

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

JUNE 18, 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 S. Sampson

Deputy Warden David called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Items Added to the Agenda

Deputy Warden David noted that the CAO wished to add a memo from the Vested Property Clerk regarding the request to write off taxes on the MacNeil property destroyed by Fire, Account #7956495.

Councillor Martell requested and received unanimous consent to add a discussion regarding the Southern Comfort Subdivision request to establish a Wastewater Management District in the Grand Lake area in order to allow them to install a cluster system.

Councillor McNamara requested and received unanimous consent to add correspondence received regarding a Pitu'paq sponsored event on Fracking.

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

Review of Minutes: May 28, 2012

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that the minutes of May 28, 2012 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Solicitors/Eastern District Planning Commission re: Proposed Demolition:

- Property of Vivian Samson, 36 Penny's Lane, Little Anse, Richmond County (PID #75012260; AAN #04118189);
 - (i) Mr. John Bain re: Update on Property

Mr. Shaun Donovan provided an update on the property of Vivian Samson, 36 Penny's Lane, Little Anse, Richmond County (PID #75012260; AAN #04118189); noting that the property owner had hired a contractor and the property would be demolished by the end of the week. He also noted that his recommendation is to proceed with the demolition order. Mr. Donovan also thanked Mrs. Samson for her cooperation.

(ii) Opportunity for Above Property Owner to Address the Committee

Mrs. Vivian Samson was present and Deputy Warden David thanked her for her cooperation regarding the demolition of the property.

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor Martell that the Committee recommend to Council that an "Order to Remedy Condition" be issued to Vivian Samson, 36 Penny's Lane, Little Anse, Richmond County (PID #75012260; AAN #04118189); 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.

It was a consensus of the Committee that the order of Agenda items #5 and #6 be interchanged.

Chief Financial Officer re:

(i) Review of 2012/2013 Municipal Budget

The CAO indicated that the budgets in all three departments had been approved.

The CAO made reference to the list of additional municipal projects and requested that the Committee make a decision as to which additional municipal projects would be approved. He also indicated that the additional municipal projects listed would reduce the amount transferred to the General Reserve.

1. STRAIT AREA TRANSIT

The CAO indicated that the Town of Port Hawkesbury had declined the request for funding from Strait area Transit and the County of Inverness had not yet responded. The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- The impact on Strait Area Transit's ability to function without support from Richmond County;
- A lot of Richmond County residents use the services provided by Strait Area Transit;
- The support of Richmond County is detrimental to Strait Area Transit;

- The Province will look at the funding request differently if Richmond and other counties are supportive;
- The level of service from Strait Area Transit to Richmond County residents is great;
- Port Hawkesbury receives a huge economic spinoff from Strait Area Transit's services;
- There is a need for a transit system in Richmond County;

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Beaton that the Committee recommend to Council to approve additional funding in the amount of \$15,584 to Strait Area Transit; and that in addition to funding, that Council approach the Province on their behalf. Motion carried.

2. TOWN OF PORT HAWKESBURY OPERATION OF POOL

There was unanimous consent that the Committee recommend to Council that the additional funding request of \$15,000 to the Town of Port Hawkesbury for the operation of the pool be declined.

3. WELLNESS CENTRE PROJECT CAPITAL COST CONTRIBUTION

The CAO indicated that it remains unknown if the Wellness Centre Project will receive funding from other parties.

Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council to approve a onetime lump sum payment of \$200,000 to Vitalité Isle Madame in support of the Wellness Centre Project.

Discussion took place and the following points were brought forth:

- One lump sum payment of \$200,000 is too much for one project in Richmond County;
- There needs to be assurance that there are other funding partners;
- This project will have a major impact on Kin Excel in St. Peter's;
- Amortizing the payment over a number of years is an option;
- There was an offer to Kin Excel to bring the business to the new facility;
- There may be similar requests in the future for this type of facility from other areas of Richmond County;
- Support should be contingent on the group receiving other funding;
- Other funding partners would want confirmation that Richmond County is contributing;
- This would be a great project to support during an Election year for Isle Madame but would not look good in other areas;
- There has been no operating model presented by the group as of yet;

Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council that \$200,000 be approved for Vitalité Isle Madame over a 2 year period in support of the Wellness Centre Project contingent on funding from other partners in addition to a presentation of an operating budget by the group. Motion carried.

4. ENERGY LIGHTING RETROFITS

The CAO indicated that there would be a 70/30 split through Efficiency Nova Scotia to complete an Energy Retrofit on all municipal buildings. The cost to Richmond County would be \$10,000. He also indicated that Richmond is one of the few municipalities that have taken advantage of this and that our dollars will be recouped quickly through energy savings.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the Committee recommend to Council that Richmond County take advantage of the 70/30 split offered by Efficiency Nova Scotia and complete a \$10,000 energy retrofit on all municipal buildings. Motion carried.

5. NOVA SCOTIA INTERNATIONAL FERRY PARTNERSHP YARMOUTH AND AREA

The CAO noted that the ferry service in Yarmouth is detrimental to tourism in Cape Breton and Nova Scotia.

There was unanimous consent that the Committee recommend to Council that additional funding of \$1,000 be approved to the Nova Scotia International Ferry Partnership, Yarmouth and Area.

6. KEPPOCH (PAK) SOCIETY

The CAO noted that the Keppoch Society was requesting \$3,000 for their project. He also noted that Keppoch is 1.5 hours away from Richmond County.

There was unanimous consent that the Committee recommend to Council that the request for additional funding of \$3,000 to the Keppoch (PAK) Society be declined.

7. GAELIC COUNCIL OF NOVA SCOTIA

The CAO noted that the request for \$500 from the Gaelic Council of Nova Scotia was to fund their education programs.

There was unanimous consent that the Committee recommend to Council to approve \$500 in funding to the Gaelic Council of Nova Scotia for education programs.

8. L'ARDOISE ACADIAN FESTIVAL

The CAO indicated that the request for \$1,000 was for the 50th Anniversary of the L'Ardoise Acadian Festival.

There was unanimous consent that the Committee recommend to Council to approve \$1,000 in funding to the L'Ardoise Acadian Festival for their 50th Anniversary festivities.

9. ENGINEERING STUDY ON LANDFILL CLOSURE COSTS

The CAO indicated that a lot of work had been completed at the landfill and \$300,000 had been set aside for an engineering study if required. He also indicated that the Auditor had informed him that an engineering study is required on landfill closure costs.

The CAO noted that it was his recommendation that the request for \$20,000 in additional funding be set aside to further increase the amount should a study be required.

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that the Committee recommend to Council that \$20,000 in additional funding for the potential engineering study on landfill closure costs be approved. Motion carried.

(ii) Area Rates

The CAO indicated that the Fire Department area rates would remain the same for year ending March 31, 2013. He also indicated that it is the recommendation of the Chief Financial Officer that these rates be approved by Council along with the St Peter's VSA rate conditional on them providing us with the rate by July 31, 2012.

(iii) Five Year Capital Investment Plan

The CAO indicated that in order to comply with gas tax reporting requirement, Municipal Council is required to approve a five year Capital Investment Plan for the year ending March 31, 2013. The CAO also indicated that it is the recommendation of the Chief Financial Officer that the five year Capital Investment Plan for the year ending March 31, 2013 be approved by Council.

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council to approve the Municipal Budget 2012/2013, the 5 year Capital Investment Plan for the year ending March 31, 2013, St. Peter's VSA rate conditional on them providing their rate by July 31, 2012 and also the following fire department area rates:

- St. Peter's Fire Dept - .09¢
- West Bay Road Fire Dept - .10¢
- L'Ardoise Fire Dept - .16¢
- Grand River Fire Dept - .15¢
- Loch Lomond Fire Dept - .12¢
- Louisdale Fire Dept - .10¢
- Framboise-Fourchu Fire Dept- .15¢
- Isle Madame Fire Dept - .11¢
- District Ten Fire Dept - .15¢
- Louisdale Sidewalks - .10¢
- District Two Community Rate .04¢
- District Four Community Rate .05¢

Motion carried.

Presentations:

- (a) Parks Canada (Lester Marchand) re: Strategic Tourism Initiatives

Deputy Warden David welcomed Mr. Marchand to the meeting.

Mr. Marchand presented a power point presentation. The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- The mission of Parks Canada and the Fortress of Louisbourg is to help Canadians and others to connect;
- The Governor General Leadership Tour held on June 5th and 6th was a huge success;
- The biggest asset to Richmond County is exposure to our people;
- Importance of unforgettable (yet sustainable) experiences;
- Partners are critical to the success of the Fortress of Louisbourg;
- The Fortress of Louisbourg attracts visitors from all over the world;
- It is crucial to provide outstanding visitor experiences;
- The goal is to make the Fortress of Louisbourg a place for the community of Cape Breton;
- 2013 will mark the 300th Anniversary of Louisbourg;
- There are events and activities scheduled to celebrate Louisbourg300;

- The Fortress of Louisbourg is a resource for Richmond County and can help by networking visitor opportunities and experiences and sharing promotional opportunities and best practices;
- The Fortress of Louisbourg provides resources to assist with quality visitor service training, service standards and support throughout Richmond County;
- Collaboration on strategic tourism planning is important between Fortress of Louisbourg and Richmond County;
- Richmond County has the gift of hospitality;
- The importance of attitude and strength of sustainable initiatives;
- The need to celebrate spectacular people;
- Importance of developing and encouraging entrepreneurs;
- The idea of launching a new way of being re: Parks Canada, Fortress of Louisbourg and Cape Breton;
- Parks Canada is interested in looking at initiatives to creative infrastructure;
- We need to be mindful of the messages we are giving out in our communities;

A discussion took place and the following points were brought forth:

- Operational funding has been cut this year for Parks Canada;
- Due to the cuts, there will be no access to the canal in St. Peter's for certain periods;
- Difficult to promote our historical sites when there are budget cuts;
- There is a need to look at different ways of doing things which will create better and more realistic products;
- It was noted that Mr. Marchand's participation with the Leadership Tour was greatly due to the fact that he has roots in Richmond County and appreciates what is here;
- Authenticity is important. The real thing experience;
- There needs to be training in Richmond County to promote superior customer service.

Deputy Warden David thanked Mr. Marchand for his presentation.

Correspondence:

(a) Town of Port Hawkesbury re: Strait Area Pool

Item was previously addressed.

(b) Strait Regional School Board re: Mandatory Education Tax for 2012/13

For information purposes.

(c) Solicitors re: Dangerous and Unsightly Premises – Tammy Boucher

The CAO noted that the property of Tammy Boucher has been demolished.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council that the motion approved at the May 14, 2012 Council Meeting whereby an “Order to Remedy Condition” issued to Tammy Boucher, 8506 Highway 4, River Bourgeois, NS, PID #75047621, AAN #03585123, with the Order being 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, be rescinded. Motion carried.

(d) Eastern District Planning Commission re:

(i) Property of Peter Berrett, Anthony Berrett, John Breyon, Justin Breyon, Peter Breyon, Stephen Breyon, 1364 Salmon River Road, Salmon River (Grant 13378; PID #75105304)

The CAO noted that he had received a phone call from Mr. Taylor stating that most of the debris had been removed in and around his property. He also noted that he was willing to meet with Mr. Taylor to follow up and will continue to work with him to ensure his cooperation. The costs of the cleanup on this property will not be recoverable.

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the Committee recommend to Council to postpone the matter of the above referenced property to the Committee of the Whole meeting in September 2012.

(ii) Property of Thomas Nicholas Richard, 124 Boudreauville Road (AAN 03644204; PID 75008466)

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the Committee recommend to Council that an “Order to Remedy Condition” be issued to Thomas Nicholas Richard, 124 Boudreauville Road, AAN #03644204; PID #75008466, and that

the Order be a Demolition Order issued from Council to the owner 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.

(iii) Property of Robert Richard, 2660 Highway 4, MacIntyre Lake,
(PID 75033357, AAN 04801296)

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor Johnson that the Committee recommend to Council that an “Order to Remedy Condition” be issued to Robert Richard, 2660 Highway 4, MacIntyre Lake, PID #75033357, AAN #04801296, and that the Order be a Demolition Order issued from Council to the owner 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.

(e) Condolences Received from Jimmy MacAlpine, UNSM President;
Vibe Creative Group; Municipality of Yarmouth

For information purposes.

(f) MacLeod Excavating Ltd. re: Purchase of Former St. Peter’s District High School

The CAO indicated that correspondence had been received from MacLeod Excavating Ltd. regarding the purchase of the old St. Peter’s High School located in St. Peter’s. He also indicated that they had submitted a bid of \$10,000 for the building and the land stated that it is their intention to develop the property within 2 years.

The CAO noted that another bid is currently being reviewed which he hoped would be presented to Council on June 25, 2012.

(g) Labour and Workforce Development, Office of the Minister re:
Proposed amendments to the Nova Scotia Building Code Regulations

For information purposes.

(h) Hon. John MacDonell re: Phase 1, Municipality’s Watershed Project

The CAO noted that he had received correspondence from the Hon. John MacDonell regarding Phase 1 of the Municipality's Watershed Project. He also noted that Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations will contribute an additional \$60,000 this fiscal year towards the first phase of the Municipality's watershed initiative; which brings the Department's contribution to this project to \$80,000.

(i) Shannon Diggdon re: Grant Requests

- L'Association des Femmes acadiennes en marche de Richmond, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #1 (\$400);
- Our Lady of Assumption CWL, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #1 (\$300);
- Arichat Relay for Life – Canadian Cancer Society, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #1 (\$252.87);
- D'Escousse Civic Improvement, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #3 (\$250);
- Louisdale Brownies, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #6 (\$500);
- St. Louis Parish Canada Day Committee, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #6 (\$1,000);
- Louisdale Fleur de Lis Seniors, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #6 (\$1,000);
- Lakeside Community Association, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #8 (\$1,000);
- Fourchu Development Association, Municipal District Infrastructure, District #10 (\$475);
- Loch Lommond Volunteer Fire Department, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #10 (\$12,500);
- Sacred Heart Ladies Group, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #10 (\$1005.99);
- Sacred Heart Ladies Group, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #10 (\$500);

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

- \$400 to L'Association des Femmes acadiennes en marche de Richmond, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #1;

- \$300 to Our Lady of Assumption CWL, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #1;
- \$252.87 to Arichat Relay for Life – Canadian Cancer Society, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #1;
- \$250 to D’Escousse Civic Improvement, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #3;
- \$500 to Louisdale Brownies, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #6;
- \$1,000 to Louisdale Fleur de Lis Seniors, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #6;
- \$1,000 to Lakeside Community Association, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #8;
- \$475 to Fourchu Development Association, Municipal District Infrastructure, District #10;
- \$12,500 to Loch Lommond Volunteer Fire Department, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #10;
- \$1005.99 to Sacred Heart Ladies Group, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #10;
- \$500 to Sacred Heart Ladies Group, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #10;

And further moved that the grant request from St. Louis Parish Canada Day Committee for funding under the Municipal District Activity Fund in the amount of \$1,000 be referred back to the Chief Financial Officer for consideration of a grant in the amount of \$1,500. Motion carried.

Review of Cheques Issued: April and May, 2012

Items Added to the Agenda:

1. Deputy Warden David noted that the CAO wished to add of a memo from the Vested Property Clerk re: Request to write off taxes on MacNeil property destroyed by Fire, Account #7956495.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Sampson that the Committee accept the recommendation of the Vested Property Clerk and recommend to Council the write off of taxes for the property of Mr. Pat MacNeil which was destroyed by fire, Account # 7956495 in the amount of \$920.78, which represents taxes for February 7, 2012 to March 31, 2013, Motion carried.

2. Councillor Martell re: Southern Comfort Subdivision request to establish a Wastewater Management District in the Grand Lake area.

The CAO noted that correspondence had been received from a group of concerned land/lot owners within the Southern Comfort Subdivision, Grand Lake, Grandique Road requesting that the Municipality of the County of Richmond consider establishing a Wastewater Management District in the Grand Lake area in order to allow them to install a cluster system with proper maintenance agreements with the Municipality.

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- The Municipality would inspect these systems on a yearly basis;
- There is concern regarding the houses on the properties on Grand Lake ever receiving building permits;
- This group must apply to be a Wastewater Management District;
- Need to inquire if these houses ever received building permits;
- Cluster systems will prevent other builders from proceeding without a building permit;
- A report is needed from the Planning Commission to determine which property owners are there illegally;
- There are 5 buildings on that road;

The CAO noted that he would follow up with John Bain in order to determine which building owners ever received building permits.

Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded by Councillor Beaton that the Committee recommend to Council that the request from the owners within the Southern Comfort Subdivision, Grand Lake, Grandique Road requesting the Municipality of the County of Richmond consider establishing a Wastewater Management District in the Grand Lake area in order to allow them to install a cluster system with proper maintenance agreements with the Municipality be approved. (Ayes; 8, Nays; 1, Councillor Boucher). Motion carried.

3. Councillor McNamara re: Pitu'paq sponsored event on Fracking.

Councillor McNamara indicated that a presentation by Jessica Ernst on Fracking would be taking place at Baddeck Volunteer Fire Department Community Centre Thursday, July 5, 2012 at 7:00 pm. She also indicated the importance of protecting our water supplies and noted that the Municipality should designate someone to attend the presentation.

Fifteen Minute Question Period:

There were no questions from the gallery.

“In Camera” Session:

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Sampson that the meeting move to an “In Camera” session at 9:40 p.m. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Sampson that the meeting revert to regular session at 9:49 p.m.

Adjournment

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

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

MINUTES RECORDED BY:

MUNICIPAL CLERK:

CHAIRPERSON

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER