

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

FEBRUARY 7, 2011

Location: Council Chambers, Municipal Office

Call to order

Deputy Warden Martell called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Items Added to the Agenda

Deputy Warden Martell indicated that there were no items added that were submitted prior to the deadline.

Councillor Marchand requested and received unanimous consent to add a grant request from the Felix Marchand Education Centre.

Councillor Marchand also requested to add another request for funding for the Strait Richmond Pirate Hockey Team for an upcoming tournament however the Committee agreed that this was not the proper way to address this request.

Moved by Councillor David, seconded by Councillor Johnson that item added be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Review of Minutes: January 31, 2011

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Beaton that the minutes of January 31st, 2011 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

CAO re:

- (i) Weight Loss Challenge
- (ii) Wellness Program

The following points were brought forth during discussions:

- There are other municipalities in NS beginning similar initiatives.
- Staff has done some work on developing a program with the goal of developing healthy lifestyles.

- There will be a presentation and screening before the council meeting next week by Colette Sampson-MacLean and Dr. Jennifer Doyle.
- Weigh in's will begin next week before council and will be confidential.
- There will be two teams chosen randomly comprised of a mix of staff and council.
- The Municipality will be purchasing a scale and everyone will be given a pedometer.
- The program will run for a three month period.
- Each participant will be requested to contribute \$20 and the winning team will receive a gift certificate.
- The weight loss will be tracked by % of body weight lost.
- It is good to know that this is a "health: challenge and not just involving weight and that there is a qualified individual that will be monitoring the program.
- It was noted that this is not a Council agenda and will take place outside the regular duties of Council.
- Some Councillor's noted that they would not be able to participate due to medical conditions.
- It will be a great opportunity to have staff and Council working together.
- The program will also involve lunch and learns and healthy potlucks.
- Information will be distributed via e-mail.

(iii) St. Peter's School Update

The following points were brought forth during discussions:

- The Solicitor is in the process of migrating the property and since the property is comprised of 13 smaller lots the process is more difficult.
- There are issues with some of the properties and the Solicitor is working with the surveyor to get these issues resolved.

Correspondence:

(a) U.N.S.M./A.M.A. re: Request for Financial Support for the Women in Local Government (WILG) Bursary Program

The following points were brought forth during discussions:

- The Municipality is being requested to continue their financial support for the WILG Bursary Program at the same level (\$900 over three years).
- It was noted that this program was designed more towards those municipalities closer to Metro and should encompass more participants by being more inclusive of eligible programs to include distance education, further noting that this issue should be followed up with the UNSM.
- Less than half of Municipalities in Nova Scotia contribute to this fund and this should also be brought to the attention of the UNSM and request they encourage more participation.

- The amount of money requested by larger units is disproportionate to what is requested by the smaller units and a more equitable contribution system should be explored.

Moved by Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council to approve a commitment of \$900 over three years to the Women on Local Government Bursary Program and also request that the UNSM review the eligible courses so that this bursary is available to a broader section of municipal units other than those located in Halifax and area and that more be done to encourage more municipalities to contribute to this bursary fund at levels more proportionate to the size of the municipality. Motion carried.

(b) Nova Scotia Power re: LED Street Lighting Pilot Project

The following points were brought forth during discussions:

- NSP has indicated that they will provide the Municipality with the same provisions as they did for Amherst in upgrading their streetlight system.
- NSP is looking at establishing their own program in 2012.
- It was suggested that staff explore both options of upgrading to LED streetlights through LED Road Lights (private company) and NSP and that they provide a comprehensive report to Council on the feasibility of both options.
- Some tests lights are already located in Louidsale, Arichat and St. Peter's.
- There are some streetlights in the County that are no longer necessary and an inventory of these lights should be taken.
- LED Road Lights guarantees the lights for ten years.
- There is a potential six figure savings.
- The Municipality currently pays approximately \$375,000/year for streetlights.
- There are questions regarding the costs of removal and disposal of the existing lights.
- The CAO and Director of Public Works will be meeting with Mr. Alan Richardson, NSP, to discuss this issue further.
- Concern was expressed regarding use of the private company noting that they are located in Amherst and the only contract they have is with the Town of Amherst, who provides the pole climbers and trucks.

It was the consensus of the Committee that staff be directed to explore options for LED street lighting in Richmond and provide a thorough report to Council on the options available and also to assessment of all of the streetlights in Richmond to determine which lights are no longer needed.

(c) Warden Boudreau re: Closure of Service Canada Sites

The following points were brought forth during discussions:

- Two Service Canada sites in St. Peter's and Petit De Grat are slated for closure, which also means closure of the two CAP sites where the offices are located.
- The service provided in the Port Hawkesbury office is limited to a receptionist that refer the public to computer terminals; the environment is not friendly to the aging population and those not familiar with technology.
- The resulting closure of the CAP sites will also be very unfortunate to communities.

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council that a letter be written to MP Rodger Cuzner with copies to relevant members of the Provincial Cabinet objecting to the slated closures of the Petit De Grat and St. Peter's Service Canada sites, indicating that these two sites deal with seasonal workers and an aging population demographic that requires more individualized assistance and who are not comfortable with technology requirements and lack of assistance that are provided in the main Service Canada Centers. Motion carried.

(d) Hon. Sterling Belliveau re: Alternative Water & Wastewater Management Model

For information.

(e) Strait-Highlands Regional Development Agency re: Municipal Core Funding – Fiscal Year 2011-2012

Councillor Beaton declared a conflict in interest and removed himself from discussions, indicating that his son is employed by the SHRDA.

The following points were brought forth during discussions:

- It was requested that further information be requested from the RDA before proceeding, suggesting perhaps a presentation to council be requested.
- A summary of the initiatives that they have taken and are taking would be very valuable information.
- It was noted that the CAO and Mr. Stanley will be meeting with Mrs. Karen Malcolm and Mr. Blaine Gillis on Tuesday and further information will be requested at that time regarding role clarification and initiatives.
- Councillor David will also request additional information at a meeting that he will be attending on Friday.

Moved by Councillor David, seconded by Warden Boudreau that the Municipal Core Funding request from the Strait Highlands RDA be tabled to budget deliberations and that further information be requested from the RDA regarding their initiatives for Richmond County. Motion carried.

(f) Chief Financial Officer re: Request to Amend By-Law #56, to include Account # 9081593, Richmond Arena Association

Moved by Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Johnson that the Committee recommend to Council to approve an amendment to By-Law #56 to include Account #9081593, Richmond Arena Association. Motion carried.

(g) Mrs. Tracy Randall re:

- (i) DIMA, Municipal District Activity Fund, Districts #3 and #4 (\$500 - \$250 from each district);
- (ii) Acadiaville Community Centre, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #4 (\$250);
- (iii) River Bourgeois Community Services Society, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #7 (\$5,000).

It was noted that Councillor Marchand's grant request from the Felix Marchand Education Centre also be addressed at this time.

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

- \$500 to DIMA from the Municipal District Activity Fund for Districts #3 and #4 (\$250 from each district);
- \$250 to the Acadiaville Community Centre from the Municipal District Activity Fund for District #4;
- \$5,000 to the River Bourgeois Community Services Society from the Municipal District Infrastructure Fund for District #7;
- \$2,500 to the Felix Marchand Education Center from the Municipal District Infrastructure Fund for District #6.

Motion carried.

List of Cheques Issued - January, 2011

Councillor David declared a conflict in interest with regards to the list of cheques issued indicating that his business is listed as receiving cheques.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the list of cheques for the month of January 2011 in the amount of \$1,096,974.46 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Items Added to the Agenda

Previously addressed.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

There were no questions.

Adjournment

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

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM