

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

DECEMBER 3, 2012

Location: Council Chambers, Municipal Office

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

Deputy Warden Martell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Items Added to the Agenda

Deputy Warden Martell indicated that Councillor McNamara wished to add Lights for Life Campaign for the Strait Richmond Healthcare Foundation; Councillor Johnson wished to add two grants for approval.

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor MacNeil to approve the agenda with the items added. Motion carried.

Review of Minutes: November 5, 2012

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the minutes of November 5, 2012 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Presentations:

- a) Jeff Stanley – Tourism Update

Deputy Warden Martell welcomed Mr. Jeff Stanley, Director of Economic Development and Tourism and Mr. Harvey Sawler.

Mr. Stanley and Mr. Sawler presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Tourism update (Copy attached).

Mr. Stanley noted the following:

- A regional approach to tourism in Richmond County is not as effective as once envisioned

- The market share is decreasing in some areas more than others which has an effect on the entire region as a whole
- It is difficult to present the County as a County, when each community has their own personalities
- A more powerful approach would be to embrace community tourism and focus on specific areas that have available accommodations
- The ideas presented by Mr. Sawler have been approved by Enterprise Cape Breton and with Council's approval, the next steps can be taken
- It was communicated with the various economic development groups in Richmond County that they should consider tourism as part of their strategy

Mr. Sawler noted the following:

- Richmond County is the most prepared, with a strategic plan, to embrace tourism
- The work completed in the past few months has put Richmond in the queue for partnerships for tourism advancements
- The idea of promoting three key areas for Richmond County were presented:
 - Isle of 100 Coves
 - Cape Breton Blueways
 - Key to the Inland Sea
- Infrastructure is required for residents and tourists to access and utilize

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- It was noted that the Cape Breton Blueways project has an appeal to the entire county
- It was noted that it is nice to see Parks Canada work with the County
- It was noted that it is nice to see the Tourism Department working on products versus spending tax dollars on marketing

Deputy Warden Martell thanked Mr. Stanley and Mr. Sawler for their presentation.

b) Cape Breton Partnership (Keith MacDonald) re: Framework

Deputy Warden Martell welcomed Mr. Keith MacDonald and Ms. Jodi MacArthur to the meeting.

Mr. Keith MacDonald and Ms. Jodi MacArthur presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Cape Breton Partnership (Copy attached).

Mr. MacDonald noted the following:

- The *Prosperity Framework* will help to guide and coordinate economic development activities over the next several years for Cape Breton Island and the Town of Mulgrave
- Key priorities are:
 - Pursue updated economic development strategies for Cape Breton Island-Mulgrave
 - Align with Nova Scotia’s and Canada’s economic strategies
 - Collaborate with partners to fill in programming gaps
 - Facilitate and monitor the creation of new jobs
- Success will be measured by accomplishing the following:
 - Increased population
 - Improved business climate
 - Higher levels of confidence among business community
 - More attractive place to live, work, play and be educated
 - Increased labour force participation
 - Increase in training and education levels of residents
- The Richmond County Readiness Plan includes:
 - Roundtable with local and external business leaders
 - Discuss opportunities and challenges
 - Identify industry sectors of focus
 - Asset mapping
 - Opportunities for incubation and clustering
 - Short-term and long-term focus
 - Outline next steps to advance plan
- Cape Breton Partnership is seeking the following:
 - Further strengthen Richmond County’s connection to the Prosperity Framework
 - Municipality of the County of Richmond continues its Executive Level membership in the Cape Breton Partnership
 - Work with the Cape Breton Partnership to develop a Richmond County Investment Readiness Plan

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- It was noted that there is a lot of cross correlation between the local Regional Development Agency and Cape Breton Partnership
- It was noted that an effort is being made to have the groups continue to work together in order to avoid duplication of services

Deputy Warden Martell thanked Mr. MacDonald and Ms. MacArthur for their presentation.

CAO re:

(a) Christmas Hours

The CAO reported the following:

- It has been the practice of Council to close the office at 12:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve and reopen after the holidays
- This year with Christmas being on a Tuesday, the office would be closed December 27th, December 28th and December 31, 2012, reopening for regular business on January 2, 2013
- The landfill will be open for the two half days during this time and all on-call staff will be available

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Johnson that the Committee recommend to Council that the Administration Building be closed for the 2012 Christmas Holiday season at 12:00 p.m. December 24, 2012 and reopen for regular business hours at 8:30 a.m., January 2, 2013; and further moved that the Waste Management Facility be opened from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on December 27, 28 and 29, 2012, with all on-call staff available during the Christmas holiday. Motion carried. (Ayes: 7; One Nay - Councillor Boucher)

(b) Draft Priority Setting Workshop Summary Report

The CAO reported the following:

- A copy of the draft priority setting workshop summary report was circulated for review
- Seeking direction on how to proceed;
 - 1) Staff to report to Council with an action plan
 - 2) Strike a committee to review and move forward

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- It was noted that it would be preferred if this item was discussed by Council as a whole
- It was noted that Council should regroup and spend time completing the process, set an agenda and proceed

It was decided by unanimous consent that Council will meet in January 2013 prior to a Council meeting regarding the draft priority setting workshop summary report.

