

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

APRIL 3, 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

The CAO requested and received unanimous consent to add information received from Department of Natural Resources regarding clean-up of Crown sites.

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

Review of Minutes: March 26, 2012

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the minutes of March 26, 2012 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Presentations:

- (a) Positive Action for the Keppoch Society re: Request for Financial Support for the Keppoch Project

Deputy Warden David welcomed Dr. John Chaisson and Mr. Greg Stewart to the meeting.

Dr. Chaisson presented on behalf of the Positive Action for the Keppoch Society and brought forth the following:

- The facility is owned by the County of Antigonish
- The Keppoch Society is requesting \$3000 per year for the next 4 years.

- The request is based on approximately \$0.50/person living in Richmond County “A” and \$0.25/person living in Richmond County “B” the difference being the distance to the facility.
- The capital investment will be spent on the construction of 40 km of multi-use wilderness trail, a gravity bike park, and renovations to the existing building to be used as a clubhouse for the facility.
- This facility will attract visitors to Eastern Nova Scotia
- The facility is hoping to attract residents of Richmond County.
- There are 13,000 existing year round users.
- There are 55,000 people within a 3 hour radius.

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- There is a planned membership fee of \$100/year per person and \$200/year per family.
- There are 2 proposals out for further construction
- This is a very ambitious project
- There will be presentations made to other Municipal units however Richmond County has been the first.
- Motorized equipment has been banned from the trail.

Deputy Warden thanked Dr. Chaisson and Mr. Stewart for their presentation.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that the Positive Action for the Keppoch Society funding request be referred to budget deliberations.
Motion carried.

CAO re: Insights Television Show

The C.A.O. reported the following:

- The television show “Insights” which is based out of the United States and hosted by Terry Bradshaw has contacted the Municipality of the County of Richmond to do a 5 minute exposé of Richmond County as a great place to work, live and play.
- The CAO has been speaking with the producers of the show and is pleased to announce that Richmond County has been selected.
- The cost to Richmond County would be \$20,000 which would include broadcasting rights.
- The 5 minute exposé of Richmond County will reach millions of homes.

- Four people will be interviewed from Richmond County during the segment.
- The CAO is looking for approval from Council to move the project forward
- The CAO indicated that ECBA could cover most or all of the production costs.
- Richmond County would be the first area in eastern Nova Scotia to be highlighted on “Insights”

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- It was noted that this is a phenomenal opportunity for Richmond County
- The economic impact that this could have on Richmond County is huge

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor Johnson that the Committee recommend to Council that the CAO move the project with “Insights” Television Show forward, and further authorize payment prior to searching for other funding partners. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

- a) Chief Financial Officer re:
 - (i) Tax Sales
 - (ii) Deleted Accounts

The C.A.O. recommended that Council approve the memos from the Chief Financial Officer regarding Tax Sales and Deleted Accounts.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the Committee accept the recommendation of the Chief Financial Officer and the Vested Property Clerk and recommend to Council to establish an acceptable minimum bid of \$1,000 with regards to the five properties outlined in his memo, that will be included in the next tax sale. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor Johnson that the Committee accept the recommendation of the Chief Financial Officer and recommend to Council to approved the write-off of the deleted accounts, in the amount of \$33,165.19, as they are not collectible. Motion carried.

- (b) Eastern District Planning Commission re: Request for a Policy to Amend the Building Permit Fees By-Law.

The C.A.O. reported the following:

- Correspondence was received from EDPC stating that all other counties have approved the policy amendment with respect to their respective Building Permit Fees By-Law except for Richmond County.
- The CAO indicated that if the Municipality of Richmond does not charge fees for building permits at least equal to the Commission's prescribed scale of fees, we will be billed for the difference from EDPC.

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- EDPC originally stated that this By-Law would not be changed unless all Municipalities were in agreement
- The increase will be required to be paid either by the consumer or the Municipality of the County of Richmond

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the Committee recommend to Council that notice be given to adopt a policy to amend By-Law #61, Building Permit Fees By-Law. (Nay; Councillor Marchand). Motion carried.

b) Hon. Ramona Jennex re: West Richmond Education Centre

The CAO indicated that correspondence had been received from the Hon. Ramona Jennex regarding the West Richmond Education Centre stating that the final decision with respect to the closure of a school is the responsibility of the Strait Regional School Board.

d) Save Community Schools – Richmond re: Request for Financial Support

The CAO reported that the Deputy Warden, CFO and the Clerk have met with the Save Community Schools in Richmond and requested direction from Council regarding their request for financial assistance to support a judicial review process.

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- The Heatherton community has been contacted to confirm that they have supported this judicial review and what was the process
- A forgivable loan was received from Antigonish County
- Richmond County is morally responsible to the children in the county

- Due to the nature of this request, we should receive advice from our legal department

Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the request from Save Community Schools be tabled until further information has been received. Motion carried.

e) Ms. Shannon Diggdon re: Grant Requests

- Isle Madame ATV Riders Association, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #1 (\$1,056.95);
- St. Joseph's CWL, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #2 (\$250);
- St. Joseph's CWL, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #2 (\$250);
- Acadiaville Community Centre Society, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #4 (\$25,000);
- St. Louis Parish (Baraco Days), Municipal District Activity Fund, District #6 (\$1,000);
- St. Louis Parish Glen Sampson Room, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #6 (\$7,500);
- Chapel Cove Preservation Society, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #9 (\$1,207.50);
- L'Ardoise Jolly Club, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #9 (\$500);
- Ecole Beau-Port (Les Pieds au vol), Municipal District Activity Fund, Multiple Districts (\$1,100).

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council that the following grant requests be approved:

- \$1,056.95 to Isle Madame ATV Riders Association, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #1;
- \$250 to St. Joseph's CWL, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #2;
- \$250 to St. Joseph's CWL, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #2;
- \$25,000 to Acadiaville Community Centre Society, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #4;
- \$1,000 to St. Louis Parish (Baraco Days), Municipal District Activity Fund, District #6;
- \$7,500 to St. Louis Parish Glen Sampson Room, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #6 (\$7,500);

- \$1,207.50 to Chapel Cove Preservation Society, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #9;
- \$500 to L'Ardoise Jolly Club, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #9;
- \$1,100 to Ecole Beau-Port (Les Pieds au vol), Municipal District Activity Fund, Multiple Districts.

Motion carried.

Items Added to the Agenda

- (1) CAO re: Information received from Department of Natural Resources regarding clean-up of Crown sites.

The CAO noted that correspondence had been received from the Department of Natural Resources indicating which properties had been cleaned by their Department.

The following points were put forth during the discussion:

- Waiving the tipping fees would be less costly than clean up of the properties by the Municipality
- When demolition of unsightly properties take place it is the responsibility of the property owner to pay the tipping fees

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor McNamara 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. (Ayes: Councillor Johnson, Councillor MacNeil, Councillor McNamara, Councillor Martell, Deputy Warden David; Nays: Councillor Beaton, Councillor Sampson, Councillor Marchand, Councillor Boucher). Motion carried.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

There were no questions from the gallery.

In Camera

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Johnson that the meeting move to "In Camera" session at 8:15 p.m. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden David reconvened the regular session at 8:55 p.m.

Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded by Councillor Beaton that the Committee accept the recommendation of Deputy Warden David and that Deputy Warden David be authorized to respond regarding a personnel issue. 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 7:55 p.m.

MINUTES RECORDED BY:

MUNICIPAL CLERK:

CHAIRPERSON

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER