

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

MAY 28, 2012

Location: Council Chambers, Municipal Office

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

Councillor Gail Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Items Added to the Agenda

Councillor Marchand requested and received unanimous consent to add a discussion regarding PCAP funding for Building and Groundwork for the Louisdale Water Treatment Plant.

Councillor Martell requested and received unanimous consent to add a discussion regarding an addendum to the travel policy to include “Out of Country” Travel.

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

Review of Minutes: May 7, 2012

Moved by Deputy Warden David, seconded by Councillor Beaton that the minutes of May 7, 2012 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Presentations:

- (a) Vitalité Isle Madame (Bruce Joshua) re: Wellness Centre Project

Councillor Johnson welcomed Mr. Joshua to the meeting.

Mr. Joshua gave a power point presentation and the following points were brought forward:

- Mr. Joshua offered condolences to Council and Staff on the passing of Warden John Boudreau;

- The group name was changed from Arichat Recreation Commission to Vitalité Isle Madame due to confusion with the Richmond Recreation Department;
- Mr. Joshua reviewed the group's progress to date;
- Vitalité Isle Madame is a volunteer group;
- Community input, planning, presentations and meetings have been ongoing for 3+ years as part of the initiatives for the project;
- Health Care, Education and Recreation Opportunities/Infrastructure are the three most important factors for people when choosing a place to reside;
- Arichat is central to services on Isle Madame;
- It is important to focus on an accessibility range of 0 to 20 minutes;
- There will be a partnership with the school board to cover expenses such as electricity, heat, water, cleaning etc;
- The project would not be feasible as a standalone;
- Accessibility to seniors is important;
- Partnering with the school board will ensure the stability of the school;
- This project aligns with current initiatives by promoting independent living, improving the overall quality of life and alleviating pressures on health care;
- There will be accessible user fees;

A discussion period ensued and the following points were brought forward:

- Partnering with the school is a great idea for long term stability;
- This project would be a good asset for all of Richmond County;
- Limited time during the day would be for school use only;
- All areas of the facility would be wheelchair accessible;
- The group is requesting 10.5% of the total cost of \$1,900,000 which is approximately \$200,000;

Moved by Deputy Warden David, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the request for funding from Vitalité Isle Madame be moved to budget deliberations. Motion carried.

Councillor Johnson thanked Mr. Joshua for his presentation.

CAO: re: SHRDA:

The CAO noted that he had received notice that Minister Bernard Valcourt confirmed that the elimination of funding for local economic development agencies will be effective April 2013 and that the province will not be picking up the tab. He also noted that Blaine

Gillis of the Strait-Highland Regional Development Agency indicated that they will be losing 1/3 of their funding.

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- There is one year remaining for funding to the Strait-Highland Regional Development Agency;
- The Agency has been involved heavily in Richmond County;
- Richmond County would be unable to provide the same service as the Strait-Highland Regional Development Agency for less money;

Correspondence:

(a) Mr. John Bain re: Municipal Antenna Site Procedure or Protocol

The CAO noted that correspondence had been received from Mr. John Bain regarding the Municipal Antenna Site Procedure or Protocol. He also noted that these procedures were requested in 2008 by Seaside Communications as part of the Rural Broadband Initiative. He indicated that the Rural Broadband Initiative is now complete therefore the Municipal Antenna Site Procedures/Protocols should be repealed.

Moved by Deputy Warden David, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council that notice be given to repeal the Municipal Antenna Site Procedures and/or Protocols due to the completion of the Rural Broadband Initiative. Motion carried.

(b) Conseil Scolaire Acadien Provincial re: Request for Bilingual Signage on Municipal Building

The CAO noted that he had received correspondence from Kenneth Gaudet of the Conseil Scolaire Acadien Provincial regarding the signage being displayed in English only on the Municipality of Richmond Administration building. He also noted that the Conseil Scolaire Acadien Provincial was requesting that the signage be displayed in both official languages and he noted that he will instruct Jason MacMillan to investigate the cost of this change.

The CAO indicated that there had also been an offer from the Department of Acadian Affairs to translate the Municipality of the County of Richmond's website so that it is

displayed in both official languages with all business being carried out in English. He also indicated that he had not yet responded to these requests.

Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the Committee recommend to Council that the signage on the Municipality of Richmond Administration building be displayed in both official languages and that the offer from Department of Acadian Affairs be accepted to translate the Richmond County website to display in both official languages with all business being carried out in English. Motion carried.

(c) Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations re: Twelve Month Notice of Changes for Fiscal Year 2013-2014

The CAO noted that correspondence had been received from Deputy Warden Jimmy MacAlpine, UNSM President, regarding notice of changes by Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations for the fiscal year 2013-2014 which could have the effect of decreasing revenues or increasing the required expenditures of municipalities. He also noted that a system assessment report is being completed and the impact to Municipal budgets is unknown at this time.

(d) Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities re: UNSM Response to LED Roadway Lighting Regulations

The CAO indicated that correspondence had been received from the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities President, Deputy Warden Jimmy MacAlpine regarding LED Roadway lighting regulations noting that the Board has not seen any analysis that identifies costs and benefits of LED Roadway lighting. He also indicated that Richmond County may not see all the proposed benefits.

Councillor MacNeil noted that LED lighting may be a safety hazard due to the fact that they do not provide coverage to a large area.

