

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

MAY 12, 2014

Location: Council Chambers, Municipal Office

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

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

Items Added to the Agenda

There was one item previously added to the agenda by Councillor MacNeil regarding a grant request.

Deputy Warden Johnson requested and received unanimous consent to add three grant requests to the agenda.

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the agenda be approved with the items added. Motion carried.

Review of Minutes:

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Martell that the minutes of April 22, 2014 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

CAO

(a) Budget Review

The CAO noted the following:

- There would be no tax increase for the 2014-15 fiscal year;
- Information regarding an agreement with Anadarko may result in the shortfall being reduced;
- All testing for the St. Peter's School came back with good results; the sale of this property will generate some revenue;
- There were a few requests that need to be addressed as they are not included in the budget;

- There would be no changes in programs and services.

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- A five year capital budget will be presented at the Committee of the Whole Meeting in June; this is required for the Gas Tax Funding;
- Tendering the backhoe, at the waste management facility;
- The budget shortfall has been reduced to \$88,062;
- Grants in Lieu of Taxes finished last year, therefore extra revenue of \$275,000 was received by the County;
- Increased revenue from the Province was also received;
- The entire budget is up approximately \$20,000 from previous year; this amount has been managed through expenditure cuts;
- The CFO explained the requirements for Gas Tax Funding and Grants in Lieu supplied to Municipal Units; the CFO also provided an explanation for the amount of moneys required to pay for education by each County;
- Fire Protection charges for the Village of St. Peter's is still an ongoing issue being raised by a new group of residents;
- The proposal from the Richmond County Literacy Network is a one-time offer that should be considered;
- The request for funding from the Mi' kmaq Indian Summer Games should be considered
- An updated budget will be provided at the May Council meeting for approval.

Moved by Councillor David, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council that the funding request, submitted by the Richmond County Literacy Network for a Richmond County Outreach Worker, in the amount of \$20,000, be approved. (Ayes: 6; Nays: 3 Councillor Martell, Councillor Samson, Councillor Beaton) Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, seconded by Councillor David that the Committee recommend to Council that the funding request by Chapel Island First Nation for the Mi' kmaq Indian Summer Games, in the amount of \$10,000, be approved. Motion carried.

Warden re: Update

Warden Sampson provided an update on a recent trip that took place to Houston and San Antonio, Texas and noted the following:

- The CAO, Warden and Director of Tourism and Economic Development travelled to Houston as part of the Nova Scotia Energy Team;
- A discussion with the Nova Scotia Minister of Energy took place to discuss potential in the Strait Area;

- Discussions surrounding new initiatives for NuStar also took place and how Richmond County could be part of the support team;
- There were discussions surrounding land within with Point Tupper area that could potentially be used if oil wells were found offshore; if such a project were to commence it would be larger than Hibernia.

Correspondence:

For Information Purposes

- a) Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation re: Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA);
- b) Municipality of the County of Victoria re: Congratulations;
- c) Ecole Beau-Port re: Bursaries/Awards;
- d) Town of Port Hawkesbury re: Independent examination of the bridges/structures on the CBNS rail line

Action Required

- a) Strait of Canso Superport Corporation Limited re: Master Development Plan;

The CAO noted the following:

- Following the launch of the Strait of Canso Superport Master Development Plan in January 2011, the Executive Summary of the Master Plan was placed on the Superport Website;
- Recent requests for a copy of the Master Plan have caused the Board of Directors to consider a broader circulation of the complete document;
- The Municipality of the County of Richmond provided significant funding with this initiative therefore the Board felt the need to obtain consent for the broader release of the full document.

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, seconded by Councillor McNamara that a letter of support be provided to the Strait of Canso Superport for the broader release of the full Master Plan Document; however noting that Richmond County does not support a port authority. Motion carried.

- b) Kevin MacEachern re: West Bay Post Office Saturday Closure;

For Information purposes.

- c) Nova Scotia Agriculture (Hon. Keith Colwell) re: Animal Cruelty for Companion Animals;

The CAO noted that information would be obtained regarding training for the municipal Animal Control Officer on the Standards of Care for Companion Animals.

- d) Shannon Mury re: Grant Requests

The CAO noted that the three grant requests added by Deputy Warden Johnson in the items added would be included with other grant requests.

Councillor David requested that the Administration Portuaire de Petit de Grat grant request, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #1 in the amount of \$20,000 be tabled.

- Isle Madame Boat Club, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #1 (\$7,000);
- Strait Richmond Minor Hockey, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #6 (\$200);
- Richmond Figure Skating, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #6 (\$500);
- Administration Portuaire de Petit de Grat, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #1 (\$20,000);
- St. Louis Parish – Glen Sampson Room, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #6 (\$25,000);
- St. Louis Parish Baraco Days Festival Committee, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #6 (\$1,000);
- St. Louis Parish Canada Days Committee, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #6 (\$1,000);
- West Bay United Church, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #5 (\$25,000);
- St. Peter's Community Club, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #8 (\$431.25);
- Royal Canadian Legion Branch 47 St. Peter's, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, Multiple Districts (\$9112.50).

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Martell that the Committee recommend to Council that the following grant requests be approved:

- \$7,000, Isle Madame Boat Club, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #1;
- \$200, Strait Richmond Minor Hockey, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #6;
- \$500, Richmond Figure Skating, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #6;
- \$25,000, St. Louis Parish – Glen Sampson Room, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #6;
- \$1,000, St. Louis Parish Baraco Days Festival Committee, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #6;
- \$1,000, St. Louis Parish Canada Days Committee, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #6;
- \$25,000, West Bay United Church, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #5;
- \$431.25, St. Peter’s Community Club, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #8;
- \$9,112.50, Royal Canadian Legion Branch St. Peter’s, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, Multiple Districts;
- \$330, Bonnie Brae Senior Citizens Club, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #8;
- \$9,000, L’Archeveque Wharf Preservation Society, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #10;
- \$300, Loch Side Cemetery Municipal District Activity Fund, District #10;
- \$485.44, Calvin Presbyterian Church, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #10.

Motion carried.

Approval of Cheques Issued: March 2014

Councillor David declared a conflict of interest because there were cheques written to his business and removed himself from discussion.

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the list of cheques issued for the month of March 2014 in the amount of \$1,009,892.28 be approved. Motion carried.

Review of Cheques: April 2014

For information purposes.

Items Added to the Agenda

These items have already been addressed.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

There were no questions from the gallery.

In-Camera

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor Martell that the meeting proceed to “In-Camera” session at 8:09 p.m. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor David, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the meeting reconvene to regular session at 9:07 p.m. Motion carried.

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 9:08 p.m.

MINUTES RECORDED BY:

MUNICIPAL CLERK:

CHAIRPERSON

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER