

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

MARCH 5, 2012

Location: Council Chambers, Municipal Office

Present: Deputy Warden V. David, Councillor A. Martell  
Councillor M. Beaton, 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 p.m.

### Items Added to the Agenda

Deputy Warden David indicated that Councillor Martell wished to add a Policy on Removal of Items from the Richmond County Transfer Station; he wished to add Earth Hour and the CAO wished to add projected surplus.

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

### Review of Minutes: February 6, 2012

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the minutes of February 6, 2012 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

### Presentation: Director of Recreation, Leisure and Community Relations re: Status Report

Deputy Warden David welcomed Mrs. Josette Marchand to the meeting.

Mrs. Marchand provided a status update on the following:

- Major transitions have taken place in the recreation department (retirements, leaves, Richmond arena acquisition, addition of community relations).
- New recreation director, coordinator, program officer and administrative assistant since June 2011.
- Status quo on all programming for a year.
- New instructor agreements and improved registration process.
- Year round programming for Richmond Arena.
- Involvement in community groups and new focus on Youth Advisory Committee.
- \$45,000 in funding for Canada Day Celebrations from the Federal Government.

- Body & Mind Leadership conference sponsored by Department of Health and Wellness at the end of March (Inverary Inn, Baddeck) for students of Richmond Academy and Ecole Beau-Port.
- There are 120+ Volunteers for the Annual Volunteer Banquet to be held on April 20, 2012 at the Louisdale hall.
- Provincial Volunteer Banquet will be held on April 2, 2012 in Halifax with Margaret Leonard of West Bay Community representing Richmond County.
- Senior's Games to be organized for May/June 2012.
- Canada Day fireworks are no longer permitted on Isle Madame. Proposed meeting with 3 Isle Madame councillors to decide on a location.
- One day Health and Wellness session to take place September 2012. Potential X-Weighted Host, Paul Plakas, as guest speaker.
- Reflections of Richmond newsletter has been highlighting local photographers for the front cover. Submissions are welcome from residents of all districts.
- Working on a new social media policy which will be presented to council.
- Exploring the creation of an Age Friendly strategy to improve the quality of life for seniors in Richmond County.
- Renewal of the Physical Activity Strategy. Meet with partners at the end of April 2012.
- There is a need for a Heritage Property committee.

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- It was noted that the presentation was very informative and Councillors felt that the public should be made aware of the vast amount of opportunities offered and available through the Recreation Department;
- The instructor booklet will not inhibit current and future instructors, it will just formalize what has been taking place verbally;
- It was felt that it is extremely important to educate the youth regarding meeting processes and developing a pattern with them at an early age; and also noted the importance of the committee being run and directed by youth in the county;
- Mrs. Marchand commended Lynn Theriault for her design work on the Reflections of Richmond newsletter;
- It was felt that community aid can come in many forms in addition to monetary help.

Deputy Warden David thanked Mrs. Marchand for her presentation.

CAO re:

- (i) Appointment of Returning Officer (applications close at 4:00 p.m., March 2/12; therefore additional applications will be provided after the deadline).

The CAO indicated that one resume and one proposal were received for the position of Returning Officer for the 2012 Municipal and School Board Elections, and he is requesting direction on the process for the selection of the successful candidate.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Johnson that the CAO review the two applications received for the position of Returning Officer and prepare a recommendation for Council's consideration. Motion carried.

(ii) Review/Approval of Tariff of Fees and Expenses

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Martell that the Committee recommend to Council that the same Tariff of Fees and Expenses used for the 2008 Municipal and School Board Elections be approved for the 2012 Municipal and School Board elections. Motion carried.

(iii) 2012 Municipal and School Board Election Calendar.

For information purposes.

(iv) Library Space, St. Peter's

The CAO noted that there was no new information to report at this time.

(v) Dumping Fees re: Clean-up of garbage on Crown Land at Beth Road, Framboise

The CAO indicated that a request had been received from the Department of Natural Resources to absolve \$2896.00 in dumping fees billed to their haulers as a result of cleanup for illegal dumping on Crown sites throughout Richmond County.

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Johnson that the Committee recommend to Council that the request from the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources requesting that the tipping fees charged to their haulers for disposal of construction and demolition waste at the Richmond Waste Management Facility with regards to the cleanup of materials that were dumped on Crown Lands throughout Richmond, in the amount of \$2,896, be waived. Motion carried. (Nays - Councillor Boucher and Councillor Marchand).

Correspondence:

(a) Chief Financial Officer re: Amendment to By-Law #56

The CAO indicated that the Chief Financial Officer is recommending that By-Law #56 be amended to include the property of the Basin River Inhabitants Historical Society, Account #04682017.

