

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

MAY 3, 2010

Location: Council Chambers, Municipal Office

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

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

Items Added to the Agenda

Deputy Warden MacNeil indicated that Councillor David wished to add program delivery under the Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation and speed limit on the high road in Arichat, as well as from the turn off at Pondville to Petit de Grat.

Councillor Sampson requested unanimous consent to add a completed grant request by the L'Ardoise Jolly Club.

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

Review of Minutes: April 26, 2010

Councillor David indicated that there was an error in the motion made regarding the Arichat water service. The motion should indicate that a ¾" pipe will be used.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, **seconded** by Councillor Martell that the minutes of April 26, 2010 be adopted as amended. **Motion carried.**

Review of Grant Requests (previously distributed; for those who received binders, please bring them to the meeting):

Deputy Warden MacNeil indicated that the grant requests were previously distributed for review.

The following points were brought forth during discussions:

- It was noted that the Committee would review the grants to charitable organizations and make a tentative decision on each request

- The Basin River Inhabitants Historical Society request was considered and an amount of \$2000 was agreed upon
- The Cape Breton Regional Hospital Foundation request for \$50,000 will be taken from general revenue
- The Cooperative Radio Richmond Ltee request was considered and an amount of \$5,000 was agreed upon
- The DIMA (CED Administrator/Events Coordinator) request for \$22,400 will be taken from economic development funds
- The DIMA (Eco Action Environment Proposal) request for \$3,920 will be provided through the same avenue as the funds given in last year's budget
- The East Novability Society for Persons with Disabilities request was considered and an amount of \$500 was agreed upon
- The Isle Madame Historical Society request was considered and an amount of \$1,000 was agreed upon
- The Leaside Transition House request was considered and an amount of \$5,000 was agreed upon
- The MacAskill House Museum request was considered and an amount of \$1,000 was agreed upon
- The Oceanview Wildlife Museum request was considered and an amount of \$1,000 was agreed upon
- The Point Tupper Heritage Association request was considered and an amount of \$1,000 was agreed upon
- The Richmond County Early Childhood Education Association request was considered and an amount of \$20,000 was agreed upon
- The Richmond County Literacy Network request was considered and an amount of \$15,000 was agreed upon
- The River Bourgeois Community Services Society request was considered and an amount of \$4,300 was agreed upon
- The ROC Society request was considered and an amount of \$17,000 was agreed upon
- The Telile request was considered and an amount of \$5,000 was agreed upon
- It was noted that the amount of request put forth totals \$235,000 and the funds available are \$94,000
- It was noted that Warden Boudreau would agree to write a letter to the Isle Madame Tourism and Trade Association indicating that Council would be supportive of their group if they were part of the Destination Tourism network
- It was noted that the mechanism in which these monies are distributed each year should be done in another fashion (ie: red circle system), with correspondence sent out to organizations that continue to ask for support each year that indicates such support may no longer be available in future years
- It was noted that Council recognizes and appreciates the importance of all the community organizations within the County, however, the avenue that is used to distribute these funds needs to be reconsidered
- It was noted that infrastructure requests via the grants to charitable organization fund cannot be supported and such receipts that are submitted for reimbursement are rejected

- It was noted that the total amount of funds tentatively agreed upon, which includes the Civic Centre, Le Noir Forge, Nicholas Denys and three scholarships totals \$95,050
- It was noted that correspondence should be sent to each individual organization that does not meet the criteria for the Grants to Charitable Organization Fund policy (ie: infrastructure requests)

Moved by Councillor David that the grant request from DIMA (Eco Action Environment Proposal) in the amount of \$3,920 be moved forward.

Councillor David withdrew his motion.

Moved by Councillor Boucher that the grant request from East Novability Society for Persons with Disabilities in the amount of \$500 be moved forward.

Councillor Boucher withdrew his motion.

Chief Financial Officer re: 2010/11 Budget:

Deputy Warden MacNeil welcomed Mr. Stewart MacDonald to the meeting.

Mr. MacDonald presented the 2010/11 Budget (copy attached).

Mr. MacDonald indicated the following:

- There are various options to consider when trying to fund all the requests put forth, these options include increasing the residential tax rate only, increasing the commercial tax rate only or increasing both tax rates.
- Mr. MacDonald reviewed each page of the budget and highlighted certain aspects that he felt required explanation.

The following points were brought forth during discussions:

- It was noted that the grants in lieu are separate sources of property taxes from different levels of government.
- It was noted that monies not accessible due to assessment capping is an excessive amount and continues to increase.
- It was noted that the County is currently collecting taxes on one windmill in Point Tupper, which is based on mega watt usage; taxes are applied six months after they are in operation.
- It was noted that there is a decrease in rent because of the lack of court services offered at the Arichat Court House.
- It was noted that interest collected is from overdue tax accounts.
- It was noted that in order to determine the accuracy of the cost of streetlights an inventory would have to be completed.

- It was noted that the manner in which the budget was provided is excellent.
- It was noted that the cost of corrections is being phased out equally over five years.
- It was noted that the cost of social housing is being phased out in equal parts over two years.
- It was noted that it is important to be responsible to the residents of Richmond County by making decisions regarding requests and to set priorities to give direction to the County.
- It was noted that if there are specific questions, which would require some time to address, regarding the budget Councillors were to direct them to the CFO.

Deputy Warden MacNeil thanked Mr. MacDonald for his report.

Councillor Marchand re: Proposed Subdivision

Councillor Marchand indicated that he would like to obtain support for the upcoming proposal regarding the proposed subdivision.

The following points were brought forth during discussions:

- It was noted that a proposal has not been submitted thus far.
- It was noted that Councillor Marchand should work with the proponent to have a proposal submitted as soon as possible.
- It was noted that a proposal is to be submitted prior to making a decision

Correspondence:

- (a) Royal Canadian Air Cadets 824 Silver Dart Squadron re: Concerns Regarding Storage and Office Space

The Municipal Clerk indicated that the Royal Canadian Air Cadets 824 Silver Dart Squadron expressed concern regarding the storage and office space made available to them at the East Richmond Education Centre and is seeking support from the County to explore options for their group.

The following points were brought forth during discussions:

- It was noted that the administration staff at the East Richmond Education Centre has worked diligently with the group in order to accommodate them the best they can.
- It was noted that staff would send a letter to the group indicating their support to further discuss this request.

- (b) Health Promotion and Protection re: Proclamation of “Move for Health Day”

Moved by Councillor David, **seconded** by Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council that May 10th be proclaimed Move for Health Day. **Motion carried.**

(c) Region of Queens re: Outstanding Municipal Fines

Deputy Warden MacNeil indicated that the UNSM has an agreement to assist with these collections.

(d) Tracy Randall re: Grant Requests:

- Arichat Recreation Commission, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #1 (\$5,000);
- Société Petit De Grat Beautification Society, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #2 (\$500);
- Les Femmes en Marche de Richmond, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #2 (\$475);
- St. Hyacinth's CWL - Municipal District Activity Fund, District #3 (\$200);
- SPEDO – Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #8 (\$3,038.44).

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

- Société Petit De Grat Beautification Society, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #2 (\$500);
- Les Femmes en Marche de Richmond, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #2 (\$475);
- St. Hyacinth's CWL - Municipal District Activity Fund, District #3 (\$200);
- SPEDO – Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #8 (\$3,038.44).
- L'Ardoise Jolly Club – Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #9 (\$5,500)

AND FURTHER MOVED that the grant request submitted by the Arichat Recreation Commission, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #1 (\$5,000) be redirected back to the group with a letter indicating that proper procedure had not been followed. **Motion carried.**

Items Added to the Agenda:

1. Councillor David re: Program Delivery under the Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation

Councillor David indicated that programs should involve input from residents, council and staff and would like to have an advisory body created on recreation and culture

programs that the Director of Tourism, Culture and Recreation and the CAO prepare for consideration by Council, which would consist of residents, staff and Council members.

Moved by Councillor David, **seconded** by Warden Boudreau that the Committee recommend to Council that the following resolution be adopted:

Whereas:

Programs delivered under recreation and culture is of utmost interest to the residents of Richmond County,

and Whereas:

There is a need for new programs to be developed on an ongoing basis and existing programs be evaluated,

and Whereas:

Council and staff could benefit from public participation in the program design and evaluation process.

Be it resolved:

That the director of Tourism, Culture and Recreation and the CAO prepare options on a Citizen, Staff and Council advisory body on Recreation and Culture programs for consideration by Council.

Motion carried.

2. Councillor David re: The Speed limit on the high road in Arichat, as well as from the turn off at Pondville to Petit de Grat

Councillor David indicated that he has received complaints from the residents of the high road that the speed limits are too high. There are many children in the area and drivers are exceeding the posted limit of 70 km.

Moved by Councillor David, **seconded** by Warden Boudreau that the Committee recommend to Council that staff be directed to send a letter to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal requesting that the speed limit on the high road in Arichat, as well as from the turn off at Pondville to Petit de Grat be reduced from 70 km to 50 km. **Motion carried.**

Fifteen Minute Question Period:

There were no comments.

“In-Camera” Session re: Budgetary Items:

There were no items to discuss.

Adjournment

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

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

MINUTES RECORDED BY:

MUNICIPAL CLERK:

CHAIRPERSON

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER