

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

FEBRUARY 1, 2010

Location: Council Chambers, Municipal Office

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

Warden Boudreau indicated that Councillor Beaton and Councillor Sampson send their regrets.

Items Added to the Agenda

Warden Boudreau indicated that he wished to add Aid for Haiti and a Request for a Letter of Support from the New Horizons Group; Deputy Warden MacNeil wished to add New Page Hockey Tournament.

Councillor Johnson requested unanimous consent to add the Biosphere designation of the Bras D'Or Lakes.

Moved by Councillor Martell, **seconded** by Deputy Warden MacNeil that the Items Added be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Review of Minutes:

Deputy Warden MacNeil indicated that there was an error in the January 25, 2010; the minutes of January 4, 2010 were seconded by Councillor Sampson and he was not present at the meeting.

Moved by Deputy Warden MacNeil, **seconded by** Councillor McNamara that the minutes of January 25, 2010 be adopted as amended. Motion carried.

Staff Reports:

(a) Director of Tourism, Culture & Recreation re:

(i) Status Report

Mr. Boudreau provided a status report to the Committee (copy attached).

The following points were brought forth during discussions:

- It was noted that the “Rink Project” is a partnership between four groups.
- It was noted that Tourism in Richmond County has increased in the last year by approximately 20 per cent.
- It was noted that the ownership of the arena will take place in the near future and discussion with the Richmond Arena Board is on-going to decide the management scheme.

(ii) Review of Physical Fitness Activities Policy

Mr. Boudreau provided a copy of the Physical Fitness Activities policy for review (copy attached).

The following points were brought forth during discussions:

- It was noted that the amount allotted is sufficient for the current year.
- It was noted that the policy does apply for Council as well.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, **seconded** by Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council that the Physical Fitness Activities Policy be recommended for continuation under budget. Motion carried.

Warden Boudreau thanked Mr. Boudreau for his report.

Presentation:

- (a) Nova Scotia Power (Katherine Reed, Outreach Agent) re: New Energy Efficiency Program for Low Income Homeowners Who Heat With Electricity

Ms. Katherine Reed provided a presentation on the New Energy Efficiency Program for Low Income Homeowners Who Heat with Electricity (copy attached).

The following points were brought forth during discussions:

- It was noted that the information provided will be posted on the County website and left at the reception desk, as well as added to the newsletter. More information can be sought by going to www.nspower.ca/LIH
- It was noted that there are no deadlines, at least until the end of this year.
- It was noted that the program is not intended for those who rent, which make up a large portion of residents who are burdened during the winter months.
- It was noted that electric heat must be the main source of heating to qualify for the program.

- It was noted that there is no charge for the audit process if applicants meet the requirements stated in the application.
- It was noted that there is an Energuide Program for homes with higher income levels which is available through the Province. Information can be accessed about this program by calling 1-800-670-4636

Warden Boudreau thanked Ms. Reed for her presentation.

Correspondence:

- (a) Eastern Counties Regional Library re: Request for Upgrades for the Petit De Grat Library Branch

The following points were brought forward during discussion:

- Warden Boudreau indicated that this is no longer a concern; the sprinkler went off in the library causing a flood.
- The floor will be replaced in the library.
- No damage was done to the books.
- The remedies will be handled with insurance coverage pending the policy requirements.
- It was noted that the sprinkler issue has already been addressed and repaired.

Moved by Councillor David, **seconded** by Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council that Staff be directed to take all necessary actions to remedy the issue with the floor at the Petit de Grat library and ensure the space is fully functional and safe to use. Motion carried.

- (b) East Novability Society for Persons with Disabilities re: Request for Financial Assistance

The Municipal Clerk indicated that the organization is seeking a donation from the County.

Moved by Deputy Warden MacNeil, **seconded** by Councillor Martell that the request for financial assistance put forth by East Novability Society for Persons with Disabilities be referred to budget deliberations. Motion carried.

- (c) Environment Canada re: Proposed Amendment

Moved by Councillor Johnson, **seconded** by Councillor David that the Committee recommend to Council that a letter be written to Environment Canada expressing

Municipal Council's support for the recommendation of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada to move the Cobblestone Tiger Beetle; the Whip-poor-will; Pygmy Snaketail and the Snapping Turtle, on the list of Wildlife Species at Risk, as outlined by Environment Canada. Motion carried.

(d) Caregiver Nova Scotia re: Annual Port Hawkesbury Caregiver Dinner

Warden Boudreau indicated that after discussion with Staff it was suggested that each Councillor select a Caregiver from their community to attend this dinner.

There was consensus from the Committee to have each Councillor provide Staff with the name of a candidate to attend the Annual Port Hawkesbury Caregiver Dinner and tickets will be provided.

(e) Municipality of the County of Antigonish re: Information Technology (IT) Systems

Moved by Councillor David, **seconded** by Councillor Marchand that Council authorize the participation in the Information Technology (IT) study as proposed by the Municipality of the County of Antigonish; and further moved that Warden Boudreau be authorized to sign the letter of support indicating Richmond County's support for the Information Technology Systems project. Motion carried.

(f) Warden Boudreau re:

(i) Sporting Mountain Area Advisory Committee

Warden Boudreau indicated that he would like to make the Committee aware of a potential new structure for public input regarding the planning process, as the current structure does not satisfy the requirements of Richmond County.

Warden Boudreau would like to explore the option of having the Planning Advisory Committee go out and get public information and report back to Council; this would include having an Isle Madame Municipal representative, as well as two members of the public from the Isle Madame area join the P.A.C.; upon the additions to the P.A.C. the committee would immediately go to the public and obtain input regarding the Sporting Mountain Plan and report back to Council. This protocol would be used for future planning reviews in Richmond County.

Warden Boudreau would like the Committee to consider this option and get back to him with a decision.

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- It was noted that other Municipalities no longer have Area Advisory Committees, as it is the Planning Advisory Committee who carry out the recommended duties.
- It was noted that this is a great idea.
- It was noted that this will increase the work load of the P.A.C.
- It was noted that the A.A.C. which worked on the St. Peter’s plan had done great work.
- It was noted that this would not change the policies and regulations currently in place for the Planning Advisory Committee.
- It was noted that all residents of Richmond County should have a say in any type of planning which takes place in the County.
- It was noted that Council has the final decision when it comes to planning in Richmond County.
- It was noted that all persons who serve on the P.A.C. should be in favor of planning.

Moved by Councillor Boucher, **seconded** by Councillor David that the Committee recommend to Council that the makeup of the Planning Advisory Committee be changed and **FURTHER MOVED** that the Planning Advisory Committee become the Committee to review all plans in Richmond County. Motion carried.

(ii) GASHA water billing

Warden Boudreau indicated that this has been an on-going issue for several years and he is pleased to announce that an amount for \$85,000 has been received by GASHA with an agreement of \$8,200 per year to be paid by GAHSA to Richmond County for 20 years.

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- It was noted that Warden Boudreau and Staff should be commended for the excellent work with this issue.
- It was noted that the resolution reached has satisfied all parties involved.

(g) (i) Arichat Lift Station Project

Moved by Councillor David, **seconded** by Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council that **WHEREAS** the ratepayers have been consulted in 2008 and agreed to upgrade the Arichat sewer pumping stations at an estimated cost of \$423 per household per year based on a 15 year amortization period;

AND WHEREAS staff have reviewed tenders for upgrades to Arichat sewer pumping stations;

AND WHEREAS Superior Contracting submitted the lowest tender;

AND WHEREAS staff and consulting engineers negotiated a scope of work with Superior Contracting that respects the engagement of ratepayers as per the 2008 public meeting with estimated cost to ratepayers being \$414 per household per year based on a 15 year amortization period;

THEREFORE BE IS RESOLVED that staff be authorized to enter into a contractual agreement with Superior Contracting based on a tender price of \$837,000 plus applicable taxes. Motion carried.

(ii) Arichat Lift Station Project Borrowing Resolution

Moved by Councillor David, **seconded** by Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council to accept the recommendation of the Chief Financial Officer and approve a borrowing resolution for the Arichat sewer project to a maximum of \$600,000 with the loan being amortized over fifteen years. Motion carried.

(h) Mrs. Tracy Randall re: Grant Request:

- (i) Riverdale Community Services Society – Municipal District Activity - \$5,000 Fund; District #5;
- (ii) River Bourgeois Community Services Society – Municipal District Activity - \$5,000 Fund; District #7;
- (iii) L'Ardoise Adult Recreation Club – Municipal District \$20,000 Fund; District #9;
- (iv) Bras D'Or Lakers Seniors Association – Municipal District Activity - \$5,000 Fund; District #10 (\$506.66)

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

- \$250 to the Riverdale Community Services Society – Municipal District Activity - \$5,000 Fund; District #5;
- \$90.25 to the River Bourgeois Community Services Society – Municipal District Activity - \$5,000 Fund; District #7;
- \$25,000 to the L'Ardoise Adult Recreation Club – Municipal District \$20,000 Fund; District #9;
- \$506.66 to the Bras D'Or Lakers Seniors Association – Municipal District Activity - \$5,000 Fund; District #10.

Motion carried.

Items Added to the Agenda

1. Warden Boudreau re: Request for a Letter of Support from the New Horizons Group

Warden Boudreau indicated that the New Horizons Group is looking to expand their facility to accommodate the number seniors who participate in the activities provided.

Moved by Councillor David, **seconded** by Councillor Martell that the Committee recommend to Council that a letter of support be provided to the Isle Madame New Horizons Senior Citizens Club regarding their funding application for an expansion to their Arichat facility. Motion carried.

2. Warden Boudreau re: Aid for Haiti

Warden Boudreau indicated that other counties have made a monetary donation and asked what the wishes of the Committee were.

Moved by Councillor Boucher, **seconded** by Councillor Martell that the Committee recommend to Council that Richmond County Council make a contribution of \$1,500 via Red Cross to the Haiti Relief Fund, with the funding to be taken from general revenue. Motion carried.

3. Deputy Warden MacNeil re: NewPage Hockey Tournament

Deputy Warden MacNeil indicated that each year the County makes a monetary donation to the NewPage Hockey Tournament and this year the request has been increased by \$800.

Each year the NewPage Hockey Tournament attracts numerous individuals to Richmond County, which make use of the services available in the County.

It was noted that this request has not been brought to the attention of Council via Staff and that the CAO has been requested to research who the letter was addressed to in the past years.

Moved by Deputy Warden MacNeil, **seconded** by Councillor David that the Committee recommend to Council that a municipal contribution in the amount of \$2,000 be approved for the NewPage Invitational Minor Hockey Tournament. Motion carried.

4. Councillor Johnson re: Biosphere

Councillor Johnson provided a brief update on the Biosphere and indicated that she would like to be given the opportunity to address any further questions and/or concerns prior to recommending the acceptance of the Biosphere at the next regular Council meeting.

It was noted that there are still some residents in District 8 who have some concerns.

Councillor Johnson indicated that the Biosphere Committee is willing to meet with all persons who have any further questions.

It was noted that the Biosphere will be a great façade that will be recognized worldwide.

It was noted that some residents feel it will place more control over what will take place on the lake.

It was noted that there is an abundance of positive information available on the Internet for those who may want more information.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, **seconded** by Councillor McNamara that the Committee recommend to Council the approval of the Biosphere designation of the Bras d'Or Lakes. Motion carried.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

Mr. Doug Begg approached the Committee regarding an item on the agenda.

Mr. Ross Wagg approached the Committee regarding an item on the agenda.

In-Camera

Moved by Councillor David, **seconded** by Councillor Boucher that the Committee proceed "In-Camera". Motion carried.

An "In-Camera" session was held to discuss Louisdale Watermain and Strait Area Community Pool.

Warden Boudreau re-convened the Regular Meeting at 9:08 p.m.

Moved by Councillor Marchand, **seconded** by Deputy Warden MacNeil that the Committee recommend to Council that municipal staff are directed to proceed with making arrangements for upgrade of an approximately 200 metre long section of water main on Ferry Road in Louisdale to accommodate proposed developments in that area and that the Chief Financial Officer be consulted with respect to how this capital expenditure should be funded. Motion carried.

Adjournment

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

There being no further business, the Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 9:09 p.m.