

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

MAY 25, 2009

Location: Council Chambers, Municipal Office

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

Items Added to the Agenda

Warden Boudreau indicated the CAO wished to add Arm of Gold and Spanish delegation and he wished to add the meeting schedule for the month of June.

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

Review of Minutes: May 4, 2009

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, **seconded by** Councillor McNamara that the minutes of May 4, 2009 be adopted as circulated. Motion carried.

Presentations:

(a) New Page/Strait Bio-Gen re: Update

Warden Boudreau welcomed Mr. Tor Suther and Mr. Luciano Lisi to the meeting.

Mr. Suther gave an overview of the Biogen 60 Project (copy of slide presentation attached), and noted the 25 year agreement that is guaranteed with Nova Scotia Power.

Mr. Suther & Mr. Lisi noted the long history between New Page and Municipal Council.

A question and answer period followed.

Municipal Councillors thanked and commended Mr. Suther & Mr. Lisi on their very informative presentation, and their efforts on such a tremendous project.

Warden Boudreau indicated a UARB hearing will be held on June 22nd, and he urged Municipal Councillors to attend the hearing.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, **seconded by** Councillor Boucher that Municipal Council give authority to the CAO and the Warden to undertake whatever steps are necessary to continue with the necessary negotiations regarding this project. Motion carried.

Councillor MacNeil, Councillor Martell and Councillor Marchand left their seats during voting on this matter, because they are employees of New Page.

Warden Boudreau thanked Mr. Suther and Mr. Lisi for their very informative presentation.

(b) Mr. Pat Bates re: Report on Bras D’Or Lakes Development Standards

Warden Boudreau welcomed Mr. Pat Bates to the meeting.

Mr. Bates provided an overview of the Bras D’Or Lakes land use planning standards/ options for municipal government consideration, on behalf of the Bras D’Or Stewardship Society (copy of slide presentation attached).

A question and answer period followed.

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, **seconded by** Councillor McNamara that the presentation from the Bras D’Or Stewardship Society, including reports and all its contents, be referred to the Planning Advisory Committee for review, and that the Planning Advisory Committee report back to Municipal Council, as soon as possible. Motion carried.

Warden Boudreau thanked Mr. Bates for his informative presentation.

Correspondence:

(a) Mr. Craig D. MacLaughlan re: JEPP Cost Sharing Application NS 248 – Relocations Centres Generators

For information purposes.

(b) Mr. Peter A. Newton re: Support for Parliament to Recognize Tartan Day and the Maple Leaf Tartan

Moved by Councillor Beaton, **seconded by** Councillor MacNeil that the Committee recommend to Council that the Municipality of the County of Richmond go on record as supporting the initiative of the Federation of Scottish Clans in Nova Scotia to have the federal government declare April 6th annually as “Tartan Day” and the Maple Leaf Tartan recognized as Canada’s “National Tartan”. Motion carried.

(c) Mr. Blaine A. Gillis re: Strait Highlands Regional Development Agency Board - Richmond County Board Members - Terms of Office

Warden Boudreau indicated he had contacted Mr. Glenn Bennett and Mr. Robert Wambolt, and both have expressed their willingness to continue serving on the Board for another three year term. Warden Boudreau indicated he was recommending that Councillor David replace him as the Council representative on the Board.

Moved by Councillor Boucher, **seconded by** Councillor Martell that the Committee recommend to Council that Mr. Glenn Bennett (community representative) and Mr. Robert Wambolt (business representative) be re-appointed to serve another three year term; and further moved that Councillor Victor David (Council representative) be appointed for a three year term, to replace Warden John Boudreau on the Strait-Highlands Regional Development Agency Board. Motion carried.

(d) Mayor W. J. Maclean re: Strait Area Pool

The CAO indicated the following:

- it may be reasonable to cost share on operation of the pool, on the usage, with a formula cost of one-half based on population and one-half based on our residential assessment.;
- Mayor MacLean had suggested that a joint committee be formed to review this matter;
- Warden Boudreau, Councillor McNamara and himself will meet with Town of Port Hawkesbury officials in an attempt to participate in a fair way towards the cost of the operation of the pool.

(e) Mayor W. J. MacLean re: Fire Services Point Tupper

The CAO noted the following:

- Warden Boudreau, Councillor McNamara and himself met with the CAO & Mayor, in an attempt to resolve these questions.
- the Town is not only requesting an increase in the annual fee that Richmond pays for fire protection in Point Tupper, but there was also the question of buying new equipment;
- the Town of Port Hawkesbury held a press conference during the Spring UNSM to announce that the Florida Panthers would be the NHL team, and the Municipality was not properly recognized for our contribution to the Town, no proper partnership was extended and the Warden had not been invited. He noted that he had expressed his displeasure and disappointment to the Town officials;
- the previous fire service agreement indicates that the Municipality would contribute one-third of the operating costs (i.e. we would pay \$25,000 if the cost was \$75,000);
- he has requested a copy of the financial statements, showing the costs of operating the fire department;

- if there are reasonable costs, then perhaps Council would increase their contribution, but noted that a public meeting would have to be held in order to inform businesses and residents of Point Tupper, if area rates are to be applied;
- the Port Hawkesbury Fire Department is the first responders to the Point Tupper industries and community;
- the extra money would not be for improved services, but rather for existing services;
- he felt that it is important to be responsible and reasonable in these discussions.

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- it was felt that the Town of Port Hawkesbury is not alone in covering Point Tupper, and they are part of the Strait Area Mutual Aid, and all districts surrounding Point Tupper;
- the Town of Port Hawkesbury has never offered to contribute to the Strait Area Mutual Aid;
- it was felt that the Municipality is already paying maximum dollars for shared services and several Councillors indicated they were not prepared to support paying any additional dollars to the Town of Port Hawkesbury;
- it was felt that if additional costs are to be considered to the Town of Port Hawkesbury, then the Strait Area Mutual Aid issue should be addressed;
- it was noted that the monies being given to the Town of Port Hawkesbury regarding fire services does not go to the Port Hawkesbury Fire Department, but is used to subsidize the Town of Port Hawkesbury.
- perhaps the Municipality should look at establishing a fire department in Lower River that would serve Point Tupper;
- caution should be used in discussions with the Mayor and his Council regarding the participation of Strait Area Mutual Aid in responding to any emergencies in Point Tupper.

It was the consensus of the Committee members that the CAO continue his negotiations with the Town of Port Hawkesbury regarding the Strait Area Pool and the fire services for Point Tupper, and then the Committee can meet in order to bring a report to Municipal Council for consideration.

(f) Mr. Sean Reid re: Richmond County Re-Nomination to the Strait of Canso Superport Corporation Board of Directors

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, **seconded by** Councillor Martell that the Committee recommend to Council that Mr. Fred Hussey be re-appointed for a further three year term as the municipal representative on the Strait of Canso Superport Corporation Board of Directors. Motion carried.

(g) Mr. Gerard Jessome re: Petition to Minister Brooke Taylor re: Condition of West Bay Road from County Line Road to The Points, Richmond County

For information purposes.

- (h) Mr. Kevin Malloy re: Canada-Nova Scotia Building Canada Fund – Communities Component – Top Up Arichat Pumping Station Upgrade Project # 05-08-0052

For information purposes.

Warden Boudreau noted that letter of offer regarding the Evanston Sewage Treatment Plant should be received shortly.

- (i) Nestlé Waters Canada re: Bottled Water

- (j) Shannon Diggdon re: Grant Requests

- Sacred Heart Parish , Municipal District \$17,000 Fund, District #10; (\$2,775);
- Potlotek Education Office, Councillors' District Activity - \$3,000 Fund - District #10; (\$1,000);
- Village on the Canal Association, Councillors' District Activity - \$3,000 Fund - District #8; (\$200)

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, **seconded by** Councillor MacNeil that the Committee recommend to Council to approve the following grant requests:

- \$2,775 to the Sacred Heart Parish , Municipal District \$17,000 Fund, District #10;
- \$1,000 to Potlotek Education Office, Councillors' District Activity - \$3,000 Fund – District #10;
- \$200 to the Village on the Canal Association, Councillors' District Activity - \$3,000 Fund - District #8

Motion carried.

Items Added to the Agenda

- (1) CAO re:

- (i) Arm of Gold

The CAO noted that the Municipality had been approached to participate in organizing a Lieutenant Governor's Community Spirit Award presentation/reception at a cost of approximately \$5,500.

- (ii) Spanish Delegation

The CAO indicated he had been contacted by E.C.B.C. who indicated that a delegation of Spaniards interested in aquaculture were visiting the three Atlantic Provinces, and were looking for the Municipality to host a reception, which would feature all products

harvested locally, and he noted that a reception could be organized for noon, June 21st at the LeNoir Forge.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, **seconded by** Councillor Martell that the CAO be given authority to proceed with the events for the Arm of Gold and the Spanish Delegation. Motion carried.

2) Warden Boudreau re: Permission to rearrange the meeting for the month of June

Moved by Councillor Boucher, **seconded by** Councillor David that Committee of the Whole Meetings be held on June 1st and June 15th, with an Audit Committee to be held at 5:30 p.m. on June 15th; and that the Annual Session be held on June 22nd. Motion carried.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

There were no questions.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, **seconded by** Councillor Boucher that the meeting move to “In-Camera” session at 8:30 p.m.

The “In-Camera” Meeting discussed a personnel issue, a tax agreement and the takeover of private roads.

Warden Boudreau reconvened the regular meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Moved by Councillor Martell, **seconded by** Councillor David that the Committee recommend to Council that a full time Administrative Assistant position be created. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, **seconded by** Councillor David that the Committee recommend to Council that the Tourism Partnership Coordinator position become a permanent position. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Boucher, **seconded by** Councillor David that the meeting be adjourned at 9:20 p.m.