

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

OCTOBER 14, 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

Councillor McNamara requested and received unanimous consent to add an “In Camera” item to the agenda.

Warden Sampson requested and received unanimous consent to add the following items:

- a) Municipal Awareness Week
- b) Small Business Week,
- c) Fiscal Review Update Session
- d) Request from the residents of St. Peter’s.

Warden Sampson noted that item 5 (a) Review of Policy: Sale of Municipal Property would be replaced by item 7 (a) Vested Property Clerk re: Jerome Martell Request to Purchase Land as the item to be discussed “In Camera”.

Warden Sampson indicated there were previously two items added by the CAO: (i) The Port Hawkesbury By-Pass, (ii) Curbside Collection Contract 2015.

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

Review of Minutes: September 8, 2014

Moved by Councillor David, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the minutes of September 8, 2014 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Presentations

- a) Marc Dube (Port Hawkesbury Paper) re: Update

Warden Sampson welcomed Mr. Marc Dube and Mr. Phonsie Farrell to the meeting.

Mr. Dube and Mr. Farrell gave a power point presentation and provided an overview of the forestry operation and the upcoming 5 year plan for the mill. The following points were brought forward:

- There are 522,000 hectares of licensed crown land within Cape Breton, Guysborough and Antigonish counties;
- 30,319 of this is in Richmond County;
- There are a lot of restrictions with crown land;
- Provincial target for protected lands is 12% and in Richmond County 24% is protected;
- 21 Harvest operations are scheduled for Richmond County in 2014/2015
- Cut has increased in the last 10 years in Richmond County;
- When the cut slows down, spacing slows down;
- If interested in leasing private land there is a leasing program offered across Port Hawkesbury Paper Forest and the contact person is Troy Jessome (902)623-1397;
- 2,000 trees are planted a day/per person;
- The cycle is approximately 40 years for seedling to a mature tree with commercial thinning at 25 years;
- It is predicted that the spruce budworm is approximately 5 years away from Nova Scotia and is currently killing trees in Quebec;
- New Brunswick has an experimental spraying program;
- There is limited value after the budworm;
- In order to be sustainable, there needs to be a strong forestry side;
- Concentration is mostly on softwood;
- Port Hawkesbury paper has achieved all its goals to date;
- There have been no lost time accidents in the past 2 years and mill absenteeism is at 2.3%. Industry average is 8%;
- These numbers are a good indication of employee commitment;
- PH Paper has the best super calendar paper in the world;
- A goal is to be the most energy efficient TMP in the world;
- 240 tons has been harvested from private land;
- Miqkmaq partnership will help to create employment;
- Making more use of the wharf and its potential as a huge economic driver for the area;

- The sugar project is 3 years out and the mill is currently not competitive in this area;

A discussion period ensued and the following points were brought forth:

- The mill has a very bright future from a sustainability point of view;
- Kudos to the management team;
- Issues of seniors in the county being unable to get firewood has been reflected back to the Biomass;
- The mill has 60,000 tons of wood in the yard and will sell at cost in order to alleviate this issue with firewood shortage for residents.

CAO re:

- a) Review of Policy: Sale of Municipal Property (Attached as Appendix “A”) (To be discussed “In Camera”)

It was a consensus of the Committee that a committee be formed of Council and Staff to review the “Sale of Municipal Property” policy.

- b) Petit de Grat Harbour Authority Funding Request

Moved by Councillor David, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council that the funding request from the Petit de Grat Harbour Authority, for an additional \$25,000, be approved. Motion carried.

- c) Municipal Records Management Policy - Destruction of Audio Tapes (Attached as Appendix “B”)

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the Committee recommend to Council that audio recordings from Council and Committee meetings, prior to 2005, be destroyed in the proper manner and at the discretion and approval of the Chief Administrative Officer. Motion carried.

- d) Isle Madame Daycare

The CAO noted that correspondence had been received from the Isle Madame Early Childhood Education Centre requesting an additional \$15,000 to cover the shortfall in funds for materials required to operate. (List of materials attached).

Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded by Councillor David that the Committee recommend to Council that the request for one time funding, in the amount of \$15,000, to

cover additional costs for the Isle Madame Early Childhood Education Centre be approved. Motion carried.

Warden Sampson re:

Warden Sampson indicated that the Final Report for the 2014 Boundary Review had been circulated to Councillors for review. He also indicated that the consultant, John Heseltine, would be at Regular Council on October 27th, 2014 to do a presentation regarding the results and answer any questions from Council.

Warden Sampson noted that there were two recommendations at the end of the report and Council would be asked to prioritize their recommendations so that a decision may be submitted to the Utility and Review Board by December 31, 2014.

Moved by Councillor Marchand, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council that a decision and recommendation by Council to the Utility and Review Board be postponed until further review of the report. Motion defeated.

