

A regular monthly meeting of the Committee of the Whole of Middleton Town Council was held at the Town Hall on Monday, June 18, 2012, starting at 7:08 p.m.

PRESENT

Chairing the meeting, Mayor Calvin Eddy; Deputy Mayor Vera Errington; Councillors Dan Smith, Gail Smith, Marc Britney and Melinda den Haan; Chief Administrative Officer, Clayton MacMurtry; Director of Finance, Marianne Daine; and Recording Secretary, Sharon McAuley.

Also in attendance were Middleton Police Advisory Board members, Gordon Rodgers and John Himmelman; RCMP Cst. David Fairfax; Annapolis County Police Advisory Board Vice-Chair, Dane Berringer; and Fred Sanford of NS Justice.

Regrets: Councillor Darren Boates and George Lahey, NS Department of Justice.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Eddy called the meeting to order at 7: 08 p.m.

2. PRESENTATIONS**2.1 NS Department of Justice – Fred Sanford**

Fred Sanford, Director of Policing Services with the NS Department of Justice stated that:

- Policing is the responsibility of the municipal units, through their own municipal police force, by entering into a contract with the provincial police force (RCMP), or partnering with another municipal unit who has a police force (i.e. Kentville or Annapolis Royal).
- The Province has just entered into a new twenty-year agreement with the RCMP.
- Middleton is one of the municipalities that is party to the agreement where the Province pays thirty percent of the cost of policing and the Town pays seventy percent. Any new municipalities entering the agreement, with populations over five thousand people, are now responsible for one hundred percent of the policing costs.
- Police and fire protection are becoming very expensive costs to municipal units, amounting to thirty percent of a municipality's budget.
- Most municipalities with their own police force are paying a much higher cost for the policing service, when you take into account vehicles, police stations, costs to conduct major investigations, etc.
- It is up to the Town to decide whether they want to continue with the current way or explore having their own police force.
- Many municipalities are going through policing reviews, to determine if there are efficiencies that can reduce the cost of policing.
- The cost to the Town is approximately \$134,000 per officer, for a total of approximately \$500,000 per year. This amount covers everything from vehicle repairs to liability. The Town is invoiced quarterly; if the costs are exceeded, the Province covers the difference.
- The process for a police review is for the Town to form a committee to review different proposals with the NS Department of Justice as part of the process. As the proposals are

making their way through the community review process, they are also making their way through the Department of Justice process with the review normally taking about twelve to fourteen months.

- It is more demanding to research and develop a police force. The Town would have to hire a chief and officers, establish lock-up facilities, appoint a police commission, etc. Regulations for lock-ups and supervision are quite stringent, requiring fire alarms and constant monitoring by closed-circuit TV. New guidelines are coming out.

D. Berringer stated that the Bridgetown detachment have holding cells which are non-functioning and have been non-functioning for three years. People have to be transported to Kingston or Digby and that involves police officers driving two hours and not being available in their community. F. Sanford advised D. Berringer to send him an email outlining the problem and he will look into it.

Another issue is that when an RCMP officer is transferred, it may take up to one year to have the officer replaced. F. Sanford stated that a lot is dictated by federal or national policy and that it has improved in the last few years. The RCMP ensures that the hours are being covered.

D. Berringer stated that a joint letter from the Middleton and Annapolis County Police Advisory Boards is being sent, asking if anything can be done regarding how long officers spend waiting for cases to be called at court. F. Sanford stated that there have been improvements. They are looking at ways to improve the system, including a method to electronically determine when an officer is required to testify and changes to the traffic ticket system which take up a good portion of the time for police officers.

On question from Councillor D. Smith, F. Sanford advised that police reviews are used if a municipality is considering changing their method of service delivery or just want to review it, to either increase or decrease it or to look for efficiencies. A police review would require the agreement of all parties through a motion passed by all Councils.

Councillor Britney stated that the Town has been looking for ways to decrease crime and increase public safety without adding police officers, including surveillance cameras and speed signs. He questioned if the use of an auxiliary police force would increase visibility, as that is of great concern. F. Sanford advised that there are one hundred and ten auxiliary officers province wide and that there has been an increase in the use of community constables. They are about half the cost of an RCMP officer and take over some of the duties, which frees up the police officers to do policing. If the Town, instead of hiring more officers, would like to hire auxiliary officers, they should have a conversation with the local RCMP. If the issue cannot be resolved on the local level, it should be passed on to F. Sanford.

The first consideration should be to request, through F. Sanford, information from the planning section of the RCMP on such things as calls, where officers are spending their time, etc.

F. Sanford and J. Himmelman left the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

The next meeting of the Middleton Police Advisory Board is September 11, 2012, and the topic of auxiliary police officers will be discussed.

3. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

CAO MacMurtry advised the Committee that there were no changes or additions to the agenda.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor Britney, seconded by Councillor den Haan, that the minutes of the regular Committee of the Whole meeting of May 22, 2012, be approved as circulated. Motion carried.

D. Berringer and Cst. D. Fairfax left the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

5. ACTION ITEMS**5.1 Appointment – Middleton Fire Department**

It was moved by Councillor Britney, seconded by Deputy Mayor Errington, on recommendation of the membership of the Middleton Fire Department, that Committee of the Whole recommends to Council, that Council approve the appointment of John Paul Reyes as a member of the Middleton Fire Department. Motion carried.

5.2 Temporary Borrowing Resolution – Town General Operations

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Errington, seconded by Councillor den Haan, that Committee of the Whole recommends to Council, that Council approve a temporary borrowing resolution for the Town General Operations for the fiscal year 2012/13, in the amount of \$1,353,552.01. Motion carried.

5.3 Soldiers' Memorial Hospital ER Closures

Committee discussed the closures of the ER at Soldiers' Memorial Hospital (SMH) and reviewed the proposed letter to Minister of Health and Wellness. Committee decided that:

- CAO MacMurtry will contact the municipal units in the catchment area, share the letter with them, and ask them to send a similar letter to Minister Wilson;
- the letter will be sent to the Spectator and Chronicle Herald;
- CAO MacMurtry will contact Janet Knox at Annapolis Valley District Health Authority, to determine if there are monies for additional doctors;
- as part of a public campaign, the Town will send the letter to residents with the next water bill, so that residents can also sign the letter and mail it to the Minister or drop it off to Town hall to have it mailed.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Errington, seconded by Councillor D. Smith, that Committee of the Whole recommends to Council, that Council forward the letter to the Minister of Health and Wellness, other municipalities, the media and to the residents of Middleton. Motion carried.

6. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**6.1 Management Reports**

The Management Reports were circulated to all Committee members.

6.2 Planning Services Report

The Planning Services Report was circulated to all Committee members.

6.3 Protected Water Area Regulations Enforcement

CAO MacMurtry advised Committee:

- of the letter from Nova Scotia Environment, advising that protection of Protected Water Areas is being downloaded from the province to the municipalities;
- of the options to enforce Protected Water Area regulations;
- that he is investigating how to meet the requirement for a Special Constable, including the training required and partnering with other municipalities;
- that he is monitoring the reaction from the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities and other municipalities.

6.4 Update on Surveillance Cameras

CAO MacMurtry advised Committee that D. Bryant had researched surveillance cameras and prepared a report that states:

- cameras of the same intensity as Hantsport will cost \$112,000, with a charge of \$575.00 per month for network access;
- this includes five high-definition (HD) cameras and two non-HD cameras (Rotary Park and the pool);
- the cameras for Rotary Park and the pool can be purchased this year and the remaining HD cameras added next year.

CAO MacMurtry will circulate D. Bryant's report to Committee and ask him to make presentation at the July Council meeting.

7. ANYTHING BY MEMBERS

On question from Councillor Britney, CAO MacMurtry advised Committee that the speed sign on Oakland Drive has been unplugged, the Town is having electrical plugs installed on Main Street, and the signs will be moved once the plugs are installed.

Councillor den Haan advised Committee that:

- the organization of the Heart of the Valley Festival (HOVF) is proceeding;
- tickets for Yuk Yuks are selling well, are \$25, and will be sold at the Capitol Pub and Grill and other locations;
- all posters and brochures have been distributed;
- the HOVF Committee is reviewing the use of barrels vs. pegs for the anchoring of the tent.

On question from Councillor D. Smith, CAO MacMurtry advised Committee that the RCMP is still investigating the theft of the computers from the Visitor Information Centre (VIC). The computers have been replaced and procedures changed, to ensure valuables at the VIC are secure.

Deputy Mayor Errington advised Committee that the Car Show was a success, with many people coming from outside the area, including Yarmouth, Bedford, Halifax, Mahone Bay and Moncton, New Brunswick. Everyone had a good time and the shops in Town seemed to be doing well.

CAO MacMurtry will send a letter to the owner of the former pizza restaurant on Commercial Street regarding the newspaper covering the windows.

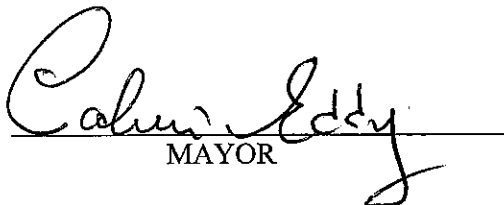
Councillor G. Smith advised Committee that:

- she had attended the Serenade in the Park;
- there was a good turnout;
- people were commenting that they had a good time;
- the fundraising target has now been met.

Mayor Eddy advised Committee that he had been approached by a local resident about having "Concerts in the Park" on Sunday evenings, as there are many bands in the area that would welcome being able to play. Committee suggested that the Director of Recreation and Community Services may be able to provide support to a group that coordinates the "Concerts in the Park" and research how the Town of Digby organizes their summer concert series.

8. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councillor D. Smith, seconded by Councillor M. Britney, that the Committee adjourn at 8:56 p.m. Motion carried.


MAYOR


RECORDING SECRETARY