

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

MARCH 29, 2010

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 there was one item added prior to the deadline regarding information and recognition of local musicians.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, **seconded** by Deputy Warden MacNeil that the agenda be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Review of Minutes: March 1, 2010

Moved by Councillor David, **seconded** by Councillor Boucher that the minutes of March 1, 2010 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Staff Reports:

(a) Director of Public Works re:

(i) Awarding of Evanston Sewage Treatment Plant Tender

Warden Boudreau welcomed Mr. McLean and Mr. MacDonald to the meeting.

Mr. McLean presented information on the tendering process for the Evanston Sewage Treatment Plant. Copy attached.

Mr. MacDonald, Chief Financial Officer, commented on the project and reviewed the steps taken throughout the process.

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- The design of the plant is set up to serve approximately 90 households and has room for expansion.
- It was noted that a small fraction of the community was represented at the public meeting.

- It was noted that currently the annual service charges per household is approximately \$350 per year and upon financing the project the service fees will increase to \$620 per year for a 20 year period.
- It was noted that the total cost of the project is approximately \$2.2 million and funding in the amount of \$1.5 has been guaranteed.
- It was noted that there is no such policy which indicates a percentage of the total community must be present in order to obtain public consent to proceed with a project. The decision to move forward is that of Council.
- It was noted that anticipated start up time for the project is summer 2010.

Moved by Councillor Martell, **seconded** by Councillor Marchand that the Committee recommend to Council that the Evanston Sewage Treatment Plant Tender be awarded to Joneljim Construction Ltd in the amount of \$1,777,943, excluding taxes and contingency allowances. Motion carried.

(ii) 2010/11 Budget

Mr. McLean presented two versions of the Public Works Department 2010/2011 Budget. Copies attached.

Mr. MacDonald and Mr. McLean reviewed the budget for the Public Works Department.

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- The difference between the two budgets is capital, which amounts to approximately \$3,000 – \$4,000.
- There are three pieces of equipment that need replacement;
 - o Truck to haul the waste trailer, which will provide an annual savings of approximately \$48,000 per year.
 - o New backhoe to replace the current one which is 5 years old, which will generate a savings due to non warranty repairs.
 - o New excavator with a dozer attachment, which will generate an annual savings of approximately \$1,500 per year.
- General building maintenance and repairs is allocated to the maintenance building which contains a lunch room and washroom that need upgrading.
- Councillors were urged to submit their questions, which may require further research, regarding the budget to the Warden or CAO to be addressed further.
- The overall budget increase of approximately 7.65 per cent is considerably high and given the amount of request for the upcoming budget, it may require some adjustments.
- It was noted that once a piece of equipment is 5 years old maintenance costs come at an additional expense and can be a burden.
- The backhoe is a key piece of equipment which is used for many tasks and it is important to have reliable equipment.

- There is a purchase agreement with the supplier that offers an advantage that the County should make use of.
- It was noted that 3000 hours on the backhoe is not a lot and therefore does not need replacement.
- The Director of Public Works will provide the benefits of the buyback agreement for the backhoe to Council for further consideration.
- It was noted that the CAO will be away from April 3-10, 2010 and therefore, additional information request can be sent directly to the Director of Public Works and copied to the CAO.

Warden Boudreau thanked Mr. McLean and Mr. MacDonald for their report.

Review of Certificates for Caregivers:

Warden Boudreau asked Councillors to review the certificates for the caregivers.

It was the consensus of the Committee to utilize the certificates generated for the caregivers.

Correspondence:

- (a) Department of Environment re: Environmental Study on Two Provincial Crown Properties

The CAO reported the following information:

- Five sites have been identified and two of the five sites will be used to conduct an environmental study.
- The two sites being used are in Oban and Fourchu

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- Municipal sites have not been included in those sites indentified.
- Of the five sites, three are on the main land and two are located on the island.

- (b) Hon. Bill Estabrooks re: Renewable Energy

The CAO indicated this correspondence is for information purposes.

- (c) Hon. Ramona Jennex re: Information Technology Study

The CAO reported the following:

- The Province has agreed to cost share the Information Technology study and committed to 50% of the study to a maximum of \$25,000.

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- Antigonish County felt there was a need to upgrade the technology used by administration
- The County's costs to participate in this study have not been determined thus far.
- Antigonish County will provide Council with a sharing scheme in the near future.

(d) Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal re: 2010 Annual Temporary Count Program

The CAO indicated this correspondence is for information purposes.

Warden Boudreau indicated that Councillor Martell had requested a count in the past and this would be the chance to access that information.

(e) Meghan McNamara re: Request for Financial Assistance

Warden Boudreau indicated that Council needs to come up with a mechanism to deal with such request as they have been increasing.

Moved by Councillor David, **seconded** by Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council that the request for financial assistance from Meghan McNamara and all such request be forwarded to the respective Municipal Councillor for consideration and monies committed be taken from the District Activity Fund. Motion carried.

(f) Tracy Randall re: Grant Requests:

- (i) Isle Madame Boat Club, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund – District #1 (\$4,100);
- (ii) Riverdale Community Services Society, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund – District #5 (\$10,000);
- (iii) River Bourgeois Mariner's Society, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund – District #7 (\$2,000);
- (iv) St. Peter's United Church, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund – District #8 (\$5,000)

Moved by Deputy Warden MacNeil, **seconded** by Councillor David that the Committee recommend to Council the approval of the following grant requests:

- Isle Madame Boat Club, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund – District #1 (\$4,100);
- Riverdale Community Services Society, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund – District #5 (\$10,000);

- River Bourgeois Mariner's Society, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund – District #7 (\$2,000);
- St. Peter's United Church, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund – District #8 (\$5,000)

Motion carried.

List of Cheques Issued: February 2010

The CAO presented the list of cheques written for February 2010.

Councillor David declared a conflict of interest and removed himself from discussion because there are cheques written to his company, Jeantie's Mini Mart.

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- The CAO indicated that requests for clarification on cheques written are to be submitted to the Chief Financial Officer.
- The CAO explained the purchasing process, followed by Staff, to the Committee.
- It was noted that cheques are approved after they are written.
- It was noted that each invoice is reviewed and signed by the Warden and Councillors are welcome to join the Warden to review the specifics of any invoice at any time.
- It was noted that there is a fundamental issue of questioning the ability of staff to carry out their duties
- It was noted that money is spent as per instruction of Council and the process is audited annually, hence there is no need for an individual Councillor audit.
- It was noted that the mechanism in place with the Audit Committee is great and gives the committee a chance to review the spending of funds throughout the year.
- It was noted that Staff should supply information regarding written cheques to Councillors when requested.
- It was noted that the Warden and CAO monitor the finances very well.

Moved by Councillor Boucher, **seconded** by Councillor Beaton that the Committee approve the list of cheques for the month of February 2010 in the amount of \$620,192.79. Motion carried.

Items Added:

1. Councillor David re: Information and recognition of local musicians.

Councillor David indicated that Richmond County should put more effort in recognizing local musicians for their contribution in representing the County on a daily basis and identified the following persons:

- Jarvis Benoit
- Filbert Boudreau

- Elmer Briand
- Cornelia and Billy MacLeod
- Robert Bouchard
- Delores Boudreau
- Adam Cooke
- Michelle Boudreau Samson
- Dakota Rideout
- Tara Lynn Touesnard
- Cyril MacPhee

Moved by Councillor David, **seconded** by Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council to recognize the work of local musicians to include:

- Jarvis Benoit
- Filbert Boudreau
- Elmer Briand
- Cornelia and Billy MacLeod
- Robert Bouchard
- Delores Boudreau
- Adam Cooke
- Michelle Boudreau Samson
- Dakota Rideout
- Tara Lynn Touesnard
- Cyril MacPhee

In an effort include every musician within Richmond County, as so not to offend anyone, the motion was rescinded by the mover and seconder.

It was noted that an amount from the budget could be set aside to use as seed money to obtain further funding to do a proper analysis of all musicians within Richmond County.

Moved by Councillor David, **seconded** by Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council that Staff be directed to do an analysis and come up with a mechanism to properly identify all musicians within Richmond County in order to recognize them for the efforts in representing the County. Motion carried.

Warden Boudreau reminded Councillors of the upcoming Strategic Planning session taking place in Sydney on April 16th and 17th and urged them to mark their calendars.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

There were no questions.

In-Camera Session:

Moved by Councillor Boucher, **seconded** by Councillor Martell that the meeting proceed to “In-Camera” session. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden MacNeil, **seconded** by Councillor David that the meeting reconvene to regular session. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, **seconded** by Deputy Warden MacNeil that the Committee recommend to Council to fund 8 per cent, to a maximum of \$25,000, of the Little Harbour Three Phase Power Project. 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 8:45 p.m.