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Martell that the Committee recommend to Council that notice be given to amend by Law #56, Tax Exemption By-Law, to include the property of the Basin River Inhabitants Historical Society, Account # 04682017. Motion carried.

(b) Vested Property Clerk re: Request to Write Off Taxes Due to fire

The CAO indicated that the Vested Property Clerk is recommending that taxes in the amount of \$656.55 be written off relating to the house belonging to Mr. Allan Matheson, that was destroyed by fire.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council that taxes in the amount of \$656.55, which represents taxes for January 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013, be written off, for the structure on the property of Mr. Allan Matheson, that was destroyed by fire. Motion carried.

(c) Department of Environment re: Grant Contribution of \$20,000/Richmond Environmental Project

The CAO indicated that the Nova Scotia Department of Environment has confirmed a grant contribution of \$20,000 for the Water Resource Assessment phase for District 3 and 4. He noted that a grant has also been requested from Service Nova Scotia. He noted that application will also be made to the F.C.M. for funding for Phase I.

(d) Town of Port Hawkesbury re: Fire Service Agreement

The CAO indicated that correspondence had been received from the Town of Port Hawkesbury giving notice of their decision not to renew the Fire Service Agreement. The Town is prepared to enter into negotiations for a new agreement, and the CAO recommended that a meeting be held with the CAO from the Town of Port Hawkesbury, and should perhaps include the Strait Area Mutual Aid.

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- The Town of Port Hawkesbury cannot respond to Point Tupper without the assistance of the Strait Area Mutual Aid;
- The Port Hawkesbury Volunteer Fire Department does not receive the money, the Town receives it, which goes into their general revenue;
- It was noted that perhaps the money should be given to the Strait Area Mutual Aid to share amongst the fire departments;
- A record of calls received for the past 5 years to the Port Hawkesbury Volunteer Fire Department should be requested.

It was the consensus of the Committee that the CAO meet with the CAO from the Town of Port Hawkesbury to review the matter.

(e) Eastern District Planning Commission re: Building Permit Fees

The CAO recommended that the requested increase in building permit fees be reviewed during budget deliberations; and he noted that Mr. Bain will be invited to attend a Council Meeting to discuss and provide explanations regarding these fees.

(f) Ecole Beau Port re: Bursaries/Awards

The CAO noted that this request will be reviewed during budget deliberations.

(g) Mrs. Shannon Diggdon re: Grant Request

- Royal Canadian Legion, Branch #47, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #8

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council that a grant request be approved for the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch #47, in the amount of \$200, with funding to be taken from the Municipal District Activity Fund, District #8. Motion carried.

Review of Cheques Issued: January and February 2012:

Deputy Warden David indicated that Councillors may contact the CAO or Chief Financial Officer if they have any questions regarding the list of cheques issued.

Items Added to the Agenda:

(1) Councillor Martell re: Policy on Removal of Items from the Richmond County Transfer Station

The following points were brought forth during the discussion:

- Allowing residents to salvage wood would place the municipality at risk.
- This issue has been tabled several times in the past and needs to be dealt with.
- This could cause a shortage of clean wood supply for use in our composting.
- There are not many examples of other municipal units with such programs.

Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded by Councillor Sampson that the Committee recommend to Council the changing of our transfer station policy, to include the removal of wood products by residents from the Richmond County transfer station; and that this process should only be done under the direction of municipal transfer station staff.; and further moved that the CAO and Director of Public Works approach our solicitor to draw

up a document that clearly states the residents are entering at their own risk, and that this document should also state that the Municipality is relieved of all liabilities for these individuals. Motion carried. (Ayes: 3, Nays: 4 Councillor Boucher, Councillor MacNeil, Councillor Johnson, Deputy Warden David). Motion defeated.

(2) Deputy Warden David re: Earth Hour

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council that the Municipality participate in Earth Hour which is taking place on Saturday, March 31, 2012 from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Motion carried.

(3) CAO re: Projected Surplus

The CAO reported that projections are now complete to March 31, 2012 and indicated that there is a projected surplus in the amount of \$170,000. He also noted that any excess can be moved to accumulated surplus, and the Municipality could potentially have a \$250,000 surplus at year end.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council that an amount of \$75,000 be allocated in this year's budget for the Dr. Kingston Memorial Clinic. Motion carried.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

There were no questions from the gallery.

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

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

MINUTES RECORDED BY:

MUNICIPAL CLERK:

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CHAIRPERSON

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER