

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

APRIL 26, 2011

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 request for support with tourism press release; the CAO wish to add correspondence regarding David Landry and an amendment to the travel expense policy.

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

Review of Minutes: March 28, 2011

Moved by Councillor Beaton, **seconded** by Councillor MacNeil that the minutes of March 28, 2011 be approved as presented. **Motion carried.**

Postponed from March 28th Meeting: Review of Council External Boards Policy

Warden Boudreau noted the following:

- Item 2 (g) does not apply to Council appointments
- It was noted that there is some confusion as to the role Councillors can play on community boards that are not appointed by Council; Community groups rely heavily on their Councillor, therefore, it is important that assistance is provided when possible
- It was noted that Councillors can still participate and bring leadership to their community groups without voting on matters
- It was noted that Councillor cannot offer support on behalf of Council
- It was noted that it would be beneficial to have the solicitor present for further discussion

Moved by Councillor Beaton, **seconded** by Councillor Boucher that the discussion on the review of the Council External Board Policy be postponed until the solicitor is present. **Motion carried.**

Warden Boudreau re:

(i) Review of Policy for Certain Infrastructure Funding Requests

Warden Boudreau gave notice to rescind the motion made on September 13, 2010 to adopt the Policy for Certain Infrastructure Funding Requests and have the monies put into economic development.

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- The monies that would be allocated to economic development would not provide for an increase in the budget, but to offset the increase in the current budget

(ii) Seniors' Parking Lot

Warden Boudreau noted the following:

- The Isle Madame New Horizon group is expanding their facility and therefore require additional space for their parking lot
- The group would like to request the use of County land for an expansion to their parking lot
- It was the consensus of Council to have staff determine what land is owned by the County and if it can be provided to the Isle Madame New Horizons group for the use of expanding their parking lot

CAO re:

(i) Contribution re: Farewell to Nova Scotia Breakfast at FCM Conference

The CAO indicated that the FCM Conference Committee is seeking a financial contribution of \$1,000 for the Farewell to Nova Scotia Breakfast at FCM Conference

Moved by Councillor Sampson, **seconded** by Councillor MacNeil that the Committee recommend to Council that \$1,000 be contributed to the Farewell to Nova Scotia Breakfast at the FCM Conference. **Motion carried.**

(ii) Small Claims Court

The CAO noted the following:

- Representatives from the Port Hawkesbury Justice Centre have been on site
- We are waiting for the schedule for Small Claims Court
- It could be as early as July 2011 for Small Claims Court to resume in Richmond County
- The preceding will take place in the Council Chambers
- The CAO is working on a press release
- There will be no monetary gain to the County for this service

Correspondence:

- (a) Richmond Academy re: Request for Use of the Richmond Arena as an Evacuation/Relocation Site

The CAO reported that Richmond Academy is seeking confirmation for the use of the Richmond Arena in the event of an emergency evacuation, now that the County has ownership of the facility

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- There was some concern regarding liability; it was noted that the County has liability coverage and so will the education centre while using the Arena
- The County has similar arrangements with other organizations, therefore this request should be granted
- The use of the Arena for an emergency evacuation by Richmond Academy will be incorporated in to the Richmond County Emergency Measures plan; the EMO will be available should such an event take place

Moved by Councillor Boucher, **seconded** by Councillor MacNeil that the Committee recommend to Council that staff be directed to allow Richmond Academy access to the Richmond Arena in the event of an emergency evacuation. **Motion carried.**

- (b) Janelle Boudreau re: Thank You

For information purposes.

- (c) Nova Scotia Department of Justice re: Emergency Management Office Administrative Change

For information purposes.

- (d) Association of Municipal Administrators Nova Scotia re: Province's Amendment to the MOU

The CAO noted the following:

- A motion was passed for the president of the AMANS to write the Province in response to the Province's announcement to reverse the implementation of the provisions in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities and the Province of Nova Scotia with respect to municipal contributions to corrections, public housing and education.
- The Board requested that the Province consider a joint decision making process with respect to the role municipalities will play in getting back to balance initiative to

explore alternative to the transfer of increase corrections, public housing and education costs back to municipalities

- This was provided for information purposes

(e) Hon. Keith Colwell re: Province's Amendment to the MOU

The CAO reported the following:

- Mr. Colwell is requesting the assistance of the County by providing an analysis and research that has been completed by the Municipality detailing how we will have to deal with the increased financial burden by the cancellation of the Memorandum of Understanding by the NDP government.

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- It was noted that Council should allow the UNSM to respond to this request
- The increased costs will be upwards of \$100,000 and could increase
- This increase is taking place in addition to police services
- It is the consensus of the Committee to have the UNSM respond to the request

(f) Mrs. Tracy Randall re: Grant Requests:

- St. John's Anglican Church, Municipal District Activity Fund, Districts #1, #3 and #4 (\$500);
- Royal Canadian Legion Branch #150, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, Districts #1, #2, #3 and #4 (\$8,000);
- Ecole Beau Port, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #2 (\$500);
- Rocky Bay Irish Club, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #2 (\$100);
- Acadiaville Community Centre Society, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #4 (\$20,000);
- Ecole Beau Port, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #4 (\$100);
- Harbour Authority of Little Harbour, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #9 (\$2,000);
- Fourchu Development Association, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #10 (\$500);

Moved by Councillor Sampson, **seconded** by Councillor David that the Committee recommend to Council the approval of the following grants:

- \$500, St. John's Anglican Church, Municipal District Activity Fund, Districts #1, #3 and #4;
- \$ 8,000, Royal Canadian Legion Branch #150, Municipal District

- Infrastructure Fund, Districts #1, #2, #3 and #4;
- \$500, Ecole Beau Port, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #2;
- \$100, Rocky Bay Irish Club, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #2;
- \$20,000, Acadiaville Community Centre Society, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #4;
- \$100, Ecole Beau Port, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #4;
- \$ 2,000, Harbour Authority of Little Harbour, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #9;
- \$500, Fourchu Development Association, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #10;

Motion carried.

Items Added to the Agenda

#1. Warden Boudreau re: request for support with tourism press release

Warden Boudreau indicated that La Picasse wants to put a tourism press release out in the province of Quebec and other French regions, aimed at attracting tourists to Isle Madame. The organization is seeking permission to put the Municipal crest on the release and to have a Council resolution showing our support.

Moved by Councillor Boucher, **seconded** by Councillor McNamara that the Committee recommend to Council that Richmond County support La Picasse by allowing the use of the Municipal Crest for a tourism press release. **Motion carried.**

#2. CAO re: David Landry

Councillor David declared a conflict of interest due to his business relationship with the proponent and removed himself from discussions.

The CAO indicated that upon receiving a letter from the CAO on Council's decision to turn down Mr. David Landry's request for funding, Mr. Landry has re-submitted a proposal which he feels meets all criteria of the Public/Private Infrastructure policy. The CAO is seeking direction from Council on how they would like to proceed.

It was noted that staff have not reviewed the proposal.

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- It was noted that staff cannot review the report because there is a motion that has been approved to reject the request
- Monies were placed in the budget to assist private and public business with infrastructure projects and it should be on a first come first serve basis

- It was noted that the proponents project is complete, therefore that would indicate that other funding requests could surface for projects already completed
- The CAO met with Mr. Landry and explained why his initial request was rejected

Moved by Councillor Marchand, **seconded** by Councillor Johnson that staff review the proposal submitted by Mr. David Landry.

Deputy Warden Martell indicated that the motion cannot be completed because of a previous motion to reject the request.

Moved by Councillor Marchand, **seconded** by Councillor Johnson that the Committee recommend to Council to rescind the motion made on February 14, 2011 to reject the request for funding put forth by Mr. David Landry. (Ayes: 1, Nays 8)

The motion was defeated.

#3. CAO re: Amendment to the Travel Expense Policy

The CAO is seeking Council's support to amend the travel expense policy to use the average mileage rate between the Federal and Provincial rates. In addition, there will be an increase of \$5 per each meal allowance. This increase has already been incorporated into the budget.

Moved by Councillor Beaton, **seconded** by Councillor Johnson that the Committee recommend to Council to accept the recommendation of the CAO and amend the Travel Expense Policy to use the average mileage rate of the Federal and Provincial rates, along with increasing each meal allowance by \$5, with the changes to be effective April 1, 2011, thus allowing for retroactive adjustments for the current fiscal year. **Motion carried.**

Fifteen Minute Question Period

There were no questions from the gallery.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Beaton, **seconded** by Warden Boudreau that the meeting be adjourned. **Motion carried.**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.