

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

MARCH 28, 2011

Location: Council Chambers, Municipal Office

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

Items Added to the Agenda

By unanimous consent Warden Boudreau added a report on the outcome of a meeting with La FANE (Fédération Acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse).

Moved by Councillor Boucher, **seconded** by Councillor McNamara that the agenda be approved with the item added. **Motion carried.**

Review of Minutes:

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, **seconded** by Deputy Warden Martell that the minutes of March 7, 2011 be approved as presented. **Motion carried.**

CAO:

- (i) Nova Scotia Rural Active Transportation Summit, Dundee Resort, June 9-10, 2011

The CAO reported the following:

- The purpose is to bring together municipal and provincial government officials and representatives of community groups who are interested in and concerned about active transportation.
- The Summit will discuss ways to move forward with action on maximizing AT opportunities for rural residents in Nova Scotia.
- The Minister of Health may be present as a key note speaker.
- Councillors are encouraged to attend.
- This item was for information purposes.

- (ii) Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP)

The CAO reported the following:

- The ICSP is up for an annual review; Staff is in the process of conducting the review
- The CAO will provide Councillors with a list of deliverables for review and input

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- A special meeting will take place at a convenient date for Staff and Council at 5:30 p.m. to review the list of deliverables for the ICSP.

(iii) Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations re: Budget Announcement
(background information attached)

The CAO reported the following:

- There have been some budget announcements and the Memorandum of Understanding has been altered.
- The effects on our municipal unit for the 2011-2012 will be minimal; however the following year will be impacted.

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- It was noted that this is some disappointing news
- It was noted that the Province is increasing taxes and forcing the municipalities to collect

Review of Council External Boards Policy:

The CAO reported the following:

- The solicitor provided an edited External Board Policy, upon approval this policy will apply to both Council and Staff
- The policy outlines the role that both Councillors and Staff should play when participating on volunteer community organization boards

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- It would be in the best interests of Councillors and Staff to participate on an ex-officio capacity
- This would apply to all committees that are not appointed by Council

Moved by Councillor Marchand, **seconded** by Councillor Boucher that discussion on the External Board Policy be postponed. **Motion carried.**

Review of Code of Conduct for Elected Municipal Officials:

Deputy Warden Martell reported the following:

- The last report made to Council indicated some changes; such changes were reviewed by the Solicitor and completed (Copy attached).

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, **seconded** by Councillor David that the Committee recommend to Council to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS Council for the Municipality of the County of Richmond wishes to affirm standards of conduct in office which reflect members' commitment to honourable and effective public service;

BE IT RESOLVED that Council approves and adopts the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

Motion carried.

Correspondence:

(a) Chief Financial Officer re:

(i) Projections to February 28, 2011

The CAO reported the following:

- There is a surplus approximately \$196,861
- This projection includes additional expenditures of \$100,000 for physician recruitment and \$50,000 for landfill closure costs.

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, **seconded** by Councillor Sampson that the Committee accept the recommendation of the Chief Financial Officer and recommend to Council the approval of additional expenditures of \$100,000 for physician recruitment and \$50,000 for landfill closure costs. **Motion carried.**

(ii) Capital Project Financing

The CAO reported the following:

- We were recently advised by Service Nova Scotia that the \$225,000 in PCAP funding approved for the hospital road project in Evanston would be available if the work was completed by March 31, 2011.
- A request to have the funding allocated to other capital projects was made.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, **seconded** by Councillor David that the Committee accept the recommendation of the Chief Financial Officer and recommend to Council that the gas tax funding be reallocated in order to complete all projects. **Motion carried.**

(iii) Federal Gypsum Taxes

The CAO reported the following:

- There is \$485,429 in outstanding taxes
- Collection on this outstanding balance is not likely

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- The finance department will continue to attempt to collect on this account
- The new company who will be leasing this property has a good business reputation
- There are numerous businesses that were affected by the closure of Federal Gypsum

Moved by Councillor Johnson, **seconded** by Councillor McNamara that the Committee accept the recommendation of the Chief Financial Officer and recommend to Council to approve the write off of taxes owing on the Federal Gypsum tax account # 0794737, in the amount of \$485,429, due to the taxes being uncollectible, because the property belongs to Nova Scotia Business Inc., who are exempt from property taxes. **Motion carried.**

(b) Mrs. Judy LeBlanc re: Retirement Notification

This item was provided for information purposes.

(c) Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal re:

(i) Road Elevations/Establishment of Buffer Zones

The CAO reported the following:

- A letter was sent by Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal indicating that our concerns were received and will be considered when road upgrades are discussed.

(ii) 2011 Annual Temporary Count Program

The CAO reported the following:

- There is an application should any Councillor wish to have a count program in their district
- The deadline for the application is April 15th
- Areas of interest can be sent via email and staff will create a master list

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- The following areas should have an annual temporary count program:
 - o Dundee
 - o Chapel Island to the Cape Breton County Line
 - o Murphy's Stretch 206 Petit de Grat
- Staff will send a letter to the UNSM requesting that action be taken on this issue.

(d) Dan-X Recycling Ltd. re: Mercury Lamp Recycling Services

The CAO reported that this was for information purposes as this letter was addressed to the UNSM and there is no direct request.

(e) Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation re: Thank you and Request for Funding

The CAO reported that this was for information purposes.

(f) Mrs. Tracy Randall re: Grant Requests

- Little Anse Sampson's Cove Social Action Club, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #2 (\$8,000);

- Janvrin's Island Community Centre, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #4 (\$15,000);
- Dorothy's Pets in Need Society, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #6 (\$150);
- Dr. W.B. Kingston Clinic, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #9 (\$350);
- Fourchu Development Association, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #10 (\$1,424.49).
- Richmond Villa, Municipal District Activity Fund, Various Districts

Moved by Councillor Sampson, **seconded** by Deputy Warden Martell that the Committee recommend to Council to approve the following grants:

- \$8,000 Little Anse Sampson's Cove Social Action Club, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #2;
- \$15,000 Janvrin's Island Community Centre, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #4;
- \$150 Dorothy's Pets in Need Society, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #6;
- \$350 Dr. W.B. Kingston Clinic, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #9;
- Fourchu Development Association, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #10 (\$1,424.49).
- Richmond Villa, Municipal District Activity Fund, Various Districts

Moved by Councillor Marchand, **seconded** by Councillor MacNeil that the motion be amended to include \$500 from the Municipal District Activity Fund, District #6 and \$500 from Municipal District Activity Fund, District #1 for the Richmond Villa, Municipal District Activity Fund, Various Districts. **Motion carried.**

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

- \$8,000 Little Anse Sampson's Cove Social Action Club, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #2;
- \$15,000 Janvrin's Island Community Centre, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #4;
- \$150 Dorothy's Pets in Need Society, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #6;
- \$350 Dr. W.B. Kingston Clinic, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #9;

- Fourchu Development Association, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #10 (\$1,424.49).
- \$3,000, Richmond Villa, Municipal District Activity Fund, Various Districts

Motion carried.

Approval of Cheques Issued: February, 2011:

Councillor David declared a conflict due to business interests.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, **seconded** by Councillor MacNeil that the list of cheques issued in the month of February 2011 for amount of \$975,387.94 be accepted as presented. **Motion carried.**

Items Added to the Agenda

1. Warden Boudreau re: Report on the outcome of a meeting with La FANE (Fédération Acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse)

Warden Boudreau indicated that he met with La FANE; and the objective of the meeting was to create a rural solidarity movement.

It was noted that if we, as a County, don't speak out, we won't be heard.

Two recent interventions have been successful; that of the Acadian Lines wanting to eliminate the route to Sydney via Hwy 4 and Service Canada Centre office closures.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

Mr. Ross Wagg approached the Committee regarding an item on the agenda. Mr. Wagg would like to see safety discussed at the Rural AT Summit in Dundee, noting that the roads in Dundee are not safe.

In-Camera

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

Moved by Councillor Boucher, **seconded** by Councillor David that the meeting reconvene to regular session. **Motion carried.**

Moved by Councillor Sampson, **seconded** by Councillor Boucher that a meeting be convened between Administration Staff, the Warden and the Village Commission of St. Peter's to further discuss the option of amalgamating the St. Peter's Samsonville Water Utility with the Richmond County Water Utility, with Municipal Staff preparing the required correspondence. (9 Ayes, 1 Nay: Councillor MacNeil) **Motion carried.**

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, **seconded** by Councillor MacNeil that the Committee recommend to Council to accept the recommendation of the Pension Committee and approve the following:

- (a) That no new members be permitted to join the existing Defined Benefits Plan;
- (b) That a new Defined Contribution Plan be established for new employees;
- (c) That the employee contribution for the members of the defined benefits plan be increased from 6.2% to 9%;
- (d) That the Committee reconvene a meeting after the receipt of updated financial information from Desjardins;
- (e) That an RFP be prepared for the provision of pension/investment services.

Motion carried.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor David, **seconded** by Councillor Marchand that the meeting be adjourned. **Motion carried.**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.