

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

NOVEMBER 10, 2014

Location: Council Chambers, Municipal Office

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

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

### Items Added to the Agenda

Warden David indicated that were previously two items added to the agenda:

- 1) Correspondence - Nova Scotia Municipal Affairs re: New Federal Gas Tax Program;
- 2) Councillor Marchand re: Installation of pumping station – Louisdale

Councillor MacNeil requested and received unanimous consent to add information regarding the “Festival of Trees” to the agenda.

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

### Review of Minutes:

Moved by Deputy Warden McNamara, seconded by Councillor Martell that the minutes of October 14, 2014 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

### Presentations

- a) Jim Foulds re: Bras d’Or Lake Biosphere Reserve Association

Warden David welcomed Dr. Theresa MacNeil and Mr. Doug Begg to the meeting.

Dr. MacNeil and Mr. Begg gave a power point presentation and the following points were brought forth:

- There is significant coastline on the Bras d'Or Lakes and it is recognized as a pristine recreational area;
- The Board of Directors of the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve Association is committed to helping people in the area benefit economically from this and promote sustainable economic development and lifestyle;
- This effort has been in place for 11 years;
- The association has received international recognition (UNESCO);
- It required an extensive application to receive this designation;
- There are 20 members on the Board of Directors, 14 elected from around the lake, 6 appointed. Two Councillors previously sat on the Board;
- The association is totally voluntary;
- Bras d'Or Lakes is a tourist attraction;
- The association has a relationship with Cape Breton University with current education resource projects and curriculum development projects for Grade 4 students;
- The program is expected to begin in September 2015 and includes teacher instruction;
- Current projects include Education resource, Bras d'Or Web-based Atlas, signage, Bras d'Or Trail and display at the AGB National Historic Site;
- The Biosphere Reserve logo could be used on the branding of Richmond County;
- Logo designation is being copyrighted;
- There are trail project workshops being held in 4 or 5 locations;
- The objective is to have a continuous trail around the Bras d'Or lakes Watershed;
- The cost of 7x11 highway signs on the Trans Canada is \$11,000 each, which each sign consisting of different information;
- The Association requires help in advertising.

### Boundary Review

Warden David noted that five public consultations were held throughout the county, results were gathered from a survey and a report was completed by the consultant, Mr. John Heseltine with recommendations for Council.

The CAO indicated that the process moving forward is that a recommendation is required to be submitted to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board by December 31, 2014. He also indicated that once the recommendation is submitted, there will be a series of public meetings held in Richmond County in which the UARB will gather information, consider the recommendations from Council and the Boundary Review report recommendations and render a decision.

Moved by Deputy Warden McNamara, seconded by Councillor Boucher that a special meeting of the Committee of the Whole be held on November 21, 2014 at 6:30 PM to discuss the Boundary Review. Motion carried.

Warden David re:

a) Provincial-Municipal Fiscal Review

The CAO indicated that the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal Review was reviewed two weeks ago and all Councillors were given a copy of the report and a memo from Jason Martell. He also indicated that feedback is required by December 15, 2014, the Municipality could potentially gain a million dollars from this and he was requesting direction from Council.

Moved by Councillor Marchand, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the Director of Finance, Jason Martell review the documents from the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal Review and prepare a response to be submitted to Council on November 24, 2014 with a recommendation. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

For Information Purposes

- a) Christmas Daddies re: Annual Christmas Daddies Telethon;
- b) Teamsters Canada re: Safety of Rail Workers and the Canadian Public

Action Required

- a) Department of Municipal Affairs re : New Building Canada Fund – Small Communities Fund – Call for Applications;

The CAO indicated that the Province has initiated a call for applications for the Building Canada Fund and that the deadline is December 19, 2014 at midnight. He also indicated that Richmond has several projects on the list including West Arichat/D'Escousse wastewater, Louisdale water treatment plant, Petit de Grat and Arichat sidewalks, and French Cove water extension.

The CAO noted that the Arichat sidewalks and the French Cove water extension were not ready to be added to the application and requested direction from Council on how to proceed.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Samson that the Committee recommend to Council that all projects for Richmond County, that are ready, be submitted on the Building Canada Fund application. Motion carried.

b) Town of Port Hawkesbury re : Fire Services Agreement;

The CAO noted that currently the existing agreement provides fire protection services by the Town of Port Hawkesbury and the Municipality of Richmond at Bear Head/Point Tupper and MacIntyre Lake for both residential and industrial properties at a cost of \$25,000 per year renewed annually. He also noted that the Town of Port Hawkesbury is requesting that the amount be increased to \$270,000.