Correspondence:

For Information Purposes

There was no correspondence for information purposes.

Action Required

a) Vested Property Clerk re : Jerome Martell Request to Purchase Land

Item moved to "In Camera" session.

b) Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (Capital Programs) re : Three Year Cost Share Agreements for Subdivision Streets;

The CAO indicated that correspondence had been received from the Department of Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal regarding the Three Year Cost Share Agreement for Subdivision Streets. The following points were noted :

- Current agreement for the paving of subdivision streets expires March 31, 2015 and in order to continue a new agreement must be signed;
- Signing the agreement in no way commits the Municipality to the cost-sharing of the paving of any subdivision roads, unless an approved list is accepted in any fiscal year of the agreement;

- Not having a signed agreement on file would prevent the Municipality from requesting any subdivision paving under this program for the upcoming three fiscal years.

Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the Committee recommend to Council that the Municipality enter into a three year cost share agreement for subdivision streets in Richmond County. Motion defeated.

c) Shannon Mury re : Grant Requests

- Dr. Kingston Memorial Community Health Centre, Municipal District Activity Fund, Multiple Districts (\$1,000);
- Branch 110 L'Ardoise Legion, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #9 (\$1,000);
- Acadiaville Community Centre Society, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #4 (\$600);
- Acadiaville Community Centre Society, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #4 (\$2,695);
- River Bourgeois Community Services Society, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #7 (\$1,800);
- River Bourgeois Community Services Society, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #7 (\$2,650);
- Little Anse Samson's Cove Social Action Centre, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #2 (\$3,674.07).

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

- Dr. Kingston Memorial Community Health Centre, Municipal District Activity Fund, Multiple Districts (\$1,000);
- Branch 110 L'Ardoise Legion, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #9 (\$1,000);
- Acadiaville Community Centre Society, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #4 (\$600);
- Acadiaville Community Centre Society, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #4 (\$2,695);
- River Bourgeois Community Services Society, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #7 (\$1,800);
- River Bourgeois Community Services Society, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #7 (\$2,650);

- Little Anse Samson's Cove Social Action Centre, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #2 (\$3,674.07).

Motion carried.

Approval of Cheques Issued:

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

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the list of cheques for the month of May 2014 in the amount of \$1,015,830.09, the month of June 2014 in the amount of \$1,158,702.48, the month of July 2014 in the amount of \$1,511,462.56 and the month of August 2014 in the amount of \$828,194.04 be approved. Motion carried.

Review of Cheques – September 2014:

For information purposes

Items Added to the Agenda

- a) Municipal Awareness Week – October 20th – 26th, 2014

Director of Recreation, Josette Marchand gave an update regarding planned events for Municipal Awareness Week. She noted that on Monday, October 20th there would be a BBQ at the Municipal Office in Arichat from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM and on Tuesday, October 21st there would be a BBQ from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the St. Peter's, Richmond Literacy Building. She also noted that on October 26th during the free public skate at the Richmond Arena from 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM there would be activities. All events will be advertised locally.

- b) Small Business Week

Warden Sampson noted that anyone interested in attending the dinner on October 21, 2014 could contact Yvonne Boudreau.

- c) Fiscal Review Report Update

Warden Sampson indicated that anyone interested in attending the Fiscal Review Report session on October 29, 2014 could contact Yvonne Boudreau.

- d) Request from the residents of St. Peter's

Warden Sampson noted that correspondence had been received from the residents of St. Peter's requesting a mutual date and time for a meeting between the residents and the Municipality.

It was the consensus of the Committee that a special meeting be set up with the residents of St. Peter's at the Municipal Building in Arichat.

CAO

(i) Port Hawkesbury By-Pass

The CAO noted that the Port Hawkesbury By-Pass is seen as an opportunity to increase the amount of traffic travelling Route #4 and could potentially result in private investment in tourism development in the coming years. He also noted that a letter of support for the By-Pass was being requested.

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor Martell that the Committee recommend to Council that a letter be sent to the Minister of Transportation in support of the construction of the Port Hawkesbury By-Pass. Motion carried.

(ii) Curbside Collection Contract 2015

The CAO indicated that the Municipality's curbside collection contracts are set to expire on December 31, 2014 and for continuity of service a tender will be issued on Wednesday, October 15, 2014 to procure services. He also indicated that a list of changes have been incorporated into the new tender document intended to improve the level of service to residents.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

There were no questions from the gallery.

In-Camera

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the meeting proceed to "In-Camera" session at 8:54 p.m. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor David, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the meeting reconvene to regular session at 9:24 p.m. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council that land, owned by the Municipality and identified as Property ID# 75190454, be sold to the adjacent property owner at the cost of the assessed value, minus any costs previously incurred by the proponent in attempting to acquire the land. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

MINUTES RECORDED BY:

CAO/MUNICIPAL CLERK:

CHAIRPERSON