(e) Cape Breton Regional Hospital Foundation re: Funding Request

For information purposes.

(f) Centre La Picasse re: Funding Request

The CAO noted that correspondence had been received from Centre La Picasse requesting a donation of \$2,500 towards their annual Country Festival scheduled between

September 1, 2012 and October 31, 2012. He also noted that due to the frequency of this type of request, Mr. Jeff Stanley is currently working on a policy which will provide guidance to deal with such requests.

(g) Strait Area Girls Under 18 Volleyball Team re: Thank you

The CAO indicated that correspondence had been received from the Strait Area Girls Under 18 Volleyball Team thanking Richmond County for their support. He also indicated that 4 members of the Strait Area Girls Under 18 Volleyball Team are Richmond County residents.

(h) Mayor Frank Fraser, Town of Canso re: Condolences

For information purposes

(i) Mr. Karl Grenke re: Condolences

The CAO read correspondence received from Karl Grenke expressing condolences on the passing of Warden John Boudreau.

(j) Vested Property Clerk re: Request to Write off Taxes, Due to Fire

The CAO indicated that correspondence had been received from the Vested Property Clerk regarding a request from Crystal Owzarek to write off taxes for Assessment Account # 701386, assessed to John Owzarek due to fire. He also indicated that it was the recommendation of the Vested Property Clerk that the Municipality of Richmond write off taxes in the amount of \$967.51 which represents taxes on the dwelling from July 1, 2011 to March 31, 2013.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Deputy Warden David that the Committee accept the recommendation of the Vested Property Clerk and recommend to Council that taxes be written off for Assessment Account # 701386, assessed to John Owzarek in the amount of \$967.51 which represents taxes on the dwelling from July 1, 2011 to March 31, 2013. Motion carried.

(k) Shannon Diggdon re: Grant Requests

- L'Archeveque Wharf Preservation Society, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #10 (4,500);

- Riverdale Community Services Society, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #5 (\$4,644.27);
- Immaculate Conception Parish Council, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #4 (\$200);
- Save Community Schools – Richmond, Municipal District Activity Fund, District Multiple Districts (\$3,100);
- Richmond County Early Childhood Education Association – St. Peter’s, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #7, 8, 9, 10 (\$727.96);
- D’Escousse Civic Improvement Society, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #3 (\$5,000);

Moved by Deputy Warden David, seconded by Councillor Beaton that that the Committee recommend to Council that the following grant requests be approved:

- \$4,500 to L’Archeveque Wharf Preservation Society, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #10;
- \$4,644.27 to Riverdale Community Services Society, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #5;
- \$200 to Immaculate Conception Parish Council, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #4;
- \$3,100 to Save Community Schools – Richmond, Municipal District Activity Fund, District Multiple Districts;
- \$727.96 to Richmond County Early Childhood Education Association – St. Peter’s, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #7, 8, 9, 10;
- \$5,000 to D’Escousse Civic Improvement Society, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #3;

Motion carried.

Items Added to the Agenda:

1. Councillor Marchand requested and received unanimous consent to add a discussion regarding PCAP funding for Building and Groundwork for the Louisdale Water Treatment Plant.

Councillor Marchand requested that an application for funding be sent to Service Nova Scotia for the Building and Groundwork for the Louisdale Water Treatment Plant.

During discussion the following points were brought forward:

- Councillor Marchand has been communicating with Service Nova Scotia regarding this request application;
- An application for the Building and Groundwork for the Louisdale Water Treatment Plant could impact the projects already in the queue;
- There is a process in place for the application to Service Nova Scotia and Capital projects which should be followed;
- Protocol was not followed;
- The need for the water project should not supersede the waste water projects in the other two districts;
- PCAP does not fund more than 50% and there is concern regarding funding for the other 50%;
- There is a limit of 3 applications in the queue at one time and the Municipality of Richmond currently has 4;
- In previous years there have been 2 applications in for funding at the same time;
- There is a Federal/Provincial Infrastructure project announced for the fall 2012;
- There is a need to follow the Capital priority list;

Moved by Councillor Marchand, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council that staff communicate with Service Nova Scotia in order to access funding for the Building and Groundwork for the Louisdale Water Treatment Plant. (Ayes; 4, Nays; 4, Councillor Beaton, Councillor Martell, Councillor MacNeil, Councillor David). Motion defeated.

2. Councillor Martell requested and received unanimous consent to add a discussion regarding an addendum to the travel policy to include “Out of Country” Travel.

Councillor Martell requested an addendum to the travel policy to include “Out of Country” Travel and to reflect \$100/day per diem meals with the breakdown as follows:

- | | | |
|-------------|---|------|
| - Breakfast | - | \$25 |
| - Lunch | - | \$35 |
| - Dinner | - | \$40 |

This rate is subject to exchange rates at the time of travel.

Councillor Martell gave notice that he will introduce a motion at the next Regular Council meeting to amend the travel policy to include “Out of Country” Travel and to reflect \$100/day per diem meals with the breakdown as follows:

- Breakfast - \$25
- Lunch - \$35
- Dinner - \$40

This rate is subject to exchange rates at the time of travel.

Fifteen Minute Question Period:

Mr. Lorenzo Boudreau approached Council with non-related agenda items.

Adjournment

Moved by Deputy Warden David, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

MINUTES RECORDED BY:

MUNICIPAL CLERK:

CHAIRPERSON

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER