

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

NOVEMBER 1, 2010

Location: Council Chambers, Municipal Office

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

### Items Added to the Agenda

Deputy Warden Martell indicated that Warden Boudreau wished to add a grant request from the Arichat Chapter of TOPS.

Councillor David requested and received permission to add a grant request for Our Lady of Assumption Parish.

Councillor Boucher requested and received permission to add grant requests from the River Bourgeois Mariners Society and the River Bourgeois Seniors 50+ Club.

**Moved by** Councillor Johnson and **seconded by** Councillor McNamara that the items added be accepted as amended. **Motion carried.**

### Review of Minutes: October 25, 2010

**Moved by** Councillor David, **seconded by** Councillor Boucher that the minutes of October 25, 2010 be adopted as presented. **Motion carried.**

### Completion of Strategic Plan

Deputy Warden Martell indicated that it is time to move forward with the completion and adopt the plan and it would be great if it could be ready for adoption at the December Council meeting.

The following points were brought forward during discussions:

- Councillor's should take time to review the plan and send all comments and recommendations to either Warden Boudreau or himself.

- Perhaps Councillor's should set some time aside to meet and discuss the Strategic Plan.
- It was agreed that Councillor's be given two weeks to review the document and submit recommendations.
- Mrs. Randall will e-mail the document to all Councillors.

### Charitable Grants Fund

The following points were brought forward during discussions:

- The current Charitable Grants process has gotten out of hand.
- A new process of red circling organizations and providing core funding on an ongoing basis should be explored.
- The possibility of funding through departmental budgets should also be explored.
- The option of increasing district funding with the elimination of the Grants to Charitable fund should be examined.
- Caution must be exercised when selecting what organizations to fund.
- An example of the new initiative would be to fund museums through the Tourism budget.
- Funding would be provided as long as the organization could prove that they are legitimate and are in need of the funds.
- A list of last year's approved Grants to Charitable Organizations should be circulated to Councillor's to review and submit which organizations that they believe are in need of and are worthy of the funding on an annual basis.
- Staff should also review the Grants to Charitable requests to determine where else they could fit in departmental budgets.
- Council should approach this issue with caution, limiting the funds given and establishing a policy outlining the criteria and process of accessing the funds.

**Moved by** Councillor Boucher, **seconded** by Councillor Beaton that the Committee recommend to Council that a list of last year's Grants to Charitable Organizations funding approvals be circulated to Councillor's and that Councillor's review the list and indicate which organizations they feel should be funded on an annual basis. **Motion carried.**

### Use of Gas Tax Funding

The following points were brought forth during discussions:

- There are a number of projects currently on the go with the use of the Gas Tax money.
- A certain portion of the Gas Tax money should be landmarked for projects that are on the Capital Priority List.

- The remainder of the Gas Tax money should be set aside for emergency or upcoming projects
- It should be determine how much the Municipality would be receiving over the next number of years
- It was noted that the Municipality receives approximately \$450,000 to \$500,000 per year in Gas Tax money
- The balance in the fund is approximately \$500,000
- By using Gas Tax money towards projects on the Capital Priority List the municipality is able to assist residents by helping with costs the users would normally have to pay for.
- It was noted that if there is a project that is not on the Capital Priority List and is able to be financed that it should move forward.
- Notice was received today from SNSMR that 50% of the capital costs, to a maximum of \$225,000, was approved for the Evanston Road Sewer Extension, noting that staff is currently working on the scenarios for funding.
- The government has indicated that the Municipality will receive approximately \$500,000 per year in Gas Tax money for the next 40 years.
- It was suggested that 60% of Gas Tax funds be used towards the projects on the Capital Priority List and 40% put into a fund for emergency projects.
- It was noted that when examining funding for a project, future years Gas Tax Revenue can be committed and projects will be amortized over a number of years.

**Moved by** Councillor Johnson, **seconded by** Councillor Sampson that the Committee recommend to Council that, commencing in the 2011/2112 fiscal year, that 60% of Gas Tax money be allocated for projects on the Capital Priority List and the remaining 40% be used towards emergency and upcoming projects. **Motion carried.**

#### Potential Purchase of Centrifuge Truck

The following points were brought forth during discussions:

- Antigonish purchased a centrifuge truck to deal with their solid waste and received significant external funding towards the purchase.
- A feasibility study should be conducted by staff.
- The new Wastewater Treatment Plant in Evanston will require that solids be pumped out every 2 – 3 weeks where the Municipality will have to pay for a company to pump out the plant and dispose of the solids, which is a significant cost.
- The centrifuge truck that was purchased in Antigonish cost \$450,000 and with funding from the RRFB and the Eco Trust Fund the costs to the municipality was only \$100,000.
- It was agreed that this was a great idea for Richmond and staff should move forward quickly with a feasibility study.

- It was suggested that alternative methods of providing potable water to residents should be explored, such as UV systems for residential systems and that perhaps a means of providing assistance in the form of a grant.
- It was noted that the provincial regulations for drinking water are very significant and the municipality should take caution in becoming too involved with individual residential water supplies.
- The Village of St. Peter's incurs a huge annual cost for pumping out solid waste.

**Moved by** Councillor David, **seconded by** Councillor Boucher that staff be instructed to carry out a feasibility study regarding the purchase of a centrifuge truck for the Municipality. **Motion carried.**

### Fire Department Structures

The following points were brought forward during discussions:

- A Fire Services Study was completed a few years ago.
- Mrs. Randall has been doing some work with the fire departments in gathering the information that they are required to submit to the Municipality on a yearly basis.
- Fire department structures in other municipalities should be examined.
- Councillor MacNeil, Councillor David and Mrs. Randall met with the Fire Services Coordinator in Guysborough last year to review their operations.
- The smaller fire departments seem to be suffering because they receive so little funding it is difficult to maintain operations.
- The structure of the fire departments in Richmond should be re-examined.
- Some of the larger departments that have significant levy's are even operating at a surplus.
- The department are comprised of volunteers.
- Mr. Joel Bowen had also done some work a few years ago with the department to determine their needs.
- The two pieces of work previously done regarding fire departments in Richmond should be re-examined.
- The municipality is accountable for providing fire protection to all residents and it must be examined how this service can be provided to serve the needs of all residents.
- The Guysborough model was developed by the former CAO, Mr. Dan MacDougall, where there are no individual fire departments, noting that a member from each station serves as a member on a central board and the board address the concerns and request of each station.
- Every possible model available should be examined.

**Moved by** Councillor David, **seconded by** Councillor Boucher that staff be directed to investigate the different fire department models that exist among the municipalities in Nova Scotia. **Motion carried.**

## Arichat Court House

The following points were brought forward during discussions:

- The only tenant in the building is the Registry of Deeds and they only generate approximately \$10,000 in revenue each year, a significant drop from \$38,000 when the province held court services in the building.
- The province no longer holds court service at the Arichat Courthouse.
- Staff will provide information on the operating costs for the Court House.
- Warden Boudreau and the CAO will be making one last attempt to meet with the Department of Justice to restore court services in Arichat.
- The possibility of other tenants should be explored and if Councillor's are aware of anyone that may be interested to please pursue.
- Perhaps a committee should be established to address the potential uses of the Courthouse.
- DIMA does not pay rent at the Courthouse.
- Just because the Courthouse is a historical building does not justify significant operating costs to the Municipality.
- These issues will be further addressed after a response is received from the meeting with the Department of Justice.

## Warden Boudreau re: Meeting with Dorothy's Pets in Need

Warden Boudreau indicated that he met with representatives of Dorothy's Pets in Need who explained the work that they do on a volunteer basis and the costs that they incur, noting that they pick up cats and find homes for them and those cats that they cannot find homes for they must euthanize.

The following points were brought forward during discussions:

- A lot of the expenses are out of pocket, such as transportation to and from the vet.
- A cat by-law is needed to address the cat population.
- What is being done in other municipalities should be investigated by staff.
- The AMA list serve can be used to get input from other municipalities.
- Stray cats are a problem in all of Richmond.
- This group is providing a very valuable service.
- Education on controlling the cat population is also very important.
- In some instances the Dog Catcher had to be called to intervene.
- Stray cats also carry disease and are dangerous to residents, especially small children.
- It is time for the Municipality to address this problem and either establish and enforce a cat by-law or provide further support to this group.

**Moved by** Warden Boudreau, **seconded** Councillor David that staff be instructed to do extensive research as to what exists in other municipalities in Nova Scotia to deal with

the cat population with the goal of establishing policies or programs for addressing the issue of stray cats in Richmond. **Motion carried.**

Correspondence:

(a) Nova Scotia Building Code Training and Certification Board re: Update on Recent Activities

For information.

(b) Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations re: Proclamation of Amendment to the Municipal Government Act/Debt Collection Service

The Municipality of Richmond issues less than \$1,000 in by-law fines each year so at this time contracting out these services is not required.

(c) Strait Richmond Health Care Foundation re: Lights for Life Campaign

**Moved by** Councillor Beaton, **seconded by** Councillor Boucher that Mrs. Randall assist in the process of securing Councillor's commitments (\$100 per district) to the Lights for Life Campaign through the Councillor's District Activity Fund. **Motion carried.**

(d) Solicitor re: Marketing Levy By-Law

The following points were brought forward during discussions:

- A meeting is scheduled with the Solicitor tomorrow to discuss the draft by-law.
- All five counties have shown support for the by-law.
- Councillor's are asked to review the draft by-law and provide input.

**Moved by** Warden Boudreau, **seconded by** Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council to proceed with first regarding approval of the Marketing Levy By-Law at the November 8<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting. **Motion carried.**

Items Added to the Agenda

(1) Warden Boudreau re: Grant Request from Arichat Chapter of TOPS

(2) Others:

- Grant Request, Our Lady of Assumption Parish, Municipal District Activity Fund – District #1, \$1,500;
- Grant Request, River Bourgeois Seniors 50+ Club, Municipal District Activity Fund – District #7, \$500;
- Grant Request, River Bourgeois Mariners Society, Municipal District Activity Fund – District #7, \$250.

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

- \$200 to the Arichat Chapter of TOPS with funds to be taken from the Municipal District Activity Fund for District #2;
- \$1,500 to Our Lady of Assumption Parish with funds to be taken from the Municipal District Activity Fund for District #1;
- \$500 to the River Bourgeois Seniors 50+ Club with funds to be taken from the Municipal District Activity Fund for District #7;
- \$250 to the River Bourgeois Mariners Society with funds to be taken from the Municipal District Activity Fund for District #7

Motion carried.

#### Fifteen Minute Question Period

Mrs. Donna Landry and Mrs. Sheila Clarke, representatives from Dorothy's Pets in Need Society addressed the Committee, providing a brief outline of what they do on a daily basis and expressing thanks to Council for realizing that something has to be done about the stray cat population in Richmond and the assistance that they have offered.

#### "In-Camera" Session

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

Deputy Warden Martell re-convened the regular meeting at 8:26 pm

**Moved by** Councillor Boucher, **seconded by** Councillor Beaton that the Committee recommend to Council that the Municipal Office close for the Christmas Holidays at 12:00 noon on December 24<sup>th</sup> and re-open for regular business on January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8:30 am. **Motion carried.**

#### Adjournment

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

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm