

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

APRIL 6, 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 that he wish to add an “In-Camera” item regarding a personnel matter.

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

Review of Minutes: March 31, 2009

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, **seconded** by Councillor McNamara that the March 31, 2009 minutes be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Review of Grants:

(a) Review of Grant Policies:

- (i) Grants to Charitable and Not for Profit Organizations
- (ii) Municipal District Fund - \$17,000
- (iii) Municipal Infrastructure Fund (Councillors District Activity Fund - \$3000)

The CAO reported the following:

- The three grant policies and applications have been reviewed and the revised to provide further clarification and assistance in applying for such funds. See attached.
- The monies and purpose of each fund has not changed.

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- It was noted that the changes were for clarification, not the allocation on purpose of the funds
- It was noted that the name of the Municipal Infrastructure Fund (Councillors District Activity Fund - \$3000) should be changed to “Municipal District Activity Fund”

Moved by Councillor David, **seconded** by Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council the acceptance of the policy changes with the name change of the Municipal Infrastructure Fund (Councillors District Activity Fund - \$3000) to Municipal District Activity Fund. Motion carried

(b) Review of Grant Applications

- The Grants to Charitable Organizations were discussed thoroughly by the Committee. Each application was addressed individually.
- Warden Boudreau indicated that he received comments from Councillors which suggested the following:
 - o The following applications will be put under “Special Projects”:
 - Dr. W. B. Kingston Memorial Clinic
 - DIMA – Administrative Funding
 - SPEDO
 - o The following applications will be put under “Trails” through the Tourism, Culture & Recreation Budget:
 - Isle Madame ATV Riders Association
 - DIMA – Trail Maintenance
 - o The following applications do not meet the criteria for Grants to Charitable Organizations:
 - Bonnie Brae Seniors
 - Riverdale Computer Centre
 - River Bourgeois Community Services Society
 - Royal Canadian Legion Branch 150 – Ladies Auxiliary
- The remainder of the Grants to Charitable Organizations applications were reviewed and discussed with the following outcome:

o Basin River Inhabitants Historical Society	\$1,000.00
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o Isle Madame Historical Society	\$3,000.00
o Leaside Transition House	\$5,000.00
o MacAskill House Museum Society	\$1,000.00
o Ocean View Wildlife Museum	\$1,000.00
o Point Tupper Heritage Association	\$1,000.00
o Regional Occupational Centre Society	\$17,000.00
o Richmond County Early Childhood Education Association -	\$20,000.00
o Richmond County Literacy Network -	\$20,000.00
o Societé Petit de Grat Beautification Society -	\$2,400.00
o St. Louis Parish Council -	\$7,150.00
o Strait Richmond Health Care Foundation -	\$4,639.98
Total:	\$84,189.98

The CFO noted that we have a long term commitment to two museums at \$2,500 a piece, as well as a \$10,000 commitment to the Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre and annual student scholarships of \$2,250. This is in addition to the above amounts.

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, **seconded** by Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council that the request from the Isle Madame ATV Riders Association, in the amount of \$5,000 and Development Isle Madame, in the amount of \$2,000 be sent to the Department of Tourism, Culture & Recreation to be funded via the Trails budget. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Beaton, **seconded** by Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council that the request submitted by the Richmond County Literacy Network Association, in the amount of \$30,000 and the Richmond County Early Childhood Education Association, in the amount of \$30,000 be reduced to \$20,000 for each organization. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, **seconded** by Councillor McNamara that the Committee recommend to Council that the grant funds be deployed as decided under Special Projects, Charitable Associations, and the Trails Budget, with those being withdrawn for infrastructure purposes. Motion carried.

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- It was noted that the Dr. W.B. Kingston Memorial Clinic project would potentially be funded over a two year period with approximately \$100,000 being awarded each year.
- It was noted that the SPEDO project was a two year project and agreed to receive funding from the County over a two year period; \$30,000 in the first year and \$26,000 in the second year
- It was noted that the DIMA- Administrative funding request would be approximately \$25,000, as approximately \$6,500 was carried over from last year
- It was noted that the Richmond County Literacy Network Association agreed to decrease their request to \$20,000
- It was noted that the original total requested amounts under the Grants to Charitable Organizations is \$485,799.98
- It was noted that categories would be created to try and allocate funds to assist as many of the grant requests as possible
- It was noted that organizations that apply for funding each year, who are directed to access monies other than the Grants to Charitable Fund, should be notified of this, as to deter discussing this option each year
- It was noted that the groups representing the four grant applications that do not meet the Charitable Fund criteria, will be approached by Councillors to assist via the Municipal Infrastructure Fund
- It was noted that community groups seeking funds via the Charitable Organization fund all provide valuable services to Richmond County

- It was noted that the request for funding by DIMA for the Recycling & Composting Education Project should be tabled to discuss the possibility of working with the Department of Public Works to have a County wide project

Tabled from Previous Meeting:

- (a) Appointment to Fire Service Association of Nova Scotia

Warden Boudreau noted the following:

- Councillor Marchand submitted the name of Fire Chief Johannes Sturm, of the Louisdale Volunteer Fire Department, as the alternate for the Fire Services Association of Nova Scotia

Moved by Councillor Marchand, **seconded** by Councillor David that the Committee recommend to Council that Fire Chief Johannes Sturm be appointed as an alternate to serve on the Fire Service Association of Nova Scotia. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

- (a) Bras D'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve Association re: Draft of Nomination Document Prepared for UNESCO

Warden Boudreau noted the following:

- the draft document was provided for information purposes

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- If the Biosphere is accepted, 54% of the lands, in Cape Breton, will be protected and development will not be permitted
- It was noted that an option would be to defer it for one year
- It was noted that this is a broad subject, with great intent, and asking for more time to consider would not be an impossible request
- It was noted that the degree and parameter of development would have to be made clear prior to Council showing support
- The CAO proposed the following resolution:
 - WHEREAS the Municipality of Richmond County is in general agreement with the principles advanced by the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve Association but could not support the listing as a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve should it fetter the jurisdictional discretion of the Province of Nova Scotia or the Municipality of Richmond County.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the application for inclusion of the Bras d'Or Lake watershed as a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve be

withheld for a period of no less than six (6) months after which it will be reconsidered by Council.

Moved by Councillor Boucher, **seconded** by Councillor Martell that the Committee recommend to Council that the CAO provide a draft resolution, to be presented to Council on April 15, 2009. Motion carried.

(b) Town of Port Hawkesbury re: Shared Fire Services

The Warden noted the following:

- Richmond County is paying the Town of Port Hawkesbury for Fire Protection in the Point Tupper area
- Mayor MacLean sent Warden Boudreau a letter requesting an increase in the Fire Protection rate, of 100%
- Two elected officials are required to sit on a committee to discuss the request put forth by the Town of Port Hawkesbury

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- Councillor McNamara volunteer to sit on this committee
- It was noted that the Warden, CAO and CFO should also be present during this discussion
- It was noted that the County currently pays \$25,000 per year for fire services to the Point Tupper area

Moved by Councillor Martell, **seconded** by Councillor Marchand that the Committee recommend to Council that correspondence be sent to Mr. Billy Joe MacLean, the Mayor of Port Hawkesbury, indicating that Warden Boudreau, Councillor McNamara, the CAO, and the CFO will meet with the Town of Port Hawkesbury to discuss the shared fire services, and the request put forth. Motion carried.

(c) Hon. Cecil Clarke re: Arichat Courthouse

Warden Boudreau noted the following:

- The Minister wants to commit to providing Court Services in Arichat
- Many conditions, of the building, have already been met
- An alternate location for Court Services in Arichat, was not an option
- A request to re-instate Court Services as well as trial by judge, and sentencing has been submitted, for the Arichat Court House
- When a consultant has been approved, by the Province, another report will be presented to Council

(d) Chief Financial Officer re: Temporary Borrowing Resolution, St. Peter's, Samsonville and Area Water Utility Project

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, **seconded** by Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council that the following resolution be adopted as presented:

WHEREAS the St. Peter's, Samsonville & Area Water Utility was established under the Public Utilities Act, R.S.N.S 1989, c.380;

AND WHEREAS the said St. Peter's, Samsonville & Area Water Utility has resolved to borrow by the issue and sale of debentures the sum of Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000) for the purpose of water systems;

AND WHEREAS the said St. Peter's, Samsonville & Area Water Utility has requested the Municipality of the County of Richmond to guarantee the principal and interest of the said debentures when sold, pursuant to Section 89 of the Municipal Government Act;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED

THAT subject to the approval of the Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, the Municipality do guarantee the principal and interest of debentures of the St. Peter's, Samsonville & Area Water Utility, in the amount not to exceed Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000) when issued and sold;

THAT the Warden and the Clerk are authorized to do all things and execute all documents necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Motion carried.

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- It was noted that the approximate cost of the project was 6.7 million
- It was noted that approximately 4.6 million (two thirds) was funded by the government
- It was noted that the Municipality committed an additional \$975,000 to the project
- It was noted that approximately 1.4 million dollars will be borrowed
- It was noted that by law, the County has to guarantee the borrowing resolution

Items Added to the Agenda

(1) Warden Boudreau re: Personnel matter

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

Fifteen Minute Question Period

There were no comments from the public

Moved by Councillor Boucher, **seconded** by Councillor MacNeil that the meeting move to “In-Camera” session at 8:57 p.m.

The Committee met “In-Camera” to discuss a personnel issue.

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

Adjournment

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

There being no further business Warden Boudreau adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.