

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

OCTOBER 5, 2009

Location: Council Chambers, Municipal Office

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

Items Added to the Agenda:

Deputy Warden Johnson indicated that Warden Boudreau wished to add Medical Health Professional Recruitment Committee, Biosphere Representative, Notice of Call for Election of Deputy Warden and Negotiations Committee; Councillor McNamara wished to add Water Hook-Up for Subdivided Property. Councillor McNamara also requested unanimous consent to add Share a Book Campaign.

**Moved** by Councillor MacNeil, **seconded** by Councillor Boucher that the items added be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Review of Minutes:

**Moved** by Councillor McNamara, **seconded** by Councillor Sampson that the minutes of September 28, 2009 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Staff Reports:

(a) Director of Public Works re: Update on Current Development Issues

Mr. McLean presented an update on current development issues which highlighted projects within the following areas, Wastewater Management, Drinking Water Management, Buildings, Solid Waste Management, Roads, Other. (copy attached).

The following points were brought forth during discussions:

- It was noted that there are some concerns with the costs projections; construction during the winter months will affect the overall costs, as well as location, setup, and equipment
- It was noted that all options are being explored to achieve the best project cost possible
- It was noted that an option for the Arichat lift station projects would be to amortize the project and use the available gas tax funds

- It was noted that the Chief Financial Officer should be consulted to determine the funding options available
- It was noted that in an effort to cut cost an option would be to have staff carry out engineering duties
- It was noted that the County does not have the man power required to carry out the engineering duties that are outsourced for such projects
- It was noted that the existing infrastructure should be used to the fullest capacity in order to save costs
- It was noted that all options will be explored prior to the project commencing and the community will be consulted should their contributing costs be substantially higher, prior to the project commencing
- It was noted that the lifespan of a lift station is approximately 25-30 years, and the Arichat lift station was constructed in the early 1970s
- It was noted that rising cost are happening in all municipalities
- It was noted that the tendering for the Evanston Wastewater Management project should be deferred until after the winter in order to save costs, and the community will be consulted with prior to the project commencing
- It was noted that Council should meet with staff to discuss the tendering process that is presently being used
- It was noted that the commitment for the Arichat lift station project is 2012
- it was noted that there is an issue with providing water service for Mr. Bobby Sampson's lots
- It was noted that an option to cutting costs would be to tailor the tendering process to allow local contractors to bid on projects
- It was noted that Municipal Staff have been excellent in their contribution and participation in the St. Peter's/Samsonville Water System
- It was noted that a report regarding the Arichat Courthouse should soon arrive, which will be distributed to Council for discussion
- It was noted that Staff should be directed to send an email insisting that the report on the Arichat Courthouse be provided as soon as possible
- It was noted that the Chief Financial Officer should be contacted to provide information on the status from the RFB regarding the sale of the St. Peter's School
- It was noted that material from the Johnston school, which contain asbestos will be separated and brought elsewhere
- It was noted that Staff has done a great job in submitting the ICSP on time
- It was noted that the timeframe for the development of the David Landry Subdivision would depend on the circumstances of the project

Deputy Warden Johnson thanked Mr. Mclean for providing his report to the Committee.

(b) Director of Tourism, Culture & Recreation re: Update on Departmental Issues  
 Mr. Boudreau presented an update on current departmental issues which highlighted summer programs, grants, Nova Scotia lifeguard services, trail development, Richmond Arena, upcoming conferences, and volunteer screening (copy attached).

The following points were brought forth during discussions:

- It was noted that a letter of support should be sent to the Minister of Health Promotion & Protection regarding providing lifeguard services for Point Michaud Beach
- It was noted that the issue regarding the right of way for the property across from the Richmond Arena is preventing the transfer from being complete
- It was noted that the solicitor and staff have been very proactive in trying to complete the transfer of ownership for the Richmond Arena
- The CAO noted other accomplishments over the summer months, such as the Spanish Delegation, Florida Panthers visit, Arm of Gold Community Spirit Award Celebration; all of which staff and council participated in
- It was noted that Pondville Beach could use lifeguard services as well
- It was noted that the surfing equipment should be stored in a more secure place
- It was noted that if funds become available through the Nova Scotia Lifeguard Service program, there will be some infrastructure available to store the surfing equipment securely
- It was noted that there will be more coaching clinics available in the Spring for minor baseball

Deputy Warden Johnson thanked Mr. Boudreau for his report.

**Moved** by Councillor Sampson, **seconded** by Councillor MacNeil that the Committee recommend to Council that a letter of support be sent to the Minister of Health Promotion & Protection regarding the lifeguard services required at Point Michaud Beach. Motion carried.

Review of Policy from September 28, 2009 Meeting (to be reviewed “In-Camera”)

This item was tabled to the “In-Camera” session.

Water Hook-up for Subdivided Property:

Deputy Warden Johnson indicated that the Items Added request by Councillor McNamara regarding the water hook up for subdivided property will be discussed at this time while the Director of Public Works was in attendance.

Councillor McNamara indicated that two families would like to share one water hook up, in an effort to minimize costs. The families are prepared to ensure water easements are in place, as well, as any other means required to negotiate one water hook-up.

**Moved** by Councillor McNamara, **seconded** by Councillor Beaton that the Committee recommend to Council that the Director of Public Works be directed to resolve the situation by coming to an arrangement that would provide an agreement to allow the cost to go from \$4,000 to \$2,000 for the two homes of the Scanlan families.

It was noted that the Director of Public Works has had limited involvement in the process thus far, the application for water hook-up was received last week.

The Director of Public Works indicated that the rationale for the water hook-up rates have been well documented by the Utility and Review Board and would prefer not to take this route, also, this is more of a financial decision that would involve the Chief Financial Officer.

By unanimous consent, it was decided that the motion would be withdrawn and that the Director of Public Works and the Chief Financial Officer would meet with the families, in District 5, to discuss the options available.

It was noted that a similar instance occurred with the St. Peter's/Samsonville water project and the ruling from the UARB indicated that each service meter will have an associated fee.

Correspondence:

- (a) Warden Boudreau re: Recommendation to Council re: Salary Scale Adjustments

This item was tabled to the "In-Camera" session.

- (b) Review of Dangerous and Unsightly Premises Policy, Previously Table by Council

Mr. Brad Parks approached the Committee and indicated that through his years of experience in dealing with the law and Dangerous and Unsightly Premises, he would recommend that Council not practice the Summary Offense Ticket policy.

**Moved** by Warden Boudreau, **seconded** by Councillor David, that the Committee recommend to Council that the recommendation of the Eastern District Planning Commission Staff be accepted, as presented by Mr. Brad Parks, and continue the long form process as oppose to summary offense tickets in the case of Dangerous and Unsightly Premises Policy, and adopt the Dangerous and Unsightly Premise Policy, as a policy of the Municipality of Richmond. Motion carried.

- (c) Recreation Nova Scotia re: Proposed By-Law Amendments

**Moved** by Warden Boudreau, **seconded** by Councillor David that the correspondence be tabled.

It was agreed by the mover and seconder to withdraw the motion to table this correspondence.

This information was provided for information purposes.

(d) Mrs. Tracy Randall re: Grant Request – Municipal District Activity Fund - \$5,000, District #9

**Moved** by Councillor Sampson, **seconded** by Councillor David that the Committee recommend to Council that the grant request for L'Ardoise Celtic Colours, Municipal District Activity Fund - \$5,000, District #9, in the amount of \$500 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

(e) Review of Application for Municipal Appointment to the Cape Breton Island Housing Authority) additional applications received prior to the October 2<sup>nd</sup> deadline will be provided at Monday night's meeting):

**Moved** by Councillor Boucher, **seconded** by Councillor McNamara that the Committee recommend to Council the acceptance of the only application received, and appoint Mr. Rudolph Boudreau, as the Richmond representative for the Cape Breton Island Housing Authority. Motion carried.

Items Added to the Agenda:

1. Warden Boudreau re: Medical Health Professional Recruitment Committee

Warden Boudreau indicated that he provides this information following a presentation he did at the Rural Caucus Meeting. He indicated at the last Committee of the Whole meeting that he would be asking for representation on this committee.

**Moved** by Warden Boudreau, **seconded** by Councillor David that the Committee recommend to Council that Council establish a committee to study the possibility of getting involved in recruiting health care professionals. Motion carried.

It was consensus to have the Warden select the committee members through expression of interest.

2. Warden Boudreau re: Biosphere Representative

Warden Boudreau indicated that Dr. Teresa MacNeil has informed him that there is now a seat available on the Bras D'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve Association board for representative from the five surrounding municipalities. Warden Boudreau is seeking a representative from this Council to sit on the board.

**Moved** by Councillor McNamara, **seconded** by Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council that Deputy Warden Johnson be appointed as the Richmond County Municipal Representative for the Bras D'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve Association board. Motion carried.

3. Warden Boudreau re: Notice Of Call For Election Of Deputy Warden

Warden Boudreau wished to inform the Committee that there will be a call for the election of Deputy Warden at the October Council.

4. Warden Boudreau re: Negotiation Committee

Warden Boudreau indicated that a negotiation committee is required to discuss the salary negotiations with staff. He would like this discussion to be held prior to the New Year.

It was consensus to allow Warden Boudreau to select the members for the negotiation committee. Warden Boudreau requested that expression of interest be sent via email, as soon as possible.

5. Councillor McNamara re: Water Hook-Up for Subdivided Property

This item was previously discussed.

6. Councillor McNamara re: Share A Book Campaign

Councillor McNamara received notification about the Share A Book Campaign for the Petit de Grat Library, and is requesting that all Councillors contribute \$100 via their Municipal District Activity Fund - \$5,000.

Councillor McNamara indicated that this is a worthwhile cause and Encana has agreed to match all dollars donated to the campaign.

Councillor McNamara requested that all Councillors inform Mrs. Tracy Randall of their intent to contribute \$100 and Tracy will draft an affidavit for them to sign.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

Deputy Warden Johnson welcomed Mr. Richard Burt.

Mr. Burt addressed the Committee regarding the Arichat Lift Station project and Mr. Bobby Sampson's project.

Deputy Warden Johnson welcomed Mrs. Lynn Scanlan.

Mrs. Scanlan addressed the Committee regarding the Water Hook-Up for Subdividing Property issue.

**Moved** by Councillor MacNeil, **seconded** by Councillor Sampson that the meeting proceed "In-Camera". Motion carried.

“In-Camera”:

The “In-Camera” meeting discussed a review of policy from September 28, 2009 meeting and a recommendation to council re salary scale adjustments.

Deputy Warden Johnson re-convened the Regular Committee of the Whole Meeting at 10:02 p.m.

**Moved** by Councillor David, **seconded** by Councillor Sampson that the Committee recommend to Council that notice be given to amend Section 7 of the Policy on Councillors’ Payment, to reflect that the annual increase in the stipend for Councillors will be at the same percentage increase as that negotiated for staff. Motion carried.

Adjournment

**Moved** by Warden Boudreau, **seconded** by Councillor Martell that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:06 p.m.