

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

JANUARY 13, 2014

Location: Council Chambers, Municipal Office

Present: Warden S. Sampson, Deputy Warden G. Johnson
Councillor V. David, Councillor R. Samson,
Councillor A. Martell, Councillor S. McNamara,
Councillor B. Marchand, Councillor G. Boucher,
Councillor S. MacNeil

Warden Sampson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Items Added to the Agenda

There were no items added to the agenda.

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Review of Minutes: December 9, 2013

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor Samson that the minutes of December 9, 2013 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Presentations:

Department of Tourism (Jeff Stanley) re: Update

Warden Sampson welcomed Mr. Jeff Stanley and Ms. Robyn Mombourquette to the meeting.

Mr. Stanley and Ms. Mombourquette gave a presentation and the following points were brought forth:

- On November 18th Warden Sampson and Jeff Stanley presented the Tourism Strategy to the Cape Breton Regional Municipality (CBRM);
- Following the presentation, a letter of support was received from CBRM which has contributed greatly to potential funding;
- Spatial Planning and Tourism Strategy, with associated costs, were presented to the Federal Minister;

- While in Ottawa, for CB Day in Ottawa, a meeting took place between Mr. Stanley, Warden Sampson, the CAO and the minister in charge of Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation;
- The Ottawa trip focused a lot on Tourism;
- The Richmond Tourism Strategy has gained a lot of notoriety around the province;
- In December 2013 an official application was made to ECBC under the ICF program and we are awaiting approval;
- ECBC is actively following up since the application was made;
- Warden Sampson received correspondence from Simon D'Entremont, minister for the NS Department of Economic & Rural Development and Tourism, acknowledging our hard work and receipt of our application;
- A meeting is scheduled for January 29th with Chip Bird, Parks Canada, to draft the lease agreement for the Parks Canada project in St. Peter's, conditional on receiving funding approval;
- It's important to build capacity and work with local operators and to keep the community engaged;
- The Tourism Workshop Series will be rolled out over the winter to inspire, educate and provide important contacts to the groups;
- Five workshops will be held, one per month;
- There has been a great response to the workshops;
- A decision is required from Council regarding the fate of Burnt Island and to explore potential uses;
- Burnt Island will be part of the budgeting process for 2014;

Warden Sampson

a) Council Priorities

Warden Sampson noted the importance of Council priorities and continuing to work towards them.

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- Quarterly Council is important;
- It is imperative that these opportunities are discussed in a non-rushed environment;
- An exercise which takes place away, without time constraints, would be beneficial;
- There is a need to continue to focus on the strategic plan;

Warden Sampson noted that a venue and date would be confirmed for a Council Priority Working Session and that the information collected would be communicated to Councillors.

b) Unsightly Premises

Warden Sampson provided a copy of the “Dangerous and Unsightly Premises Sections of the Municipal Government Act” (copy attached).

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- Requests to deal with “Dangerous and Unsightly” premises have been increasing;
- Need to be careful of the term “unsightly”;
- There have been complaints regarding neighbors lawns’ not being cut;
- The Planning Advisory Committee should review complaints;
- This section of the MGA represents what Council “can” do;
- It would be beneficial to have an educational session with the Planning Commission regarding this issue as it relates to Richmond County.

It was a consensus of the Committee that a meeting be scheduled for the Planning Advisory Committee to review the “Dangerous and Unsightly section of the Municipal Government Act and return to Council with a recommendation.

CAO:

a) 2014 Boundary Review

The CAO noted that a newsletter had been received from Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations regarding the 2014 Municipal Electoral Boundary Review Process.

He also noted the following:

- 2012 and 2008 Municipal Voters Statistics were provided for review and comparison;
- There needs to be public consultations regarding the boundary review;
- An Application needs to be completed by the fall of 2015;
- Some municipalities have hired an external consultant;
- Other municipal units have noted that Councillors are not present during public consultations;

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- Councillors should be permitted to be present at the public consultations;
- The Municipality should acquire the services of an external consultant who could look at the options and issues and prepare a report;
- Municipal Advisors will only provide advice;
- The Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board has the ability to accept or reject the application;

- Conducting public consultations would be the responsibility of a consultant;
- A consultation is needed in every district of the Municipality;
- Downsizing is inevitable;
- There would be additional costs to downsizing;

Moved by Councillor David, seconded by Deputy Warden Johnson that the Committee recommend to Council that the Municipality move forward in advertising a “Request for Proposal” in order to acquire the services of an external consultant regarding the 2014 Municipal Boundary Review process. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

For Information Purposes

- a) St. John the Baptist Parish Council re: Thank You;
- b) NSCC Board of Governors re: 2013 Report to the Community;

Action Required

- a) Nova Scotia Agriculture (Office of the Minister) re: Designation under the Fences and Detention of Stray Livestock Act;

The CAO noted that correspondence had been received from the Nova Scotia Agriculture (Office of the Minister) regarding the Designation under the Fences and Detention of Stray Livestock Act.

The CAO noted that he would acquire more information regarding Designation under the Fences and Detention of Stray Livestock Act and report back to Council.

It was a consensus of the Committee that the Designation under the Fences and Detention of Stray Livestock Act be tabled to Regular Council on January 27, 2014.

- b) Shannon Mury re: Grant Requests
 - South Mountain Community Association, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #7 (\$517.33)

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that the Committee recommend to Council to approve the following grant request:

- \$517.33 to the South Mountain Community Association, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #7

Approval of Cheques Issued: November, 2013

Councillor David declared a conflict due to cheques written to his business and removed himself from discussions.

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Deputy Warden Johnson that the list of cheques issued for November, 2013 in the amount of \$701,237.03 be approved. Motion carried.

Review of Cheques Issued: December, 2013

For information purposes.

Items Added to the Agenda

There were no items added to the agenda.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

There were no questions from the gallery.

In-Camera

There was no In-Camera Session.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor David, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

MINUTES RECORDED BY:

MUNICIPAL CLERK:

CHAIRPERSON

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER