

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

MARCH 31, 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 Councillor Martell wished to add Richmond County capital priority list request and the community signage (Drive Carefully We Love Our Children; he wished to add an agreement with ECBC regarding funding for a consultant study to determine a best practice model for an economic development advocacy office for the county; and the Chief Financial Officer wished to provide additional information for agenda item regarding request for sewer hook-ups – Louisdale Sewerage System – Bobby & Debbie Samson.

**Moved** by Deputy Warden Johnson, **seconded** by Councillor Martell that the agenda and items added be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

### Review of Minutes: March 2, 2009

**Moved** by Councillor MacNeil, **seconded** by Councillor McNamara that the minutes of March 2, 2009 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

In response to a question from Councillor David, the CAO indicated that correspondence had been sent to Ste. Anne's Community & Nursing Care Centre, but no response had been received yet.

### Staff Reports:

(a) Director of Public Works re:

(i) 2009/10 Budget

Mr. McLean provided a synopsis of the proposed budget for administration, sewer system operations and solid waste operations for the fiscal year 2009/2010.

Mr. MacDonald indicated that the overall budget showed an increase of 4.5%, but noted that there was a \$40,000 increase in curbside collection, and if increase was not such,

then the overall increase for these three areas would only be 1.7%, which is less than the CPI.

Mr. McLean noted the following:

- the biggest increase in the budget relates to curbside collection and the trucking of waste to the Guysborough facility (Council had approved increased rates to the Richmond County Truckers Association);
- the municipal vehicles include a ¾ ton Ford; a utility van, a ¼ ton GMC Sonoma and an F150 Ford ½ ton;
- in response to a question, Mr. McLean indicated that the Municipality owns two trailers, and the Truckers Association pick them up and take them to the disposal site, and return them to us;
- 17 tires had been replaced on the trailers during the past year;

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- it was noted that administration expenses were approximately \$8,000 over budget;
- trailer repairs are paid by us as we own the trailers;
- the budget showed an increase in direct sewer costs, which was a result of impellers and pumps failing in several systems;
- a breakdown of fuel consumption and maintenance repairs on the Public Works vehicles was requested;
- repairs to trailers were discussed in detail (welding repairs/tire repair/malfunction of tarps, etc.);
- the Animal Control Officer expenses are included in the solid waste budget, and it was felt that this item should be shown as a separate item in the budget.

Warden Boudreau indicated he approached the Director regarding establishing a Committee of several Councillors and the Director to develop policies regarding vehicle use, efficiency of vehicles, repairs, maintenance, fuel costs, rolling tarps, etc.

#### (ii) Louisdale Water Treatment Facility

Mr. McLean indicated the following:

- Councillor Marchand had requested a discussion on this item, and is requesting that staff be authorized to submit an application to the Province under the Provincial Capital Assistance Program for funding of the pre-design study;
- construction of a new water treatment plant for the Louisdale/Evanston/Whiteside water supply is being proposed to address problems with high levels of iron and manganese in the raw water, which periodically causes complaints of dirty water in the system;
- the associated plant pre-design work involves engaging a qualified engineering consultant to perform data gathering and review, including meetings with staff and

required site visits/confirmation of plant design parameters/pre-design and engineering analysis/reporting, including estimation of capital, operation and maintenance costs of the proposed plant;

- has solicited a work plan from Dillon Consulting Ltd. for this work, who has intimate knowledge and experience with the Louisdale/Evanston/Whiteside water supply system, having carried out numerous studies for this system;
- the estimated cost for the Louisdale/Evanston water treatment plant pre-design study is \$19,778 plus taxes;

**Moved** by Councillor Marchand, **seconded** by Councillor McNamara that the Committee recommend to Council that staff be authorized to submit an application to the Province under the Provincial Capital Assistance Program (PCAP) for funding of the Louisdale/Evanston water treatment plant pre-design study. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

(a) Director of Public Works/CAO re: Request for Sewer Hook-ups – Louisdale Sewerage System - Bobby & Debbie Samson

Mr. McLean indicated the following:

- he provided a report from Strait Engineering that provides an overview of the analysis of six options and corresponding capital costs to provide these sewer hook-ups;
- Option B-2 involves the least cost to the Municipality (approximate cost of \$40,000 plus taxes), however the option does have potential disadvantages compared to Option B;
- he indicated that Option B-2 involves the following:
  - providing six pressure sewer laterals connected to a common small diameter pressure sewer which would be connected to the existing large diameter pressure sewer on the access road to the Louisdale sewage treatment plant;
  - would require that each of the lots to be developed by Bobby Samson would require installation and maintenance of a proper pump station at the landowner's expense;
  - the disadvantage associated with Option B-2 is that if the check valve on the landowner's service lateral were to malfunction, there is the potential for very large quantities of raw sewage from the larger sewage force main to enter into the homeowner's station and surrounding property
- he indicated that Option B involves the following:
  - the installation of a dedicated common pressure sewer main to the sewage treatment plant headworks;
  - the cost of Option B would be \$83,000 plus taxes;
- he indicated that Option A (approximate cost of \$160,000 plus taxes) involves installation of a conventional gravity sewer along the plant access road, combined with a sewage pumping station with a dedicated pressure sewer to the plant headworks. He

also noted that this option would enable sewer servicing on both sides of the plant access road, and there is the potential for development of at least six lots on the east side of the access road in addition to the lots proposed by Mr. Samson;

