wardrobe. Ms. Shields stated that she feels the ambassador is a great program and that she was honoured to be the Town's representative.

There was a question and answer session covering such areas as the selection process; the committee makeup, which Mrs. Marshall clarified is three citizens- at-large from the community; involvement in Apple Blossom; funding for the chosen ambassador's project; and the area in which a candidate must reside.

Mrs. Marshall thanked the Council for the opportunity to present and explain the program.

Mayor Eddy thanked Mrs. Marshall and Ms. Shields for their information.

Jennifer Coolen questioned the decision of Council on the ambassador program.

Mayor Eddy advised that the Council needs time to absorb tonight's presentation and perhaps this would be on the next Committee agenda for discussion and a decision.

The Director of Recreation advised that the CAO requested that she attend tonight's meeting, as Council would be making a decision on participation in the Apple Blossom Festival or adoption of the ambassador program. She noted that representatives of the Apple Blossom Festival have requested verification on the Town's participation, noting that a number of events need confirmation to take place in Middleton.

On question from Councillor Britney, on whether or not the Town has a princess, Ms. Coolen advised that, because the Town was not committed, it has not been advertised. She also noted that she has some concerns with the time frame to get an ambassador program up and running, noting that the process would include identifying criteria, developing the selection process, organizing a committee, and acquiring candidate(s).

Mayor Eddy advised that this item requires discussion and suggested that it be moved to the end of the agenda under Anything by Members.

Mayor Eddy requested that the Solicitor's report be moved to this point in the meeting.

#### **10.03.06      REPORTS**

##### **.04 Solicitor**

Solicitor Gillis advised that the dates and times have been set for the NS Utility and Review Board public hearing concerning Fundy Spray Motel Ltd. appealing the refusal of the Development Officer to grant a development permit.

On question from Councillor Smith concerning the land expropriation for the new sewage treatment plant project, the Solicitor advised that all is in place for construction to begin. The Solicitor advised that the Town's paperwork is all in order, however, the landowners have not responded.

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

#### **10.03.03      PRESENTATIONS BY PUBLIC**

##### **.02 Annapolis Digby Economic Development Agency – Joy O'Neil**

Joy O'Neil, Annapolis Digby Economic Development Agency (ADED A), was in attendance to make a presentation to Council on the review of the area done by a consultant hired by ADED A to find suggestions to get tourists to come to the area and spend time and money here.

Mayor Eddy questioned whether Ms. O'Neil was going to make a presentation on ADED A's draft Business Plan for 2010, noting that it had been copied to Councillors and it was their understanding that the presentation was on the plan.

Ms. O'Neil advised that she would not be making a presentation on the Business Plan.

Ms. O'Neil advised that, although the consultant did not visit the Middleton area, she has done an assessment on his review and has created an education piece so that the Council and businesses could benefit from his suggestions.

Ms. O'Neil made comments on signage and the bylaws affecting same, the need for a 24/7 kiosk, and explained the initiatives undertaken by other Town's, based on the consultants recommendations.

On question from Councillor Britney, Ms. O'Neil advised that the consultant's full presentation is available to businesses.

Ms. O'Neil advised that ADEDA would like Council to work with the Middleton and Area Business Association (MABA) through an awards and recognition program, noting that workshops on beautification could be held.

Addressing the signage bylaws, Deputy Mayor Errington advised that the Middleton and Area Business Association would like to have access to information from the Annapolis District Planning Commission concerning signage bylaws, as well as the consultant's presentation.

Ms. O'Neil noted that the Town of Digby is supplying funding for food and a venue, to encourage the businesses, and the Deputy Mayor noted that perhaps a member of MABA should approach Council on this.

There were some difficulties with Ms. O'Neil's power point presentation and she advised that she would e-mail a link to the consultant's presentation and encouraged Council to read it.

Mayor Eddy thanked Ms. O'Neil for her presentation.

