

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

NOVEMBER 2, 2009

Location: Council Chambers, Municipal Office

Deputy Warden MacNeil called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Items Added to the Agenda

Deputy Warden MacNeil noted that there were no items to be added to tonight's agenda.

Moved by Councillor Boucher, **seconded by** Councillor Martell that the agenda be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Review of Minutes: October 5, 2009

Moved by Councillor McNamara, **seconded by** Councillor Boucher that the minutes of October 26, 2009 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Reports:

(a) C.A.O. re:

(i) Review of Existing By-Laws

The CAO indicated that he has circulated 10 of the Municipality's by-laws that either require repeal or modernization.

The CAO reviewed each of the by-laws.

The following points were brought forth during discussions:

- Most of these by-laws are either no longer applicable or have been replaced by provincial statutes.
- These by-laws will be reviewed by the relevant departments, as well as the Solicitor.
- The Non-Smoking By-Law is somewhat of an accomplishment for Richmond, being the first Municipality in Nova Scotia to adopt such a by-law, and there is a

desire to leave this by-law on the books even though provincial legislation has since come into effect.

- It was suggested that the Non-Smoking By-Law be modernized.
- Business owners should be made aware of changes in the non-smoking by-law.

Moved by Councillor David, **seconded by** Councillor Boucher that Council direct staff to begin the process of repealing/modernizing by-laws 11, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23 and 55. Motion carried.

(ii) Private Infrastructure Policy

The CAO reviewed the draft Private Infrastructure Policy.

The following points were brought forth during discussions:

- The Municipal Engineer and CFO have been consulted and their input has been incorporated into the document.
- Once Council reviews the document it will then be sent to the Solicitor for review and refinement.
- It was indicated that the difference between a guideline and a policy is that a policy is more rigid and guidelines can be changed easier, noting that if one goes beyond the parameters of a guideline then the new parameters used would become the benchmark.
- It was noted that this policy should be adopted by January 2010.
- There is currently no budget for this fund, noting that this is a decision of Council.
- The amounts budgeted in subsequent years can vary.
- Current policy provides for projects over \$450,000.
- Maximums can be case specific and depend of the rate of payback of a project, noting that budgets can often dictate maximums.
- It was noted that there must be exceptions for economic development projects.
- To calculate economic predictions Council would have to seek outside expertise.
- Not all developments will be cost benefit tax wise and in some instances economic development perspectives will have to be examined.

- It was suggested that discussions with the development community take place after the document has been reviewed by the Solicitor.
- The public input process will be similar to that of the ICSP process where there will be public advertisement, as well as input from Council regarding specific people to contact and invite to provide input.

It was with unanimous consent of the Committee that staff be directed to proceed with the next step in the development of this policy, whereby the Solicitor will review and refine the draft policy, then it will again be reviewed by the CFO and Director of Public Works for additional input.

(iii) Approval of Physical Activity Strategy

Moved by Councillor David, **seconded by** Councillor McNamara that the Committee recommend to Council that the Physical Activity Strategy for Richmond be approved. Motion carried.

(b) Councillor Martell re: Advocacy Office

Moved by Councillor Martell, **seconded by** Councillor David that:

Whereas:

Council has received the report “Communications and Economic Coordination Officer” prepared by Mr. Dan White in consultation with the ad hoc committee of council chaired by Councilor Alvin Martell.

And Whereas:

Council wishes to actively participate in promotion of economic activities and initiatives in **Communications and Economic Activities Coordinator (CEAC)**

Richmond County and surrounding areas in cooperation with the private sector, individuals, economic development organizations and other levels of government.

And Whereas:

Council recognizes the benefit of coordinating communication activities in all aspects of County initiatives.

And Whereas:

Council recognizes the need to facilitate the maintenance and implementation of the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP).

Be it resolved that:

The CAO prepare the Terms of Reference and Job description for the position of Communications and Economic Activities Coordinator for presentation to a subsequent meeting of Committee of the Whole.

Motion carried.

Correspondence:

(a) Tracy Randall re: Grant Requests:

- (i) Isle Madame Day Care, Municipal District Activity Fund - \$5,000, Districts #2, #3, #5, #7, #9, & #10;
- (ii) St. Hyacinth C.W.L., Municipal District Activity Fund - \$5,000; District #3
- (iii) Acadiaville Community Centre Society, Municipal District Activity Fund - \$5,000; District #4;
- (iv) Acadiaville Community Centre Society, Municipal District Activity Fund - \$5,000; District #4

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

- \$600 (\$100 per district) to the Richmond County Early Childhood Education Association, Municipal District Activity Fund -\$5,000 for Districts #2, #3, #5, #7, #9, & #10
- \$250 to St. Hyacinth C.W.L., Municipal District Activity Fund - \$5,000; District #3
- \$200 to the Acadiaville Community Centre Society, Municipal District Activity Fund - \$5,000; District #4 (Children's Halloween Party);
- \$500 to the Acadiaville Community Centre Society, Municipal District Activity Fund - \$5,000; District #4 (Annual Pig Roast).

Motion carried.

(b) Mrs. Donna Boudreau re: Application for "Member at Large", Richmond Villa Board of Directors

It was noted that this was the only application received.

Moved by Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor David that the Committee recommend to Council that the application from Mrs. Donna Boudreau to serve as the "Member at Large" on the Richmond Villa Board of Directors be accepted. Motion carried.

(c) Warden Boudreau re: Article "N.S. NDP Government Cuts Heating Rebate for Lower Income Earners"

The following points were brought forth during discussions:

- This is an inherited budget.
- It was noted that the rebate in 2007 was for approximately 230 liters of fuel and this rebate, at current prices, would allow for 244.5 liters of fuel.
- In 2008 the amount was increased to \$450 because of the increase in the costs of fuel.
- It was suggested that if the costs of fuel rises significantly that the province be encouraged to provide emergency funding.

Moved by Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Martell that a letter be written to the Premier requesting that the level of funding of the heating rebate provided to lower income earners be returned to the level provided in 2008 and encourage that an emergency fund be put in place for this year if oil prices escalate. Motion carried.

(d) Isle Madame ATV Rider's Association re: Request for Financial Assistance

It was noted that the work that this group is doing is fantastic.

It was indicated that funding was being requested from the Trails budget.

Moved by Councillor Martell, **seconded by** Councillor Boucher that the request for financial assistance from the Isle Madame ATV Riders Association be tabled to budget deliberations. Motion carried.

(e) Councillor MacNeil re: PCAP Funding for French Cove, Cape George, Torus Country Lands

Moved by Warden Boudreau, **seconded by** Councillor McNamara that the Committee recommend to Council that staff be directed to pursue PCAP funding for an engineering study for the supply of water to the area of French Cove, Richmond County. Motion carried.

Items Added to the Agenda

There were no items added to the agenda.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

Mr. Lorenzo Boudreau addressed the Committee regarding the new position of Communications and Economic Activities Coordinator, the Richmond Arena and possible building incentives for residents.

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

The “In-Camera” session was held to discuss a tender, a contract and legal action.

Deputy Warden MacNeil reconvened the Regular Meeting at 9:15 p.m.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

MINUTES RECORDED BY:

MUNICIPAL CLERK:

CHAIRPERSON

CAO