

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

DECEMBER 7, 2009

Location: Council Chambers, Municipal Office

Deputy Warden MacNeil called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Items Added to the Agenda

Deputy Warden MacNeil noted that there was one item circulated earlier today regarding the Water Treatment Plant.

Moved by Councillor David, **seconded by** Councillor Marchand that the agenda be accepted as amended. Motion carried.

Review of Minutes: November 30, 2009

Councillor David indicated that he would like his nay vote recorded in the minutes regarding the contract for the Recycling and Backyard Composting Support/Waste Reduction Educator.

Councillor Boucher indicated that he would also like his nay vote recorded.

Moved by Councillor Martell, **seconded by** Councillor David that the minutes of November 30, 2009 be adopted as amended. Motion carried.

Reports:

- (a) Physician Recruitment (Visit to Western Nova Scotia)

The CAO reviewed his report on the five site visits carried out on November 12th and 13th (copy attached).

The following points were brought forth during discussions:

- The three items that potential new doctors are looking for in setting up a practice are electronic health records, fixed costs and a mentor.

- It can only be expected for GP's to stay in a given practice for short periods of time.
- Electronic health records allow for continuity of care.
- Supplying these standards of practice requires significant political and financial commitment from local government and health authorities.
- It was noted in Annapolis Royal the role of the nurse practitioner was significant in dealing with the operations of the facility.
- There is still other sites that should be visited before initiatives are determined for Richmond.
- It was noted that in Yarmouth 40 out of 60 doctors are foreign trained.
- The ideal situation is one doctor for every 1500 residents.

Moved by Councillor David, **seconded by** Councillor Boucher that the Committee receive the Physician Recruitment Report as presented. Motion carried

(b) Deputy Warden MacNeil re: Newcomers Conference

Deputy Warden MacNeil indicated that he recently attended a one day newcomer's conference in Sydney.

The following points were brought forth during discussions:

- It was noted that the focus was on young professional immigrants.
- One presenter, who was an engineer, and whose wife was a doctor, described what was involved for a foreign trained doctor to come in to Canada and set up a practice, particularly in the smaller areas, and be successful.
- The engineer established his own consulting firm that deals with positive reflection on immigrants and ways for immigrants to grow in communities noting that a huge barrier is the community accepting their culture.
- The conference will become an annual event highlighting newcomers in the professional field.

Correspondence:

(a) GASHA re: Temporary E.R. Closure, Strait Richmond Hospital

For information.

Councillor McNamara indicated that thanks to the efforts of Councillor Sampson a temporary physician has been found to fill the vacant position at the Strait Richmond Hospital.

The current physician is undergoing a significant medical struggle.

- (b) Public Works and Government Services Canada re: PID 75201459/Charles Forest Cove.

It was noted that there are no structures on this property.

Moved by Councillor David, **seconded by** Councillor Martell that the Committee recommend to Council that the Municipality proceed with the purchase of land PID # 75201459, from Public Works and Government Services at its appraised value. Motion carried.

- (c) Cape Breton Crime stoppers Association re: Funding Request

Moved by Councillor McNamara, **seconded by** Councillor Sampson that the grant request from Cape Breton Crime Stoppers be tabled to budget deliberations. Motion carried.

- (d) Tracy Randall re: Grant Requests:

- (i) Our Lady of Assumption Parish Council – Municipal District Activity Fund, District #1;
- (ii) Isle Madame ATV Riders Association - Municipal District \$20,000 Fund, District #1, #2, #3 and #4;
- (iii) St. Louis Catholic Women’s League - Municipal District Activity Fund - \$5,000, District #6
- (iv) Early Childhood Education Association – Municipal District Activity Fund - \$5,000, District #6;
- (v) W.B. Kingston Memorial Clinic – Municipal District \$20,000 Fund, District #9

It was noted that there was an error on the memo on item (iv) and that it should read District #4 instead of District #6.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, **seconded by** Councillor Beaton that the Committee recommend to Council that the following grant requests be approved:

- Our Lady of Assumption Parish Council – Municipal District Activity Fund, District #1 in the amount of \$700;
- Isle Madame ATV Riders Association - Municipal District \$20,000 Fund, District #1, #2, #3 and #4 in the amount of \$10,000 (\$2,500 per district);
- St. Louis Catholic Women’s League - Municipal District Activity Fund -

\$5,000, District #6 in the amount of \$500;
- Early Childhood Education Association – Municipal District Activity Fund -
\$5,000, District #4 in the amount of \$100;
- W.B. Kingston Memorial Clinic – Municipal District \$20,000 Fund, District #9
in the amount of \$3,035.

Motion carried.

(e) Deputy Warden MacNeil re:

(i) Christmas Office Closure

Moved by Councillor Sampson, **seconded by** Councillor Martell that the Committee recommend to Council that the Municipal Office be closed from 12:00 noon on Thursday December 24th and re-open on Monday, January 4th, 2010 for the holidays. Motion carried.

(ii) Appointment to the Board of Directors of the Nova Scotia Firefighters School

Moved by Councillor David, **seconded by** Councillor Marchand that the Committee recommend to Council that Mr. Raymond Ferguson be appointed to the Board of Directors of the Nova Scotia Firefighters School. Motion carried.

List of Cheques Issued: November 2009

Councillor David declared a conflict of interest indicating that his business is listed as receiving cheques and removed himself from discussions.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, **seconded by** Councillor McNamara that the list of cheques issued for the month of November 2009 in the amount of \$1,010,841.69 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Items Added to the Agenda

(1) CAO re Water Treatment Plant

The CAO indicated that an interim report was received from the engineers indicating that of those proposals submitted there were two that have potential, noting that the next step is to contract with the two firms to do a pilot project to determine if the characteristics of the water will work with the proposed treatment methods.

Two companies are being chosen because they will be testing different treatment methods and once the pilot is complete then the methods can be refined and perhaps having them both involved may allow for competitive pricing.

The costs for the two pilots is in the range of \$35,000 and if the project does not proceed the costs can be billed back to the utility over time or if the project proceeds the costs will become part of the capital costs.

Moved by Councillor Marchand, **seconded by** Councillor David that the Committee recommend to Council that staff be given authority to proceed with the two pilot treatment systems as recommended by the consultants as well as proceed with the application for PCAP funding for this project. Motion carried.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

There were no questions.

Moved by Councillor David, **seconded by** Councillor Boucher that the meeting proceed “In-Camera”. Motion carried.

The “In-Camera” session was held to discuss personnel issues, a legal matter and an economic development position.

Deputy Warden MacNeil reconvened the Regular Meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, **seconded by** Councillor David that the Committee recommend to Council that the Warden and CAO be authorized to proceed with the execution of the negotiated agreement with GASHA. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Martell, **seconded by** Councillor Beaton that the Committee recommend to Council to accept the recommendation from the Council Negotiation Committee and approve a 2.9% salary increase effective January 1, 2010 and a further 2.9% salary increase effective January 1, 2011 and further moved that call-out earnings be rendered pensionable to a maximum of \$130.00 per weekend for the 104 weekends contained in the term of this agreement. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Martell, **seconded by** Councillor David that the Committee recommend to Council to accept the recommendation of the CAO and that staff be directed to move forward with the creation of the position of Communications and Economic Activities Coordinator (CEAC) and that a Committee of Council be formed to evaluate potential candidates. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor David that the Committee recommend to Council that the terms of realignment in the position of CAO, as requested by the CAO, be carried out. Motion carried.

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 8:53 p.m.

MINUTES RECORDED BY:

MUNICIPAL CLERK:

CHAIRPERSON

CAO