

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

JANUARY 30, 2012

Location: Council Chambers, Municipal Office

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

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

Items Added to the Agenda

Councillor Martell requested unanimous consent to add the closure of the West Richmond Education Centre.

Councillor McNamara informed the Committee of the passing of a fellow Councillor's spouse from West Hants.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Martell that the items added be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Review of Minutes: December 5, 2011

Councillor McNamara indicated that as listed in the minutes of December 5, 2011 she was not the Councillor who voted Nay, it was Councillor Johnson.

A discussion took place in regards to the operation hours of the Richmond County Waste Management Facility.

Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council that the Saturday hours of operation for the Richmond County Waste Management Facility be extended to 8:00 am – 4:00 pm all year. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the minutes of December 5, 2011 be approved as corrected. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

(a) Guysborough Antigonish Strait Health Authority re: Parking Fee

The CAO reported the following:

- The Board of GASHA delayed the implementation of paid parking at the Strait Richmond Hospital facility in September 2011.
- The motion has not been revoked and the installation of the parking will be further reviewed in the spring of 2012

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- It was noted that parking fees can be costly
- It was noted that there was a typo in the letter; the decision to delay was done in September 2011, not September 2010

(b) Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation re: Economic Development

The CAO reported the following:

- The report indicates the statistics for the past year
- There have been several projects done within CBRM
- Richmond County has a good relationship with ECBC
- There are many projects that can be completed in Richmond County and monies will be sought from ECBC

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- It was noted that the position in Port Hawkesbury will not be filled
- The office in Port Hawkesbury will be made available for services required
- It was noted that it is important to maintain a good working relationship with the organization

(c) Eastern District Planning Commission re:

(i) Operating Estimates for 2012/2013

For information purposes. This item will be dealt with during budget deliberations.

(ii) Building By-Law

The CAO reported the following:

- A request for the review of the Building By-law along with the relevant regulations and legislation was put forth
- During the review a recommendation to repeal the Building By-Law and replace it with a Building Permit Fees By-Law was suggested
- Using the Regulations will provide a consistent application of inspection services across the Planning District.

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- It was noted that other municipalities have adopted the new by-law

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor Martell that the Committee table the discussion on the Building By-Law. Motion carried.

(d) Vested Property Clerk re: Parsons Investments Limited

The CAO reported the following:

- Parsons Investments made a request to purchase Lot 7 at the Industrial Park located in Lennox Passage
- Parsons also included another piece of correspondence indicating two requirements to be included in the purchase of Lot 7
- The Vested Property Clerk's prior recommendation was to further investigate the costs associated with extending the municipal services and pavement to Lot 7 and consider those costs before making a recommendation to sell Lot 7
- Due to the high costs associated with the two requirements, (copy attached), it is recommended that the County does not offer the property to Parsons Investment under the given circumstances

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- It was noted that there is always interests when an individual wants to invest in Richmond County

- It was noted that further discussions should take place with the interested proponent prior to declining the request to purchase Lot 7 in the Richmond Industrial Park
- It was noted that the proponent did not indicate his intent
- It was noted that there is no guarantee on any return for such an investment

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council that staff prepare correspondence to Parsons Investment indicating that the County will not be accepting their request to purchase Lot 7 in the Richmond Industrial Park. (Aye: 3, Nay: 5)

The motion was defeated.

Moved by Councillor Marchand, seconded by Councillor Martell that the Committee recommend to Council that the CAO have further discussion with the proponent and inquire on the intent of the use of Lot 7 in the Richmond Industrial Park. Motion carried.

(e) Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations re: 2012 Municipal and School Board Elections

(i) 2012 Municipal and School Board Elections

The CAO reported the following:

- The Municipal and School Board election year is 2012. The election day is October 20, 2012
- Since the last election, in 2008, there have been changes in the Municipal Elections Act
- Changes are highlighted in the attached correspondence
- In discussing the returning officer position with other Municipalities, it was recommended to outsource that service
- It has been the wishes of Council in the past to use enumerators for each district
- The CAO would like direction on the procedure to follow for this year's election

Moved by Councillor Marchand, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council to accept the recommendation of the CAO and advertise for the need of a returning officer and enumerators for each district for the 2012 Municipal Election. Motion carried.

(ii) Municipal Climate Change Action Plan

The CAO reported the following:

- The Municipal Climate Change Action Plan (MCCAP) Guidebook is now complete and a copy has been provided for review
- The MCCAP provides full guidance on the municipal requirements for completing the plan and also includes a template and checklist, to assist municipalities to meet the minimum requirements necessary for the fulfillment of the Climate Change component of the Municipal Funding Agreement
- The CAO would like to hire a consultant that has the expertise in seeing these requirements completed in a timely manner
- The consultant fees could be spread out over a 2 year budget period

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- It was noted that this is a good idea to seek external expertise in completing these requirements
- It was noted that it is essential to move forward with this initiative

(f) Protocol Office re: Order of Nova Scotia Nominations

For information purposes.

(g) Mrs. Shannon Diggdon re: Grant Requests:

- St. Peter's Scottish Country Dance Group, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #1 (\$100);
- Our Lady of Assumption CWL, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #1 (\$300);
- D'Escousse Civic Improvement Society, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #3 (\$1,458.60);
- Acadiaville Community Centre Society, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #4 (\$1,900);
- Riverdale Community Services Society, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #5 (\$1,468.21);

- St. Peter's Scottish Country Dance Group, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #7 (\$500);
- South Mountain Arm of Gold Community Association, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #7 (\$300);
- St. Peter's Scottish Dance Group, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #8 (\$100).

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council to approve the following grant requests:

- \$100, St. Peter's Scottish Country Dance Group, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #1;
- \$300, Our Lady of Assumption CWL, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #1 ;
- \$1,458.60, D'Escousse Civic Improvement Society, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #3;
- \$1,900, Acadiaville Community Centre Society, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #4;
- \$1,468.21, Riverdale Community Services Society, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #5;
- \$500, St. Peter's Scottish Country Dance Group, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #7;
- \$300, South Mountain Arm of Gold Community Association, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #7;
- \$100, St. Peter's Scottish Dance Group, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #8.

Motion carried.

Review of Cheques Issued: November and December, 2011

For information purposes.

Items Added to the Agenda

1. Councillor Martell re: the Closure of the West Richmond Education Centre

Councillor Martell indicated that he has been approached by several parents regarding their concerns with the closure of the West Richmond Education Centre. Parents are concerned about mixing the younger and older children.

Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded by Councillor Beaton that staff be directed to write a letter to the Minister of Education, expressing Council's objections to the closure of the West Richmond Education Centre. Motion carried.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

Mr. Doug Begg addressed the Committee regarding an item on the agenda.

Adjournment

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

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

MINUTES RECORDED BY:

MUNICIPAL CLERK:

CHAIRPERSON

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER