

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

MAY 4, 2009

Location: Council Chambers, Municipal Office

Deputy Warden Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

### Items Added to the Agenda

Deputy Warden Johnson indicated that Councillor Boucher wished to add Road Conditions from County Line Road to the Points.

**Moved** by Councillor MacNeil, **seconded** by Councillor Martell that the agenda be adopted as presented.

### Review of Minutes: April 27, 2009

**Moved** by Councillor David, **seconded** by Councillor Boucher that the minutes of April 27, 2009 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

### Presentation:

(a) Mr. Grant Burgess re: Role of Audit Committee

Mr. Burgess presented the Report to the Audit Committee – Initial communication on audit planning. See attached.

Mr. Burgess outlined the audit process and indicated that he is available for questions.

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- It was noted that the size of an audit committee does not impact the result or the process of the audit
- It was noted that to have the entire Committee of the Whole serve on the audit committee is a common practice in other municipalities

### CFO re: 2009/2010 Budget:

The Chief Financial Officer reported the following:

- The CFO indicated that there was a detailed discussion at the previous Committee of the Whole meeting, regarding the 2009/2010 budget;
- The CFO indicated that he responded to some additional questions and is available should there be any further questions.

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- It was noted that the residential and commercial tax rate will increase by approximately five percent
- It was noted that the fire rate is determined by the individual fire departments; the Municipality levies the rate for each fire department, conditional on certain requirements that are dictated by the Municipal Government Act;
- It was noted that the fire levy is distributed in multiple payments

**Moved** by Councillor David, **seconded** by Councillor Martell that the Committee recommend to Council the approval of the municipal estimates of revenues and expenditures for the year ending March 31, 2010 in the amount of \$12,209,847 (copy of budget attached as Appendix "A");

AND FURTHER MOVED THAT WHEREAS pursuant to the Municipal Act, the Municipal Council of the Municipality of Richmond estimates that sums amounting to \$6,248,700 are required for the lawful purpose of the said Municipality for the year ending March 31, 2010, after crediting the probable revenue from all sources other than rates for the said year and making due allowance for the abatement and losses which may occur in the collection of the taxes and for taxes for the said year which may not be collectible or collected;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that Richmond Council hereby authorizes the levying and collection of a residential rate of .72¢ on each \$100 of the assessed value of residential property assessed on the assessment roll and a commercial rate of \$1.90; which rates said Council deems sufficient to raise the sums required to defray the expenditures of the said Municipality for this year, and any deficit from the preceding years;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Richmond Council hereby imposes an additional percentage charge of 18 percent per annum on all rates and taxes remaining unpaid.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Richmond Council hereby fixes the 30<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2009 as the day on which the Tax Collector or Treasurer may proceed to issue warrants for the collection of all rates and taxes then unpaid. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

- (a) Councillor Boucher re: East Richmond Education Centre – Issue on School

## Property

Councillor Boucher noted the following:

- There is a recurring issue that has taken place at the East Richmond Education Centre, with unsatisfactory results
- There is a need to request a report on the issue in order to obtain a resolution

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- It was noted that this matter should be referred to the Police Advisory Committee
- It was noted that the Strait Regional School Board should be made aware of the motion put forth by the Committee
- It was noted that education centres have the resources available to deal with such issues
- It was noted that this is not the first education centre in Richmond County to encounter this issue

**Moved** by Councillor Boucher, **seconded** by Councillor Martell that the East Richmond Education Centre Issue on School Property be referred to the Police Advisory Committee for discussion and resolution;

AND FURTHER MOVE that the Strait Regional School Board be made aware of the issue. Motion carried.

(b) Human Resources and Skills Development Canada re: New Horizons for Seniors Program

The CFO indicated that this was for informational purposes.

(c) Isle Madame Volunteer Fire Department re: Fire Coordinator

The CFO reported the following:

- This item has been discussed in the past and Mrs. Tracy Randall is the employee that worked on this topic
- Mrs. Randall is currently on maternity leave and is schedule to return to work in the near future, in which she could continue to work with the Fire Departments to discuss this topic

**Moved** by Councillor Boucher, **seconded** by Councillor McNamara that the correspondence from the Isle Madame Volunteer Fire Department be tabled until Mrs. Randall returns to work. Motion carried.

(d) Mr. Johannes Sturm re: Grass Fires

**Moved** by Councillor McNamara, **seconded** by Councillor Marchand that the correspondence from Mr. Johannes Sturm be referred to the Eastern District Planning Commission; AND FURTHER MOVED that the Eastern District Planning Commission provide Council with a report on this issue. Motion carried.

(e) Shannon Diggdon re: Grant Requests

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

- Richmond Rize Volleyball Club, Councillors' District Activity - \$3,000 Fund - District #2; (\$250);
- Richmond Cheer Athletics, Councillors' District Activity - \$3,000 Fund - District #2; (\$250);
- Royal Canadian Legion Branch 150 Ladies Auxiliary, Municipal District \$17,000 Fund, District #1, 2, 3; (\$4150);-
- Acadiaville Community Centre Society, Councillors' District Activity - \$3,000 Fund - District #4; (\$200);
- Acadiaville Community Centre Society, Municipal District \$17,000 Fund, District #4; (30,000)

Motion carried.

#### Items Added to the Agenda

1. Councillor Boucher re: Petition re: Road Conditions from County Line to The Points, Richmond County

**Moved** by Councillor Boucher, **seconded** by Councillor Martell, that the Committee recommend to Council that a letter be written to Mr. Brooke Taylor, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, supporting the petition regarding the West Bay Highway, from County Line Road to The Points, Richmond County and the petition for repair to Cameron Mountain Road. Motion carried.

### Fifteen Minute Question Period

Mr. Richard Burt approached the Committee to indicate that a burning permit will only be provided for burning brush and blueberry fields; he also indicated that burning can only take place after 5:00 p.m.

**Moved** by Councillor Martell, **seconded** by Councillor David that the meeting move to “In-Camera” session at 7:54 p.m.

The Committee met “In-Camera” to discuss a Legal Issue and Unsightly Premises.

**Moved** by Councillor Martell, **seconded** by Councillor David that the meeting reconvene to regular Committee of the Whole session. Motion carried.

### Adjournment

**Moved** by Councillor Beaton, **seconded** by Councillor David that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.