

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

JANUARY 31, 2011

Location: Council Chambers, Municipal Office

Call to order

Warden Boudreau called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Items Added to the Agenda

Warden Boudreau indicated that there were two items added including Sponsorship for a Councillor to attend Persons with Disabilities Conference in Halifax and County signs.

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

Review of Minutes: (a) December 6, 2010
(b) January 3, 2011

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Deputy Warden Martell that the minutes of December 6th, 2010 and January 3rd 2011 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Presentation: Chief Financial Officer/Director of Public Works/Director of Tourism, Culture & Recreation re: Arena Improvements

Mr. Clifford Boudreau, Mr. Darrin McLean and Mr. Stewart MacDonald presented a Power Point Presentation to the Committee.

The following points were brought forth during discussions:

- The mechanical work includes repairs to the dehumidifiers and compressors.
- \$150,000 was already projected in the budget for this year for improvements and the remaining \$156,000 can be funded through next year's budget, however if there is room in this year's budget financing can be further examined.
- The Municipality must capitalize on the programs that are available for funding.
- For the month of January ice rentals alone were \$30,000.

- If the capital costs are removed from financials the Arena will break even this year.
- Usage, in terms of the total number of hours, has increased.
- Maintaining the facility through preventative maintenance is very important.
- The costs to heat water in the facility is very costly
- A tender just closed for hot water system modification to the facility, noting that this work is being funded through the ecoNova Scotia Energy Program
- Also through the ecoNova Scotia Energy Program work is being done on the control system for the ice making system.
- The issue of solar panels has yet to be explored for the facility.
- Councillors were very pleased with the work of staff.

Moved by Councillor David, seconded by Councillor Marchand that municipal staff be authorized to submit an application to the Recreational Facility Development (RFD) Program through the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness for improvements at the Richmond Arena by the Feb 7, 2011 deadline. Motion carried.

Reports:

(i) Code of Conduct Committee - Deputy Warden Martell re: Draft "Code of Conduct for Elected Municipal Officials" Policy

Deputy Warden Martell presented a report on behalf of the Code of Conduct Committee (copy attached).

The following points were brought forth during discussions:

- 60-70% of municipal units have such a policy in place.
- This document speaks to core values.
- The request for information form should be used but requests by other means such as e-mail and phone will still be accepted.
- Most of the policy is good common sense.
- In regards to reporting a breach issues such as how to report the breach and who to report the breach to have to be addressed.
- It was suggested that the Warden, Deputy Warden and one other councillor be in charge of accepting reports of breaches.
- It was suggested that this not be made a policy but be approved by resolution only provided that it is unanimously endorsed.
- Once the document is updated it will be sent to the Solicitor to check the wording to avoid any implications with civil law.

It was the consensus of the Committee that this process moves forward.

CAO re:

(a) Tourism Vision 2010-2011

The following points were brought forth during discussions:

- Staff will speak with the DRTC to explain the new tourism vision, however the DRTC represents the industry and stakeholders, and the municipality should not be directing them; the organization will probably not continue.
- TIANS has accepted the Municipality's bid to hold their AGM, noting that this will bring key players to Richmond and give Richmond a chance to display their hospitality by hosting the reception night.
- Councillors and interested staff would be welcomed to attend this event.
- It was noted that Strait Area Transit may be able to provide some assistance with transportation during the event.
- Before March a tourism outlook session will be arranged giving businesses and councilors an opportunity to network and learn about the new direction. The tentative date is scheduled for February 22 and it will be an informal wine and cheese.

Moved by Councillor David, seconded by Councillor Beaton that the Committee recommend to Council that staff be permitted to move forward and implement the Tourism Vision for 2011-15. Motion carried.

(b) Cat By-Law

The following points were brought forth during discussions:

- Municipal units in Nova Scotia were surveyed regarding their cat by-laws and two responses were received; one from the Town of Westville (separate cat by-law) and the Town of Antigonish (part of animal control by-law).
- It was noted that Dorothy's Pets In Need are doing a great job dealing with cats and perhaps they should continue to deal with the cats and the Municipality pay them a fee for providing the services.
- There is also an issue with owners not picking up after their animals.
- Cats are an enormous problem in Richmond and would be very costly to the Municipality if they took charge of the issue.

Moved by Councillor David, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council that staff be directed to review the current animal control by-law, which is extremely outdated, as time permits. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

Chief Financial Officer re:

- (i) Deleted Accounts

It was noted that the accounts being deleted are Business Occupancy Accounts that are no longer collectable, with the most significant one being Federal Gypsum

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council that the following business occupancy accounts be written off as they have been removed from the assessment roll and are no longer collectable:

<u>Account#</u>	<u>Account Holder:</u>	<u>Balance:</u>
7196822	Downing, Eric Dr.	\$118.74
10014379	Federal Gypsum Company	\$48,055.08
7149301	Whale Cove Holdings Ltd.	\$112.30
5659396	West Arichat Co-op Society	\$392.71
7156650	Merrick, Rose Marie	\$83.79
10031257	Nanny's Quilts Ltd.	<u>\$123.42</u>
	TOTAL:	\$48,886.04

Motion carried.

- (ii) Amendment to By-Law #56, to include the Richmond County Literacy Network Society

It was indicated that this is related to a Federal property that the Literacy Network is leasing, noting that an assessment has been created for this.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Marchand that the Committee recommend to Council that By-Law #56 be amended to include account number 10345049, a Federal property being leased by the Richmond County Literacy Network. Motion carried.

- (b) Eastern District Planning Commission re:

- (i) Property of Raymond B. O'Toole

The following points were brought forth during discussions:

- This job was extremely well done
- The costs of demolition will be added to the tax bill and if it is not paid by the owner the Municipality will recover costs by putting the property up for tax sale.
- The debris was taken to the landfill and tipping fees were charged to the contractor and included in the bill.

- (ii) Property of Anthony F. Hendriksen and Donna A. Hendriksen

Moved by Councillor David, seconded by Councillor Beaton that the Committee recommend to Council that that an Order to Remedy Condition be issued for the property of Anthony F. Hendriksen and Donna A. Hendriksen 334 Southside Petit De Grat Rd , PID # 75010249 and that this Order be a Demolition Order. Motion carried.

(iii) Draft Operating Estimates 2011-2012

The following points were brought forth during discussions:

- There should be some comparative figures included with this budget including last year's budget and actual.
- It was noted that they use the flat assessment model to determine funding which is not proportional.
- Would the Municipality be able to provide the same services internally for what they pay the EDPC on an annual basis.

It was the consensus of the Committee that the CAO approach the EDPC for further clarification on this budget and also to request comparative figures from last year.

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the Eastern District Planning Commission Draft Operating Expenses for 2011-12 be tabled to budget deliberations and that additional information be requested. Motion carried.

- (c) Mrs. Tracy Randall re: Grant Requests:
- (i) Rocky Bay Irish Club, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #3 (\$912.50);
 - (ii) D'Escousse Civic Improvement Society, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #3 (\$500);
 - (iii) Acadiaville Community Centre, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #4 (\$1,700);
 - (iv) Louisdale Fleur De Lis Seniors Club, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #6 (\$1,000);
 - (v) Framboise-Fourchu Volunteer Fire Department, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #10 (\$10,000)

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

- \$912.50 to the Rocky Bay Irish Club with funds to be taken from the Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #3;
- \$500 to the D'Escousse Civic Improvement Society with funds to be taken from the Municipal District Activity Fund, District #3;
- \$1,700 to the Acadiaville Community Centre with funds to be taken from the Municipal District Activity Fund, District #4;
- \$1,000 to the Louisdale Fleur De Lis Seniors Club with funds to be taken from the Municipal District Activity Fund, District #6;
- \$10,000 to the Framboise-Fourchu Volunteer Fire Department with funds to be taken from the Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #10.

Motion carried.

(d) Town of Shelburne re: Yarmouth/Maine Ferry Economic Impact

Moved by Councillor Marchand, seconded by Councillor David that the Committee recommend to Council that a letter of support be sent to the Town of Shelburne in their efforts to lobby the provincial government to re-consider its decision to not fund the Yarmouth/Maine Ferry service and to show the Municipality's support at the February 8th Standing Committee Meeting. Motion carried.

(e) Strait-Highlands R.D.A. re: Request for Municipality to Remain at Present Contribution Level for the Fiscal Year 2010-2011

Councillor Beaton declared a conflict of interest and removed himself from discussions indicating that he has a family member employed by the SHRDA.

The following points were brought forth during discussions:

- The additional commitment for this year would be \$1,802.
- The RDA has not appeared before Council in some time to provide a report and they should be requested to appear to provide an update.
- Mr. Stanley is working with the RDA to determine their roles and duties to determine exactly what the RDA's responsibilities are to ensure that their roles do not overlap.
- The RDA budget is scheduled to be discussed at their next meeting being held later this week.

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor Marchand that the Committee recommend to Council that the Municipality maintain their commitment to the Strait Highlands RDA and provide them with the additional \$1,802 in funding for the 2010 fiscal year. Motion carried.

(f) ecoNova Scotia for Clean Air and Climate Change re: Category I Corporate Capacity Building Grant

For information.

List of Cheques Issued – December, 2010

Councillor David declared a conflict on interest with regards to the list of cheques issued for the month of December 2010, indicating that his company is listed as received payments.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that the list of cheques issued for the month of December 2010 in the amount of \$1,347,998 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Items Added to the Agenda

Warden Boudreau re:

- (i) Sponsorship for Councillor attending “Persons with Disabilities” Conference in Halifax

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor Johnson that the Committee recommend to Council to sponsor a Councillor to attend the “Persons with Disabilities” Conference in Halifax on June 8th and 9th. Motion carried.

- (ii) County signs

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Beaton that the Committee recommend to Council that the costs of constructing and erecting signage at each of the entrances to Richmond be included in budget deliberations. Motion carried.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

There were no questions.

“In-Camera” Session

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

An “In-Camera” session was held to discuss contract issues and potential litigation.

Warden Boudreau re-convened the Regular Session at 10:08 PM

Moved by Councillor David, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council to approve the hiring of Gerald Walsh Associates Inc. to carry out a review of the job descriptions and salary ranges for municipal employees at a cost of \$12,000 as outlined by the CAO . Motion carried.

Councillor David declared a conflict of interest with regards to discussions concerning Mr. David Landry, indicating that he is one of his suppliers.

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council to instruct the CAO to send a letter to Mr. David Landry indicating that his application for funding through the Policy for Certain Infrastructure Funding Requests has been denied. Motion carried (1 Nay – Councillor Marchand)

Adjournment

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor Sampson that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 PM