- the analysis does not include costs for development of proper water and road services for these potential lots;
- Mr. MacDonald provided a breakdown of the capital costs of the six options outlined by Strait Engineering into estimated costs for the residents of the community of Louisdale that are serviced by the sewage system.

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- a commitment was made to Mr. Bobby Samson, who had sold the land to the Municipality at a reasonable price, and there is a need to move forward and follow-up on that commitment, this is a deferred cost of original system;
- it was felt that the less expensive option is not necessarily the best option; and it is important to look at the option that is in the best interest of the county;
- it was felt that choosing Option B, at a cost of \$83,000, would be fulfilling the mandate, with less risk to the Municipality;
- it was noted that it is important for the Director to be involved in all discussions that will take place with Mr. Samson;
- it was agreed that system should include possibility of further hook-ups.

It was the consensus of the Committee that staff work with the District Councillor and the proponents, and bring back a proposal, with a final recommendation, to the Committee, in the near future.

(b) Chief Financial Officer re: Deleted Accounts

**Moved** by Councillor MacNeil, **seconded** by Councillor Marchand that the Committee recommend to Council that the list of accounts that have been deleted by the assessment services in the amount of \$10,095.06 be written off, because these accounts are no longer valid and are uncollectible. Motion carried.

(c) Seaside Wireless Communications Inc. re: Site Lease Agreement/Confirmatory Lease

**Moved** by Deputy Warden Johnson, **seconded** by Councillor MacNeil that the Committee recommend to Council that the Municipality exercise due diligence and enter into a lease agreement with Seaside Wireless Communications Inc., conditional on advice being provided from the Eastern District Planning Commission and the Solicitor, with a report to be provided to Council. Motion carried.

(d) Property Valuation Services Corporation re: HST Update/Budget/Municipal Payment Summary

**Moved** by Councillor David, **seconded** by Councillor McNamara that the correspondence be tabled to budget deliberations. Motion carried.

(e) Shannon Diggdon re: Grant Requests

- D'Escousse Civic Improvement, Municipal District \$17,000 Fund - District #3 (\$5,000);
- Sacred Heart Parish Ladies Group, Councillors' District Activity - \$3,000 Fund - District #10 (\$1,000);
- Fourchu Development Association, Councillors' District Activity - \$3,000 Fund - District #10 (\$1,000);
- Fourchu Development Association, Municipal District \$17,000 Fund - District #10 (\$5,741.16)

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

- \$5,000 to the D'Escousse Civic Improvement, with funding to be taken from the Municipal District \$17,000 Fund, District #3;
- \$1,000 to the Sacred Heart Parish Ladies Group, with funding to be taken from the Councillors' District Activity - \$3,000 Fund, District #10;
- \$1,000 to the Fourchu Development Association, with funding to be taken from the Councillors' District Activity - \$3,000 Fund, District #10;
- \$5,741.16 to the Fourchu Development Association, with funding to be taken from the Municipal District \$17,000 Fund, District #10.

Motion carried.

(f) Appointment to the Fire Service Association of Nova Scotia

Councillor MacNeil indicated that Fire Chief Raymond Ferguson from the St. Peter's Fire Department is presently the Director serving on the Fire Service Association of Nova Scotia, and he has expressed an interest in continuing to serve as a Director, but the Association is requesting that an alternate be appointed as well.

The consensus of the Committee members was that this item be tabled until the April 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting, in order to give Councillors an opportunity to check with their fire departments to see if anyone is interested in serving as an alternate on the Fire Service Association of Nova Scotia.

(g) Town of Port Hawkesbury re: Sponsorship Opportunity, NHL Training Camp

The CAO indicated that the Town of Port Hawkesbury is requesting municipalities in sponsoring and help raise the funds necessary to have an NHL team come to practice at their facility in September. He noted the training camps held in Yarmouth was a huge

success. He noted that there would be a number of social activities that will be held for kids to participate. He noted the sponsorship cost of \$5,000 would include the following:

- Club seat rental with 20 tickets;
- Player of the game award;
- Ice logo which will remain in all year;
- Arena sign
- Two tickets to dinner at reserved table;
- Recognition in program;
- Display booth opportunity;
- Internet banner.

The CAO indicated a commitment is required within the next 10 days, in order for the Town to sponsor this event.

In response to a question, the CAO indicated it is sometimes very difficult to move events from the original site, however he noted that the Municipality could perhaps host some events (i.e. Dundee golf, deep sea fishing, etc.) for the coaching staff. He noted that there will probably be a lot of sports writers attending this event as well, and entertaining them is a cheap way of promoting the municipality from a cultural and tourism point of view.

In response to a question, it was noted that this sponsorship could be done within Council funding, and would come from expenditures for next year.

Warden Boudreau indicated he would like the CAO to secure some tickets for former Richmond Minor Hockey players and parents to attend practices.

**Moved** by Councillor MacNeil, **seconded** by Councillor McNamara that the Municipality support a \$5,000 sponsorship opportunity for the NHL Training Camp to be held at the Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre on September 12-16, 2009, with the CAO and Tourism Coordinator organizing some hosting events for the coaching team, and requesting that tickets can be secured for the Richmond Minor hockey players and their parents. Motion carried.

#### Sporting Mountain Plan Review

Warden Boudreau indicated that Councillor Boucher had requested that this item be placed on the agenda, however he was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Warden Boudreau indicated that the minutes from the last Planning Advisory Committee Meeting will be made available after they are approved at their next meeting, and the matter will be reviewed further at a future meeting.

#### List of Cheques Issued: February, 2009

Councillor David declared a conflict of interest indicating that there were three cheques on the list that were issued to his business, and he refrained from voting and from discussion of this item.

**Moved** by Councillor MacNeil, **seconded** by Councillor Martell that the list of cheques issued for February, 2009 in the amount of \$738,520.75 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

#### Items Added to the Agenda

(1) Councillor Martell re:

(i) Richmond County Capital Priority List Request

**Moved** by Councillor Martell, **seconded** by Councillor Marchand that the Committee recommend to Council to place the District #4 Wastewater Management Project on the Richmond County capital project priority list. Motion carried.

(ii) Community Signage (Drive Carefully We Love Our Children)

Warden Boudreau indicated the following:

- he had received information today from Mr. Bernie Murphy, who is the District North Representative of the Department of Transportation, who indicated that a decision had been taken in 2002 that no signage is to be placed in the public right-of-way anywhere in the Province;
- Mr. Murphy also noted that the decision was taken because children could assume it was safe to play on roads if these signs were erected; motorists would drive faster once they left these designated areas; and signs would be lost from memory the quickest.
- Mr. Murphy indicated that the Department would not object to signage being placed outside of public right-of-way, that is 36 feet from the center line;
- Councillors will need to look at locations for these signs, and he noted that the Department of Transportation will not pay for the signs, and he noted that the communities had originally paid for the signs out of community funds;
- he suggested that a resolution be submitted to the U.N.S.M. fall conference, requesting support across the province

Councillor David noted that the Department of Transportation had removed a sign from his property, that had been placed 36 feet from the centre line, but had left some signage that were not within the 36 foot limit.

Councillor MacNeil noted the constant reminder when seeing white crosses along the provincial highways.

It was the consensus of the Committee that a resolution be forwarded to the U.N.S.M. fall conference requesting support for community signage (Drive Carefully We Love Our Children).

- (2) Warden Boudreau re: Agreement with ECBC regarding funding for a consultant study to determine a best practice model for an economic development advocacy office for the county

Warden Boudreau indicated that Municipal Council had given him authority to move forward to try to obtain financing for a consultant study to look at a best practice model for an advocacy office for Richmond County, which would include our Energy Office, but have a broader mandate to work with community economic groups and other sectors (fisheries, mining, etc.).

Warden Boudreau indicated he had received confirmation from ECBC that they are willing to sponsor 50% of a consultant study, up to \$25,000; and he noted that \$6,250 is being requested from the Province, and in total that will provide 75% of the total cost of the project. He noted that he and the CAO will be meeting with ECBC officials tomorrow.

**Moved** by Councillor David, **seconded** by Deputy Warden Johnson that the Warden be authorized to move forward and accept the contract from ECBC in the amount of \$12,500, and pursue an additional \$6,250 from the province. Motion carried.

- (3) Chief Financial Officer re: Additional information for agenda item regarding request for sewer hook-ups – Louisdale sewerage system – Bobby & Debbie Samson

This item was previously dealt with.

#### Fifteen Minute Question Period

The CAO indicated he wished to further comment regarding the comment made that the residents of Louisdale might take objection regarding the costs of the Louisdale sewage treatment facility, noting that this is not a cost for people getting a connection now, but rather it was a cost to the full system that was built at that time.

Mr. Richard Burt suggested the possibility of putting in a second check valve, or possibly a third check valve, and also the possibility of putting a manhole for each, and check valves on each of the houses, which would result in the cost not being so great, regarding the Bobby Samson situation.

Warden Boudreau indicated that the Councillor for District #6 will be working with the Director of Public Works on this matter, and suggested that he approach the Councillor regarding any suggestions or concerns.

**Moved** by Councillor MacNeil, **seconded** by Deputy Warden Johnson that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

There being no further business, Warden Boudreau adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.