Correspondence

- (a) Property Valuation Services Corporation re: Services

For information purposes.

- (b) Eastern District Planning Commission re: Property of Gregory and Mary Rude, 3661 Highway 206, Haut De Le Baie, NS, (PID #75011015; AAN # 01415298

The CAO reported the following:

- In response to a complaint regarding the property fo Gregory and Mary Rude 3661 highway 206 PID #75011015; AAN # 01415298, the commercial building is located on property that falls under the “dangerous and unsightly” conditions as defined in the Municipal Government Act.
- It is the recommendation of the Eastern District Planning Commission that an “Order to Remedy Condition” be issued.

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor Samson that the Committee recommend to Council to accept the recommendation of the Eastern District Planning Commission that an “Order to Remedy Condition” be issued to Gregory and Mary Rude regarding their property at 3661 Highway 206, Haut De Le Baie, NS, (PID #75011015; AAN # 01415298, and that the Order be a Demolition Order issued from Council to the owners of said property, instructing that the building 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.

- (c) Stacey Johnstone re: Request for Assistance/Cleanup of Oban Property

The CAO reported the following:

- Illegal dumping took place on the property
- The costs of the cleanup was approximately \$2,587.50 and the cost of tipping fees was approximately \$98.40
- The owner of the property is seeking assistance with the charges of the cleanup
- Seeking direction from the Committee

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- It was noted that this issue was brought up several years ago
- It was noted that this individual should be compensated
- It was noted that it would be helpful if staff were to provide a report on how other municipalities are dealing with similar issues
- It was noted that staff should be monitoring illegal dumping sites more closely
- It was noted that each case should be dealt with separately

Moved by Councillor David, seconded by Councillor Marchand that staff create a policy that would address compensating property owners of illegal dumping sites. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council that Stacey Johnstone be compensated for the full cost of cleaning up garbage that had been illegally dumped on the property of Mr. Donald John MacDonald, (PID 75086785, AAN 09615652). Motion carried.

(c) Department of Transportation re: Cost Shared Paving of J-Class Subdivision Streets 2013-14

The CAO reported the following:

- The deadline to submit the list is January 31, 2013
- A list was not submitted last year
- Councillors should submit their lists to the Warden and/or Deputy Warden for debate and ranking

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- It was noted that the equipment used by the Department of Transportation is damaging the pavement during snow removal season
- Department of Transportation is seeking assistance from the County to help repair roads that are being damaged by Department of Transportation equipment
- It was noted that currently there is an agreement that the County has to work within the parameters
- It was noted that it would be useful to know what the Department of Transportation has done with the monies that the County has contributed thus far
- The CAO will provide Council with the most recent list of J-Class roads via email

(d) Strait of Canso Superport Corporation re: Appointment to Board of Directors

The CAO reported the following:

- A request to persons of interest for the Strait of Canso Superport Corporation Board of Directors was posted twice and there have been no names put forth thus far
- Tony Pierce has expressed interest

Moved by Councillor David, seconded by Councillor Marchand that the Committee recommend to Council that Mr. Tony Pierce be appointed as the Richmond County representative to serve on the Strait of Canso Superport Corporation Board of Directors. Motion carried.

(e) Shannon Mury re: Grant Requests

- Isle Madame New Horizon’s Seniors Club, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #’s 1, 2, 3 (\$6,000);
- St. Peter’s United Church, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District # 8 (\$3,500);
- Richmond County Early Childhood Education Association, Municipal District Activity Fund, Multiple Districts (\$1,150);

Consensus was granted to add the two grants from Councillor Johnson.

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the following grants be approved:

- \$6,000, Isle Madame New Horizon’s Seniors Club, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #’s 1, 2, 3;
- \$3,500, St. Peter’s United Church, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District # 8;
- \$1,150, Richmond County Early Childhood Education Association, Municipal District Activity Fund, Multiple Districts;
- \$300, Native Alcohol & Drug Abuse & Counseling Association, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #10;
- \$500, Bras d’Or Lakers Seniors Association, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #10;

Motion carried.

Approval of Cheques Issued: August & September 2012

Councillor David declared a conflict of interest because there were cheques written to his business, and removed himself from discussion.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Johnson that the list of cheques for the month of August 2012 in the amount of \$19,407.72 and the list of cheques for the month of September 2012 in the amount of \$45,747.88 be approved. Motion carried.

Review of Cheques Issued: October, 2012

For information purposes.

Items Added to the Agenda

1. Councillor McNamara re: Lights for Life Campaign

Councillor McNamara indicated that correspondence was sent in for a request for financial assistance with the Lights for Life Campaign from the Strait Richmond Healthcare Foundation.

Councillor McNamara indicated that last year funds were given out of the Councillors' District Activity Fund.

Councillor McNamara will contact the Strait Richmond Healthcare Foundation and ask that the request be sent in again via email for circulation to the Council.

2. Councillor Johnson re: Grants

These items were dealt with earlier in the meeting.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

Mrs. Germaine MacDonald approached the Committee regarding two items on the agenda.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor David 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:

CHAIRPERSON

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER