

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

APRIL 26, 2010

Location: Council Chambers, Municipal Office

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

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 the District #4 Wastewater Management Project and Councillor David wished to add the Little Barachois Water System.

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

Review of Minutes: April 6, 2010

Moved by Councillor David, **seconded by** Councillor Boucher that the minutes of April 6, 2010 be adopted as presented. **Motion carried.**

Presentation:

(a) Friends of the Great Walk re: Railway Track

The Committee welcomed Mr. Clair Rankin, Ms. Michelle Casey, President of the Community Club and Ms. Georgette Burke, a member of the Village Commission.

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

The following points were brought forth during discussions:

- The petition that was circulated in the community will be presented to Council and at this point has not been taken to any other level of government.
- A meeting was held two years ago where the community had expressed to the Department of Natural Resources that they did not want the trail open to motorized traffic. This meeting was a result of an application by the East Richmond ATV Riders to take over management of the trail.
- A letter was reviewed at a meeting of the Village Commission on March 3rd requesting support to open up the trail to motorized traffic and the vote was in favor, pending that there were regulations and enforcement.
- The letter that was presented to the Village Commission was from an individual, not an organization.
- The Municipal Government Act indicates that a municipality is duly bound by the mandate of villages within its boundaries.
- Department of Natural Resources currently manages the trail.
- SPEDO and the Community Club also support a ban on motorized traffic.
- Staff from the Department of Natural Resources has indicated that there is no longer a budget for maintenance of this trail.
- This group is in the process of establishing a new organization that will be making application to take over the trail.

Warden Boudreau thanked the group for their presentation and suggested that they keep council updated on the situation.

Director of Tourism, Culture & Recreation re: Budget

The Committee welcomed Mr. Clifford Boudreau to the meeting.

The Committee had no further questions regarding the Recreation Budget.

It was noted that issues regarding policy matters will be entertained during the “In-Camera” session.

Director of Public Works re: Budget

The Committee welcomed Mr. Darrin McLean and Mr. Stewart MacDonald to the meeting.

The following points were brought forth during discussions:

- The buy-back amount for the backhoe is the guaranteed re-purchase price; the agreement that was in place allowed for a guaranteed re-purchase price of \$39,000 after 5 years or 5,000 hours of use.

- The backhoe is still a perfectly suitable piece of equipment for its purpose at the Solid Waste Management Facility.
- If the Municipality decides to keep the backhoe they will not get the guaranteed price when they choose to sell.
- The initial cost of the backhoe was approximately \$110,000.
- The maintenance agreement provides that if actual maintenance costs exceed \$27,000, then the Municipality will be reimbursed for the additional costs.
- Very little maintenance should be required on a new backhoe within the first five years.
- Concern was expressed with getting involved further in such service agreements.
- Five years is too soon to be trading in heavy equipment that is not heavily used.
- On a busy week two trips of waste is hauled to Sydport and one trip is made to Guysborough.
- It was noted that an analysis was done comparing the municipality's current trucking costs to the purchase of a selected model of tractor and associated operating costs and the projected savings for 2011 is approximately \$55,000.
- Depreciation of the vehicles must also be considered.
- After year 10 when the truck is paid off is when significant savings will be realized.
- Concern was expressed regarding the liability of the Municipality to have such a vehicle on the road.
- The existing lunchroom and washroom facilities at the Solid Waste Management Facility require upgrading, noting that staff currently use an office in the building that houses the excavator as their lunchroom.
- There is also a rudimentary washroom in the same building.
- The heavy equipment at the landfill is used for light duty work and such equipment is built to last for the long term.
- The whole rationale behind the lifecycle costs contract is dependability; it quantifies the quality of the piece of gear factoring in the cost of maintenance and repairs over a five year period.
- After the contract for the backhoe expires they will be gambling a bit with regards to maintenance costs.
- If Council decides not to purchase a backhoe at this time, it should be considered at what point re-purchase would be considered.
- The market value of the backhoe has not been determined.
- There are 3000 hours on the backhoe.
- With no service agreement, when the equipment is out of order the Municipality will have to pay the cost for a contractor to do the work and equipment is required on site at all times.
- It is imperative that the County ensures that the staff at the Solid Waste Management Facility has adequate washrooms and a lunchroom.
- The groundwater and surface water monitoring at the Solid Waste Management Facility is required on a yearly basis to maintain approvals to operate the facility.

The purpose of this work is to quantify the impact of the site on the local environment.

- “Flat Rate” revenues are collected through the base charge and “Metered” revenues are based on consumption.
- Today’s public scrutiny on the environment is quite heavy and it must be taken into consideration to maximize the environmental efficiency as far as potential uses of new equipment.

Former St. Peter’s School Property

The CAO indicated that an RFP was issued and there were no submissions, however there were two inquiries.

The following points were brought forth during discussions:

- There does not appear to be a lot of demand for the property.
- The Solicitor has been instructed to pursue issues with regards to the boundaries of the property.
- Before anything is done with the building there must be a decision made with regards to the contents.
- Further direction from Council is required as to what options to pursue for this property.

Correspondence:

(a) Vested Property Clerk re: St. Peter’s Lions Club

Deputy Warden MacNeil indicated that he is expecting further information on this issue which he will bring forward to Council when received.

(b) Hon. Ramona Jennex re: French Cove/Cape George Water System Extensions Project

For information.

(c) Nova Scotia Come to Life re: Charter Membership

Warden Boudreau indicated that he has not expressed interest in becoming a Charter Member, however if Council feels this is something that should be pursued, please advise him.

(d) Mrs. Tracy Randall re: Volunteer Fire Departments

For information.

Councillor Martell indicated that he is working to provide Board Training for local volunteer fire departments.

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

- Rocky Bay Irish Club, Municipal District Activity Fund - District #3 (\$200);
- Acadiaville Community Centre Society, Municipal District Activity Fund – District #4 (\$300);
- Acadiaville Community Centre Society, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund – District #4 (\$30,000);
- St. Peter’s Parish, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund – District #8 (\$4,780.20);
- Fourchu Development Association, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund – District #10 (\$750).

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

- \$200 to the Rocky Bay Irish Club with funds to be taken from the Municipal District Activity Fund - District #3;
- \$300 to the Acadiaville Community Centre Society with funds to be taken from the Municipal District Activity Fund – District #4;
- \$30,000 to the Acadiaville Community Centre Society with funds to be taken from the Municipal District Infrastructure Fund – District #4;
- \$4,780.20 to the St. Peter’s Parish with funds to be taken from the Municipal District Infrastructure Fund – District #8;
- \$750 to the Fourchu Development Association with funds to be taken from the Municipal District Infrastructure Fund – District #10.

Motion carried.

(f) Municipality of the District of Guysborough re: Municipal Representation on RRFB Board

Warden Boudreau indicated that Councillor Johnson has submitted an application for a board position, noting that he appreciates her application and will be giving her full support.

Councillor Johnson indicated that she had submitted her letter of intent and résumé three months ago, noting that she has a great deal of interest in this organization and appreciates Council’s support of her application to this position.

List of Cheques Issued: March, 2010

Councillor David declared interest with regards to the List of Cheques Issued for March 2010, indicating that his business is listed as receiving cheques.

Moved by Deputy Warden MacNeil, **seconded by** Councillor Martell that the List of Cheques Issued for the month of March 2010 in the amount of \$753,750.61 be accepted as presented. **Motion carried.**

Items Added to the Agenda

(1) Councillor Martell re: District #4 Wastewater Management Project

Councillor Martell indicated that a public meeting was held on April 18th at the Acadiaville Community Centre to present the consultant’s final report and the community has recommended that this project be pursued.

Moved by Councillor Martell, **seconded by** Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council to continue to keep the District #4 Wastewater Management Project #1 on the Municipality’s Capital Priority List and that staff be directed to continue to seek external funding to see this project completed. **Motion carried.**

(2) Councillor David re: Little Barachois Water System

It was noted that residents of Little Barachois will be charges \$2,000 for the hook-up and will be billed a flat rate plus consumption on a quarterly basis.

It was noted that the CFO is recommending that the costs of the project be financed as follows:

Connection Fees:	\$14,000
District #1 Infrastructure Grant Fund	\$14,000
Gas Tax	<u>\$131,300</u>
	\$159,300

Moved by Councillor David, **seconded by** Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council that the Municipality tender the installation of domestic ¼” service to the residents of Little Barachois Road and that this project be financed in accordance to the recommendation of the CFO. **Motion carried.**

Fifteen Minute Question Period

There were no questions.

“In-Camera” Session

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

An “In-Camera” session was held to discuss budget items.

Adjournment

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

MINUTES RECORDED BY:

MUNICIPAL CLERK:

CHAIRPERSON

CAO