

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

SEPTEMBER 6, 2011

Location: Council Chambers, Municipal Office

Present: Warden J. Boudreau, Deputy Warden A. Martell
Councillor V. David, Councillor S. McNamara
Councillor B. Marchand, Councillor G. Boucher
Councillor S. MacNeil, Councillor S. Sampson
Councillor G. Johnson

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

Items Added to the Agenda

Warden Boudreau indicated that Councillor MacNeil wished to add a Message for the dedication of the new Recreation Complex in St. Peter's; the CAO wished to add a request for a Municipal guarantee by the Village of St. Peter's in the amount of \$139,000 for upgrades to their wastewater treatment facility.

Unanimous consent was granted to add the following items:

Warden Boudreau wished to add attendance to the UNSM and the Chamber of Commerce dinner; Councillor McNamara wished to add the Raise a Reader program; Councillor Johnson wished to add a grant request for the Bras D'or Lakes Biosphere Reserve Association.

The CAO requested to remove Mr. Stanley's presentation from the agenda.

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Boucher to approve the agenda with the items added. Motion carried.

Review of Minutes: June 13, 2011

Moved by Councillor David, **seconded** by Councillor McNamara that the minutes of June 13, 2011 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

New Page Update: CAO/Warden:

Warden Boudreau and the CAO provided an update on the situation with New Page and noted the following:

- Most of the decisions are being made out of Ohio
- An action committee has been formed; The CAO is the representative for Richmond County
- The objective of having leaders involved in this process is to familiarize them with the impact of the situation on all of Nova Scotia
- Should New Page have difficulty meeting their parent company's financial issues, an option will be to look for another owner
- The mill in Point Tupper is the #1 paper making mill which provides many advantages
- There is a 10 year tax agreement with New Page
- The County is at the forefront of the solution and will have a voice
- The Mayors and Wardens via Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation have engaged a law firm out of Sydney to work on this situation
- Richmond County is the only municipality that has filed for intervener status

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- It was noted that in the past 30 years, a situation such as this has never taken place at the mill
- It was noted that the effects of the situation at New Page on the biomass project is unknown at this point
- It was noted that the work and efforts put forth by the Warden and CAO of our County is greatly recognized and appreciated
- It was noted that the County should prepare for the worse as a precaution

Staff Presentation:

- (a) Mr. Jeff Stanley re: COMFIT Program Update

This item has been postponed by the CAO for a future meeting.

Solicitors/Eastern District Planning Commission re: Proposed Demolitions:

- (i) Mr. John Bain re: Update on Properties

- Property of Abraham Sampson, Grandique Road, Martinique, Richmond County (PID #75097287; AAN #03886905);

Mr. Bain indicated that the Eastern District Planning Commission recommends that an “Order to Remedy Condition” be issued to Mr. Abraham Sampson Grandique Road, Martinique, Richmond County (PID #75097287; AAN #03886905); and that the Order be a Demolition Order issued from Council, instructing that the buildings be demolished and all debris be removed from the property within thirty (30) days or the Municipality will complete the same and recover the costs through property taxes.

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Deputy Warden Martell that the Committee recommend to Council to accept the recommendation of the Municipality’s Administrator for Dangerous and Unightly Premises and that an “Order to Remedy Condition” be issued to Mr. Abraham Sampson Grandique Road, Martinique, Richmond County (PID #75097287; AAN #03886905) and that the Order be a Demolition Order issued from Council, instructing that the buildings be demolished and all debris be removed from the property within thirty (30) days or the Municipality will complete the same and recover the costs through property taxes. Motion carried.

- Property of Abraham & Blanche Sampson, 1723 Grandique Road, Martinique, Richmond County (PID #75003822; AAN #07935951);

Mr. Bain indicated that the buildings have been removed from this property.

- Property of Gerard Birrette, 12 Barrett Road, Lower L’Ardoise, Richmond County (PID #75067033; AAN #00328936);

Mr. Bain indicated that the Eastern District Planning Commission recommends that an “Order to Remedy Condition” be issued to Mr. Gerard Birrette, 12 Barrett Road, Lower L’Ardoise, Richmond County (PID #75067033; AAN #00328936); and that the Order be a Demolition Order issued from Council, instructing that the buildings be demolished and all debris be removed from the property within thirty (30) days or the Municipality will complete the same and recover the costs through property taxes.

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- The property is currently in the process of being sold and the new owners have someone engaged and prepared to remove the structures from the property once title is obtained.
- Currently the lawyers are holding up the process

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the Committee recommend to Council to accept the recommendation of the Municipality's Administrator for Dangerous and Unsightly Premises and that an "Order to Remedy Condition" be issued to Mr. Gerard Birrette, 12 Barrett Road, Lower L'Ardoise, Richmond County (PID #75067033; AAN #00328936) and that the Order be a Demolition Order issued from Council, instructing that the buildings be demolished and all debris be removed from the property within thirty (60) days or the Municipality will complete the same and recover the costs through property taxes. Motion carried.

- Property of Viola Burke Coltman, 1007 Veterans Memorial Drive, Arichat, Richmond County (PID #75001792; AAN #01432133);

Mr. Bain indicated that the Eastern District Planning Commission has not been able to make contact with the owner and recommends that an "Order to Remedy Condition" be issued to Viola Burke Coltman, 1007 Veterans Memorial Drive, Arichat, Richmond County (PID #75001792; AAN #01432133); and that the Order be a Demolition Order issued from Council, instructing that the buildings be demolished and all debris be removed from the property within thirty (30) days or the Municipality will complete the same and recover the costs through property taxes.

Moved by Councillor David, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council to accept the recommendation of the Municipality's Administrator for Dangerous and Unsightly Premises and that an "Order to Remedy Condition" be issued to Viola Burke Coltman, 1007 Veterans Memorial Drive, Arichat, Richmond County (PID #75001792; AAN #01432133) and that the Order be a Demolition Order issued from Council, instructing that the buildings be demolished and all debris be removed from the property within thirty (30) days or the Municipality will complete the same and recover the costs through property taxes. Motion carried.

- Property of Eduard and Natalita Steininger, Highway #4, Cannes, River Bourgeois, Richmond County (PID #75019968; AAN #02483262);

Mr. Bain indicated that the Eastern District Planning Commission has not been able to make contact with the owners and recommends that an “Order to Remedy Condition” be issued to Eduard and Natalita Steininger, Highway #4, Cannes, River Bourgeois, Richmond County (PID #75019968; AAN #02483262); and that the Order be a Demolition Order issued from Council, instructing that the buildings be demolished and all debris be removed from the property within thirty (30) days or the Municipality will complete the same and recover the costs through property taxes.

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor David that the Committee recommend to Council to accept the recommendation of the Municipality’s Administrator for Dangerous and Unsightly Premises and that an “Order to Remedy Condition” be issued to Eduard and Natalita Steininger, Highway #4, Cannes, River Bourgeois, Richmond County (PID #75019968; AAN #02483262) and that the Order be a Demolition Order issued from Council, instructing that the buildings be demolished and all debris be removed from the property within thirty (30) days or the Municipality will complete the same and recover the costs through property taxes. Motion carried.

(ii) Opportunity for Above Property Owners to Address the Committee

There were no persons present to address the Committee on the properties noted above.

Warden Boudreau requested that Mr. Bain provide Council with an update on the mobile home that is located on the property of Mr. Tommy Richard’s in Petit de Grat.

CAO re:

(a) Review of Council Committees/Members

The CAO reported the following:

- The Warden will contact Councillors and make the selections as done in the past
- The Planning Advisory Committee is a committee created to deal with planning; Richmond County is the only county that meets monthly
- The Warden and CAO will review the Planning Advisory Committee policy and provide a report on the need to continue to meet monthly or on an as need basis

(b) Amendment to Hiring Policy

The CAO reported the following:

- Attached is the revised hiring policy that is currently being used by the Director of Recreation, Leisure and Community Relations and the Director of Economic Development and Tourism
- The revised policy standardizes the policy
- The policy will be brought to Council for approval next week

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- It was noted that if a policy is in place, it will take the onus off of Councillors, which will send a clear message that there is no political influence during the hiring process
- It was noted that there is no policy on the number of persons per household being able to work for the County
- It was noted that this is a great policy and Council should not be involved in the hiring process of personnel except for the CAO position

It was the consensus of the Committee that notice be given to replace the Hiring Authority, Section 3.0 with the Hiring Process Policy, as a policy of the Municipality of Richmond.

Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board re: St. Peter's – Samsonville & Area Water Utility - Fire Protection Service Charge Amendment:

The CAO reported the following:

- The request put forth by the St. Peter's-Samsonville & Area Water Utility to amend regulation 9 – Fire Services Charges has been denied
- The St. Peter's-Samsonville & Area Water Utility has not responded to the offer made by the County to assume ownership of the water utility for their area
- The CAO provided an update, to the Committee, on the activities that took place to date
- The CAO will forward a copy of the attached correspondence to all Councillors via email

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- It was noted that the UARB has denied the request based on the decision made by Richmond County Council
- It was noted that there was a motion made in the past to change the fire protection charges for the St. Peter's Samsonville & Area Water Utility
- It was noted that the County owns the other fire protection utilities in the County
- A change to regulation 9 would require public hearings

Correspondence:

(a) Eastern District Planning Commission re:

- (i) Property of Pirkko Nurmi, 8079 Highway 4, Cannes, River Bourgeois, (PID # 75043000; AAN #00506206);

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor David that the Committee recommend to Council to accept the recommendation of the Municipality's Administrator for Dangerous and Unsightly Premises and that an "Order to Remedy Condition" be issued to Property of Pirkko Nurmi, 8079 Highway 4, Cannes, River Bourgeois, (PID # 75043000; AAN #00506206) and that the Order be a Demolition Order issued from Council, instructing that the buildings be demolished and all debris be removed from the property within thirty (30) days or the Municipality will complete the same and recover the costs through property taxes. Motion carried.

- (ii) Property of Mathilda Forgeron and Cornelius Bonin, 1002 Highway 206, West Arichat (PID #75189209; AAN #01541595)

The CAO indicated that this item has been postponed and will be dealt with at the September 26, 2011 Committee of the Whole Meeting.

(b) Royal Canadian Legion, Branch #47 re: Thank You

For information purposes.

(c) Bras D'Or Lakes Collaborative Environment Planning Initiative re: Thank You

For information purposes.

(d) Councillor Victor David/Residents of Mannan Road/Grandique Road re:
Request for Road Name Change

The CAO reported the following:

- The residents are not seeking maintenance of the road
- The residents are requesting a road name change and 911 numbers

Moved by Councillor David, seconded by Councillor Johnson that the Committee recommend to Council that Municipal Council give approval to the road name change from “Mannan” to “South Grand Lake Road” (“East Grand Lake Road”, second choice) in District #1, if it meets policy approval and receives the approval of the Department of Transportation and the Eastern District Planning Commission. Motion carried.

(e) Chief Financial Officer re: Isle Madame Volunteer Fire Department
Borrowing Resolution

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor David that the Committee recommend to Council to accept the recommendation of the Chief Financial Officer and approve a borrowing resolution for the Isle Madame Fire Department in the amount of \$217,245 to be amortized over seven years, for the purchase of a new tanker truck. Motion carried.

(f) Vested Property Clerk re: St. Peter’s School Update

The CAO reported the following:

- The Vested Property Clerk provided an update on the St. Peter’s School which indicates that there have been no responses to the call of interest for the purchase of the property
- Staff will prepare a report for the next Committee of the Whole and make recommendations for the property

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- Community groups should be given the opportunity to access items in the school
- It was noted that all requests should be directed to the Director of Public Works

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

- St. Joseph's CWL, Municipal District Activity Fund – District #2 (\$250);
- Petit De Grat Acadian Festival Committee, Municipal District Activity Fund – District #2 (\$250);
- Isle Madame Community Pig Roast Committee, Municipal District Activity fund – District #3 (\$500);
- Point Tupper Heritage Association, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund – District #5 (\$2,400);
- Lakeside Community Association, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund – District #7 (\$4,506.25);
- River Bourgeois Community Services Society, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund – District #7 (\$8,000).

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- The grant request for the Bras D'or Lakes Biosphere Reserve Association will be brought to Council next week for approval.
- Staff will prepare an application for the Raise-a-Reader Campaign grant request

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Deputy Warden Martell that the Committee recommend to Council that the following grant request be approved:

- \$250, St. Joseph's CWL, Municipal District Activity Fund – District #2;
- \$250, Petit De Grat Acadian Festival Committee, Municipal District Activity Fund – District #2;
- \$500, Isle Madame Community Pig Roast Committee, Municipal District Activity fund – District #3;
- \$2,400, Point Tupper Heritage Association, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund – District #5;
- \$4,506.25, Lakeside Community Association, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund – District #8;
- \$2,500, River Bourgeois Community Services Society, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund – District #7

Motion carried.

(h) Councillor Marchand re: Grass Burning By-Law

The CAO reported the following:

- The CAO reviewed correspondence from the Solicitor regarding the Grass Burning By-Law
- This item will be tabled for further review

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

For information purposes.

(j) Service Canada re: Service Canada Community Offices in Petit De Grat and St. Peter's

For information purposes.

Review of Cheques Issued: June and July, 2011

The Warden indicated that all questions should be submitted to the CAO directly prior to the end of September 2011.

Items Added to the Agenda

1. Councillor MacNeil re: Message for the Declaration of the new Recreation Complex in St. Peter's

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council the approval of the following resolution:

WHEREAS Georgie Robertson is a highly recognized and valued entrepreneur in our county;

AND WHEREAS Mr. Robertson has been an intricate part of our business community and has used his business to assist individuals and organizations in their time of greatest need;

AND WHEREAS this council recognizes that such strong individuals make for strong and vibrant communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council for the Municipality of the County of Richmond herewith officially recognizes and offers its gratitude to Mr. Georgie Robertson of MacBouch Beverage Room and Grill for his tremendous achievements on behalf of the citizens and communities of our great county and further proclaims September 11, 2011 as “Georgie Robertson Day” in Richmond County.

Motion carried.

2. CAO re: request for a Municipal guarantee by the Village of St. Peter’s in the amount of \$139,000 for upgrades to their wastewater treatment facility.

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Marchand that the Committee recommend to Council to approve a municipal loan guarantee for the Village of St. Peter’s in the amount of \$139,000 for upgrade to their wastewater treatment facility. Motion carried.

3. Warden Boudreau re: UNSM

Warden Boudreau indicated that Councillor McNamara, Councillor Sampson and Councillor Johnson will be attending the Fall UNSM session as they are receiving a long standing award. Councillor Boucher and the Warden will also be attending as they are the only two Council members who did not participate in any function in the Spring.

4. Warden Boudreau re: Chamber of Commerce dinner

Warden Boudreau indicated that the Chamber of Commerce is having a dinner tomorrow at the Maritime Inn and those interested in attending can let the CAO know and tickets will be provided.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

There were no questions from the gallery.

Adjournment

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

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

MINUTES RECORDED BY:

MUNICIPAL CLERK:

CHAIRPERSON

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER