

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

FEBRUARY 6, 2012

Location: Council Chambers, Municipal Office

Present: Deputy Warden V. David, 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

There were no items added to the agenda.

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Johnson to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Review of Minutes: January 30, 2012

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Sampson that the minutes of January 30, 2012 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Grants to Charitable and Not for Profit Organizations Policy

The CAO reported the following:

- The grant process for 2011-2012 was relaxed in order to expedite the application process for funding through the Grants to Charitable and Not for Profit Organizations Policy
- A process is required for the 2012-2013 funding applications
- There are two options available: (1) continue with the old process, (2) adopt a new process, which will continue a similar avenue that was utilized for last year's applicants

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- It was noted that a new structure, with a similar approach to last year, is required in order to disperse monies in a fair manner
- It was noted that the CAO will move forward with a new process and provide an update at the February 27, 2012 Committee of the Whole meeting
- It was noted that there will be an opportunity for new applicants to apply for funding through the new funding process
- It was noted that the Grants to Charitable and Not for Profit Groups Committee will meet prior to providing an update at the February 27, 2012 Committee of the Whole meeting
- The CAO will provide the Council with a copy of the monies awarded through the Funds to Core Community Groups

Correspondence:

- (a) Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal/Eastern District Planning Commission re: Road Name Change Request - Island View Drive, Rockdale

The CAO reported the following:

- Correspondence was received indicating that the request to have the road name changed has met the screening requirements and the Office's approval.
- A sign will be ordered and erected by Public Works Staff

- (b) Hon. Maureen MacDonald re: Close of Foot Care Clinic in St. Peter's

The CAO reported the following:

- The Department of Health and Wellness does not directly fund foot care services
- Funding for this program is under the Guysborough Antigonish Strait Health Authority
- A copy of this correspondence has been forwarded to Madonna MacDonald, VP of Community Health Guysborough Antigonish Strait Health Authority
- Additional correspondence will be sent if no response is received by Madonna MacDonald, VP of Community Health Guysborough Antigonish Strait Health Authority

- (c) Eastern District Planning Commission re:

(i) Request to have Building By-Law #27 Repealed

Mr. John Bain approached the Committee to discuss the request to have the Building By-Law #27 repealed.

- The Nova Scotia Building Code Regulations along with the Building Code Act adequately address the administration of building inspections making the Building By-Law redundant and in some places in conflict with best practices
- Using the regulations only will provide a consistent application of inspection services across the Planning District
- It is recommended that the Building By-Law #27 be repealed and replaced with a Building Permit Fees By-Law

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- It was noted that the Provincial regulations do not supersede the municipal building by-law

Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded by Councillor Johnson that the Committee recommend to Council to repeal By-Law #27 Building By-law. (Aye: 6, Nay: 2 Councillor Marchand, Councillor Boucher). Motion carried.

(ii) Request to Amend Building Permit Fees By-Law

Mr. John Bain addressed the Committee to address a request to amend the building permit fees by-law.

- It was noted that the Building By-Law includes the building permit fees; therefore, if the by-law is repealed a new building permit fees by-law should be adopted
- A slight increase in the fees will help offset the cost of building inspections
- Mr. Bain will provide a comparison of fees with other municipalities
- The District Planning Commission is very cost effective, however, requires more funding and an avenue would be to do so through an increase in building permit fees

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- The inter municipal agreement states that all municipalities must agree to increase the fees in order for a new fee structure to be enforced
- It was noted that an increase in fees is not favorable
- It was noted that the Building By-Law can be repealed without increasing the fees. Council can adopt a new fee structure with the existing fee rates
- It was noted that the new Eastern District Planning Commission budget presented to Council included an increase in fees

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Martell that the Committee recommend to Council to adopt a Building Permit Fees By-Law with the existing building permit fee rate structure. Motion carried.

(iii)Property of Anna Denise Mombourquette, Grand Greve

The CAO reported the following:

- The Eastern District Planning Commission staff visited the property of Anna Denise Mombourquette, Grand Greve in response to a complaint received
- Staff have reported that the building on the property is in general state of disrepair
- It is the recommendation of the Administrator of the Eastern District Planning Commission that an “Order to Remedy Condition” be issued to the property owner

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council that an “Order to Remedy Condition” be issued to Anna Mombourquette 96 Cove Road Extension Grand Greve NS PID 75062661, AAN 03279774, and that the Order be a Demolition Order issued from Council to the owners instructing that the house 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.

(d) PHAST re: Request for Financial Assistance

The CAO reported the following:

- The Port Hawkesbury Antigonish Swim Team is requesting financial assistance to offset some of the cost to their swim team
- There are team members from Richmond County that participate in the group

- Funding options available to the group are to bring it to budget deliberations, via the Councillors activity fund or through the Recreation funding programs

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- It was noted that extra monies was given to the Town of Port Hawkesbury for additional pool costs last year
- It was noted that if the County begins to support sports teams through the budget there could pose an issue, when there are other sources of funding that could be made available

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- It was noted that this request should not be forwarded to budget deliberations
- The sport team should be advised to contact Councillors for funding via the Municipal District Activity Fund
- The CAO will inform the team of alternate funding avenues

(e) Cape Breton Regional Hospital Foundation re: Thank You

For information purposes.

(f) Communities in Bloom Nova Scotia re: Communities in Bloom Program

For information purposes.

Community groups can contact the Director of Recreation, Leisure and Community Relations for assistance with completing the application.

(g) Elections Nova Scotia re: Information Sharing Agreement

For information purposes.

We will not be participating in this agreement as local enumerators and a Returning Officer will be contracted out to complete the election process this year.

(h) Mrs. Shannon Diggdon re: Grant Request

- D'Escousse Civic Improvement Society, Municipal Infrastructure Fund, District #3 (\$2,200)

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the Committee recommend to Council to approve a grant request for the D'Escousse Civic Improvement Society, Municipal Infrastructure Fund, District #3 in the amount of \$2,200. Motion carried.

Approval of Cheques Issued: November and December, 2011:

A discussion took place regarding the various internet fees. The CAO will follow up on the discussion.

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor Johnson that the list of cheques issued for the month of November 2011 in the amount of \$837,109.39 and December 2011 in the amount of \$756,701.07 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Items Added to the Agenda

There were no items added.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

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

There was some concern with the confusion caused by deciphering the difference between West Bay Road and West Bay Highway. Some assistance in a potential name change would be appreciated.

In-Camera

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor Martell that the meeting proceed to "In-Camera" session at 8:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor Sampson that the meeting revert to regular session. Motion carried.

Adjournment

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

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

MINUTES RECORDED BY:

MUNICIPAL CLERK:

CHAIRPERSON

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER