

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

APRIL 6, 2010

Location: Council Chambers, Municipal Office

Present: Deputy Warden S. MacNeil, Councillor V. David,
Councillor B. Marchand, Councillor A. Martell,
Councillor M. Beaton, Councillor G. Boucher,
Councillor S. McNamara, Councillor S. Sampson,
Councillor G. Johnson.

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

Items Added to the Agenda

Deputy Warden MacNeil indicated that Warden Boudreau wished to add an item regarding the final word on the rewording of contract to construct the Evanston Sewage Treatment Plant System.

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

Review of Minutes: March 29, 2010

Moved by Councillor Martell, **seconded by** Councillor Boucher that the minutes of March 29, 2010 be adopted as presented. **Motion carried.**

Director of Tourism, Culture & Recreation re: Additional Budget Information

Mr. MacDonald indicated that he and Mr. Boudreau have reviewed all of the questions and comments provided by Council and have revised the Recreation Budget accordingly, noting that the overall increase is now at 2.53%.

Mr. Boudreau indicated that in regards to lifeguard services at the Point Michaud Beach, he needs direction from Council if they wish to move forward with this project, noting that it will take considerable time to get things in place for this summer.

The following points were brought forth during discussions:

- Councilors expressed support for the establishment of lifeguard services at the Point Michaud Beach.
- Providing lifeguard services at one beach is a start and depending on the success of the project, in the future Council may want to expand these services to other beaches.
- The Province will be contributing approximately \$10,000 in services and equipment; the cost to the Municipality will be approximately \$15,000.
- The Municipality will provide funds to the NS Lifeguard Service and they will make arrangements for staffing, training and equipment.
- Most of the new beaches that are granted lifeguard services by the Province are on a cost shared basis.
- Keeping good records on usage is imperative, noting that the NS Lifeguard Service keeps track of usage and will compile data.
- Beach reports will be broadcast on local radio stations promoting the beach to listeners.
- Those who are not familiar with the area will be more comfortable visiting a beach that is supervised.
- The Province is responsible for most beaches, noting that they provide funding to the NS Lifeguard Service, however this funding has not increased over the past few years.
- There are no significant budget items for the Richmond Arena, noting that the board will still be operating as a non-profit organization and that some capital funding can be considered outside of the Recreation Budget.
- It was noted that the \$500 for Festival Meals will be rolled over to the Municipal District Activity Fund.
- Mr. Boudreau has applied to the NS Canada Day Committee for \$5,000 in funding.
- The area that is usually used for fireworks is not available this year and it is quite difficult to find another suitable location.
- It was agreed that the budget item for Canada Day fireworks be included and if a suitable site is found then a decision to proceed can be made at a later date.

Moved by Councillor Boucher, **seconded by** Councillor Sampson that the Committee recommend to Council to approve the section of the 2010 Recreation Budget pertaining to lifeguard services for the Point Michaud Beach, to enable the project to move forward. Motion carried.

Presentation:

- (a) La Coopérative Radio Richmond Ltée re: Financial Request

Mr. Billy Joyce joined the meeting.

Mr. Joyce continued with a verbal presentation (copy attached).

The following points were brought forth during discussions:

- The radio station has only been broadcasting full time for three weeks.
- The CRTC requires that there be 26 hours per week of live shows, noting that there is great interest from individuals wishing to do weekly shows.
- It is imperative that advertising be pursued.
- The idea of another bingo in the community will add to the declining support for bingo's held by community halls.
- It was noted that a feasibility study will be carried out regarding the bingo before moving forward.
- There are people listening as far as Johnstown and Larry's River.
- The radio station needs staff in order to produce radio advertising being requested by businesses.
- It was suggested that after year two it may be difficult to solicit new advertising, noting that projections may not be realistic.
- In yr 1 Isle Madame will be targeted for advertising, in year 2 they will expand to Port Hawkesbury and in year 3 Sydney will be targeted.
- Several councilors commended Mr. Joyce on the wonderful programming.
- It was noted that the target audience of the radio station was 35+.

Deputy Warden MacNeil thanked Mr. Joyce for his presentation and indicated that the funding request will be addressed during budget deliberations on grants.

Referred from Council:

(a) Grant Request - Bras D'Or Lakers Seniors Association, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #10 (\$506.66)

Moved by Councillor Johnson, **seconded by** Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council that the grant request from the Bras D'Or Lakers Seniors Association in the amount of \$506.66 be approved and that these funds be taken from the Municipal District Activity Fund for District #10. Motion carried.

Discussion re: Possible Special Budget Meeting

Deputy Warden MacNeil indicated that Warden Boudreau is requesting that a Special Budget Meeting be held before the end of the month, suggesting April 19th as a possible date.

Councillor Sampson indicated that he has a previous commitment for that date.

Councillor Marchand noted that he was unsure if he would be available.

All other Councillor's indicated that they would be able to attend on April 19th.

Deputy Warden MacNeil indicated that he will provide this information to the Warden.

Louisdale Water Treatment Plant

Councillor Marchand indicated that he wished to have this project added to the Capital Priority List.

The following points were brought forward during discussions:

- Concern was expressed that there is still some work to be done on this project.
- The Evanston STP project is now moving forward after being on the list for about 20 years.
- Projects currently on the list will be given preference.
- Staff is awaiting a response on funding for parallel water testing through PCAP.
- The feasibility study on this project is complete.
- Once testing is done more concrete prices will be determined.

Moved by Councillor Marchand, **seconded by** Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council that the Louisdale Water Treatment Plant Project be added to the Municipality's Capital Priority List. Motion carried.

Richmond Arena Draft Service Agreement and Draft Asset Transfer Agreement

The following points were brought forth during discussions:

- The Solicitor is suggesting that these documents be signed in his office, in the presence of both parties involved.
- There is a minor issue regarding HST and information is being requested from a tax expert to avoid the Municipality having to pay HST on the transaction.
- A few clauses may have to be modified to reflect the advice received from the tax expert, noting that the Solicitor is aware of this issue.
- It is hoped that these agreements will be signed by the end of the month.

Moved by Councillor David, **seconded by** Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council to proceed with the signing of the Draft Service Agreement and the Draft Asset Transfer Agreement, pending changes suggested by the tax expert from Grant Thornton regarding HST. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

- (a) Gaelic Council of Nova Scotia re: March News Bulletin/Request for Letter of Support/Financial Request

Moved by Councillor McNamara, **seconded by** Councillor Johnson that the Committee recommend to Council that a letter of support be provided to the Gaelic Council of Nova Scotia for the overall work being undertaken by the Council. Motion carried.

(b) Nova Scotia Nature Trust re: Financial Request

It was suggested that this item be tabled to budget deliberations.

(c) Strait-Highlands R.D.A. re: Request for Municipal Funding

Councillor Beaton declared a conflict on interest with regards to the funding request from the Strait-highlands RDA, indicating that he is related to an employee.

It was suggested that this item be tabled to budget deliberations.

(d) Department of Justice re: Arichat Courthouse

The following points were brought forth during discussions:

- Court services will no longer take place at the Arichat Courthouse.
- Rent received from the Province will significantly decrease because of this.
- The Registry of Deeds offices will remain, however rent is only approximately \$7,000 per year for this space.
- Costs associated with the operation of the building are significant.

(e) Mrs. Tracy Randall re: Grant Requests:

- St. Hyacinth's Parish Council, Municipal District Activity Fund – District #3 (\$200);
- The Point Tupper Heritage Association, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund – District #5 (\$9,930)

Councillor David indicated that he would like to share the contribution to St. Hyacinth's Parish Council with Councillor Beaton for Father JJ MacDonald's birthday celebrations.

Moved by Councillor Beaton, **seconded by** Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council that the following grant requests be approved:

- \$200 to St. Hyacinth's Parish Council with funds to be taken from the Municipal District Activity Funds for Districts #3 and #1.
- \$9,930 to the Point Tupper Heritage Association with funds to be taken from the Municipal District Infrastructure Fund for District #5.

Motion carried.

Items Added to the Agenda

(1) Warden Boudreau Re: The final word on the rewarding of contract to construct the Evanston Sewage Treatment Plant System.

Councillor McNamara indicated that she is thankful that this project is moving forward, however she indicated that it is imperative that a public meeting be held in her community to provide full disclosure on the details of this project.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

There were no questions.

Adjournment

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

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

MINUTES RECORDED BY:

MUNICIPAL CLERK:

CHAIRPERSON

CAO