The CAO noted that he spoke with the Port Hawkesbury CAO and offered increasing current levels to \$40,000 to \$50,000.

He also indicated that if a fire occurred at industry in Point Tupper, they have their own fire protection and fire standards in place and mutual aid would respond along with other surrounding fire departments, not just Port Hawesbury.

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Martell that the Committee recommend to Council that the CAO and Warden negotiate with mutual aid directly regarding an alternate solution to fire protection services in Point Tupper versus relying on the Town of Port Hawesbury and that an application be made to the UARB to ensure that fire hydrants located in Point Tupper could not be denied access by mutual aid should they be required; AND FURTHER MOVED that the current agreement be terminated and the \$25,000 be invested in mutual aid with Louisdale, Port Hastings, Inverness and Town of Port Hawkesbury fire departments. Motion carried.

c) Chris Boudreau re : Arichat Courthouse RFEI;

The CAO noted that the Request for Expressions of Interest with respect to the sale, use or development of the Arichat Courthouse closed at 2 :00 PM on Friday, October 31, 2014 and received one submission prior to tender closing. He also noted tha the proposed development is commercial in nature and is expected to employ 12-15 people while maintaining the facade of the building as much as possible.

The Warden noted that he would acquire information from the proponent interested in the purchase of the Arichat Courthouse regarding the fate of the newer addition to the rear of the building which was not part of the original Courtouse.

Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded by Councillor Samson that the Committee recommend to Council that the Municipality enter into negotiations with the proponent interested in the purchase and development of the Courthouse, hold a public meeting and return to Council with further information before any sign off. Motion carried

d) Shannon Mury re : Grant Requests

- Bras d'Or Lakers Seniors Association, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #10 (\$650);
- Fourchu Development Association, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #10 (\$650);
- Royal Canadian Legion Branch 150, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, Multiple Districts (\$10,000);
- La Picasse Centre Communautaire Culturel, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #2 (\$5,000);
- Richmond County Early Childhood Education Centre, Municipal District Activity Fund, Multiple Districts (\$600);
- Richmond County Early Childhood Education Association, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #3 (\$1,500);
- West Bay Pastoral Charge, Municipal District Activity fund, District #5 (\$500).

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

- \$650 to Bras d'Or Lakers Seniors Association, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #10;
- \$650 to Fourchu Development Association, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #10;
- \$10,000 to Royal Canadian Legion Branch 150, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, Multiple Districts;
- \$5,000 to La Picasse Centre Communautaire Culturel, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #2;
- \$1,500 to Richmond County Early Childhood Education Association, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #3;
- \$500 to West Bay Pastoral Charge, Municipal District Activity fund, District #5.

#### Approval of Cheques Issued – September 2014:

Warden David declared a conflict due to cheques being written to his business and removed himself from discussion.

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Samson that the list of cheques issued for the month of September 2014 in the amount of \$851,786.89 be approved. Motion carried.

#### Review of Cheques – October 2014:

For Information purposes.

#### Items Added to the Agenda

- a) Correspondence - Nova Scotia Municipal Affairs re: New Federal Gas Tax Program

The CAO noted that 40% of the gas tax must go to capital projects. He also noted that the Director of Finance, Jason Martell would prepare a report for Council regarding a listing of the unused gas tax funding.

- b) Councillor Marchand re: Installation of pumping station – Louisdale

Councillor Marchand indicated that the residents of Landry Lane in Louisdale are experiencing issues with pumps and sewer backups and requested that the Director of Public Works prepare a staff report on the issue.

Moved by Councillor Marchand, seconded by Councillor Beaton that the Director of Public Works prepare a staff report on the issues with pumps and sewer backups being experienced by the residents of Landry Lane in Louisdale, and report back to Council. Motion carried.

Councillor MacNeil noted that the “Festival of Trees” was scheduled to take place on November 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and that Miss Canada International (Alyssa MacLeod), native Cape Bretoner, will be in attendance and participating in the festivities.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

Mr. Lorenzo Boudreau approached Council regarding questions related to an agenda item.

In-Camera

There was no “In Camera” session.

Adjournment

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

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

MINUTES RECORDED BY:

CAO/MUNICIPAL CLERK:

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CHAIRPERSON