#### **10.03.04 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

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

#### **10.03.05 NEW BUSINESS**

##### **ACTION ITEMS**

- .01 Valley Waste Resource Management
  - Approval of Draft Operating and Capital Budgets
  - Approval to Guarantee Borrowing Share

It was **moved by Errington, seconded by Boates that, on recommendation from the Committee of the Whole, the Council approve the January 20, 2010 draft Operating budget for the Valley Region Solid Waste-Resource Management Authority of \$8,367,738 and the January 20, 2010 draft Capital budget for Valley Region Solid Waste Resource Management Authority of \$1,664,960, with the Town's share being \$119,025 for 2010/11. The motion was carried.**

It was **moved by Smith, seconded by Britney that, on recommendation from the Committee of the Whole, the Council approve to guarantee the Town of Middleton's share of the Valley Waste borrowing in the amount of \$33,965.18. The motion was carried.**

- .02 Water Accounts – Write-offs

It was **moved by Boates, seconded by Britney that, on recommendation from the Committee of the Whole, the Council approve the write off of uncollectible water receivables in the amount of \$1,866.13. The motion was carried.**

- .03 Library Door System Cost

It was **moved by Errington, seconded by Smith that, on recommendation from the Committee of the Whole, the Council approve that the additional cost of the Library doors,**

**in the amount of \$3,194.90, be paid from the Recreation Capital Reserve Fund. The motion was carried.**

**.04 Insurance Renewal – March 31/10 to March 31/11**

**It was moved by Boates, seconded by Smith that, on recommendation from the Committee of the Whole, the Council approve that the Town tender for insurance for year 2011/2012 for a five-year period. The motion was carried.**

**.05 Bills**

**It was moved by Britney, seconded by Boates that the Council approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$338,324.93. The motion was carried.**

**.06 Appointment of Citizen-at-large – Annapolis County Mental Health**

**It was moved by Britney, seconded by Smith that the Council approve the appointment of Gary Rivers as the Town's Citizen-at-large representative on the Annapolis County Mental Health Association. The motion was carried.**

**INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

There were no items for information or discussion for this meeting.

**10.03.06 REPORTS**

**.01 Committee of the Whole**

All items from the Committee of the Whole meeting of February 15, 2010 have been dealt with earlier in the meeting.

**.02 Mayor**

Mayor Eddy tabled his report for the month of February. 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 February 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 January has been circulated to all Council members.

Councillor Smith questioned whether the issue of foot patrols has been brought to the attention of the RCMP. Councillor Brown advised that the Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for March 9<sup>th</sup> and he will bring this up at the meeting.

**10.03.07 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.

**10.03.08 ANYTHING BY MEMBERS**

Councillor Britney referenced the information forwarded from the CAO concerning another grant application, and stated that he feels the Town needs a better process to review and grant or deny applications for funding submitted to the Town. The Councillor advised that he will e-mail Councillors with his ideas/suggestions.

Councillor Brown noted that, when the budget is done this year, there should be a fair amount allotted to patching and paving. The Councillor advised that he feels quite a number of areas in Town are in need of repair.

Mayor Eddy noted that only 65% of last year's paving budget was spent and agreed there is a great need for paving and patching this year. The Mayor requested that this item be passed on to the CAO for investigation.

The Mayor advised that he attended the meeting held concerning the possible closure of Crown Prosecutor offices in western Nova Scotia. He noted that the letter sent to the Minister of Justice addressing the concerns of the area has been copied to Council.

Mayor Eddy broached the subject of Town ambassador versus Town princess programs, noting that he is displeased that the CAO had not informed Council that a decision was to be made at this meeting and that there was no item on the agenda to indicate same.

The Director of Recreation advised that she was told by the CAO that, after the ambassador presentation was made this evening, the Council would then have all the information needed and would make a decision.

Councillor Brown commented that the Town has a problem finding a representative every year.

Councillor Britney stated that he prefers an ambassador representative, versus a princess, and that the Town should seriously pursue the program.

Deputy Mayor Errington stated that she would like the ambassador program.

On question from Mayor Eddy as to whether anyone has volunteered as a coordinator, the Director of Finance advised that a person, who is considering offering to be the coordinator, with the idea in mind that her daughter would be the princess representing Middleton, has spoken with the CAO.

There was a discussion on various aspects of an ambassador and/or a princess representative.

The Director of Recreation advised that the Apple Blossom Festival Committee is requesting an official letter from Council if the decision is to not participate in the Apple Blossom Festival this year.

**It was moved by Britney, seconded by Errington that a letter be sent to the Apple Blossom Festival Committee advising that the Town will not be participating this year and that the possibility of an ambassador program for the Town be investigated. The motion was carried.**

There being no further business, it was **moved by Brown, seconded by Smith that the Council adjourn at 8:20 p.m. The motion was carried.**

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MAYOR

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SECRETARY