

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

FEBRUARY 12, 2013

Location: Council Chambers, Municipal Office

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

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

### Items Added to the Agenda

Warden Sampson indicated that there was one item added by the CAO regarding the Cape Breton Housing Authority.

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the agenda be approved with the item added. Motion carried.

### Review of Minutes: January 7, 2013

Moved by Councillor David, seconded by Councillor Johnson that the minutes of January 7, 2013 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

### Presentations:

- a) The Gaelic Council of Nova Scotia re: Update

Warden Sampson welcomed Ms. Caroline Cameron to the meeting.

Ms. Cameron provided an update on the Gaelic Council to the Committee (Copy attached).

Ms. Cameron noted the following:

- The Gaelic Council is a provincial community-level non-governmental organization responsible to promote and support Gaelic and represent the needs of the community level work

- Support was received last year from Economic Development to host targeted consultations through the community. This information gave direction to the board in drafting a work plan, which was presented at the Annual General Meeting.
- A provincial gathering was hosted in May in St. Andrews with workshops on Gaelic language, exploring Gaelic identity and a panel discussion on pooling resources within communities
- There is a very good working relationship with the Gaelic Affairs office.
- Gaelic is being taught at the community, school and university levels in Nova Scotia.
- The Gaelic Council is becoming more vocal on political issues.
- This winter, Comhairle na Gaidhlig will be supporting an exciting project called “Telling our Stories” through which a group of Gaelic learners will take stories collected from Gaelic speakers about language loss and revitalization and make a play from it through a series of workshops.
- Each year two major training workshops are offered. The objective is to grow the number of Gaelic speakers in the province.
- Pending funding, the group hopes to offer a fourth week-long immersion program to support the teaching capacity of tutors and potential tutors in Nova Scotia.
- The Gaelic Council is requesting a financial contribution of \$1,000 from a few key municipalities.
- The funds requested will be allocated as follows:
  - \$200 – support for facilitation for public meetings and follow-up community work
  - \$200 – Assistance with the costs of the Seniors Outings Program
  - \$200 – A contribution supporting the eight “Telling our Stories” workshops to produce a play about Gaelic language and culture in Nova Scotia
  - \$400 – Financing for a provincial gathering which will be hosted in Cape Breton in May 2013 in honor Gaelic Awareness Month

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- The amount of Gaelic initiatives and activities that currently take place in Richmond County are limited;
- The Gaelic Council should contact the Director of Recreation, Culture and Community Relations to start a discussion on increasing the presence of Gaelic in Richmond County;
- Richmond County is currently working on a signage strategy that could potentially incorporate Gaelic signs;
- It would be nice to see more Gaelic language and heritage education in the elementary schools;
- There could be more Gaelic attractions noted on the Tourism website.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that the Committee recommend to Council that the financial request in the amount of \$1,000 submitted by the Gaelic Council be referred to budget deliberations. Motion carried.

Lennox Passage Yacht Club:

Warden Sampson indicated that this item had been dealt with at the Quarterly Council Session and requested input from the Committee; The Lennox Passage Yacht Club had put forth a request to have tipping fees waived for repairs to the D'Escousse Wharf.

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor David that the Committee recommend to Council that the request by Lennox Passage Yacht Club to waive tipping fees associated with repairs to the D'Escousse wharf be approved. Motion carried.

Chris Boudreau re: Changes to Emergency Plan

Warden Sampson welcomed Mr. Boudreau to the meeting.

Mr. Boudreau presented a PowerPoint presentation changes to the Emergency Plan (Copy attached).

Mr. Boudreau noted the following:

- Emergency Management Plan Revisions
  - Chapter 3 – Roles and Responsibilities
    - Explained Roles of CAO, Warden, and Public Works.
  - Chapter 4 – Hazard Analysis
    - Updated Hazard Analysis on March 21, 2011.
  - Chapter 5 – Alerting System
  - Updated Current Names and Phone Numbers
  - Chapter 7 – Supporting Equipment
  - Updated Contractor Contact Information and Equipment Lists
  - Chapter 10 – Emergency Shelters
  - Updated Information for Contact Persons at Each Shelter
  - Removed Redundant Material
  
- Warden
  - On receipt of the warning of a real or potential emergency or disaster:
    - Occupy Warden's office at primary or alternate EOC (emergency operations center);
    - Declare local state of emergency upon recommendation by EM Coordinator and Council – renew every 7 days if required;
    - Exercise powers necessary as conferred by the Act;
    - Authorize expenditures of municipal funds;

- Advise and update Council on current emergency situation;
  - Visit emergency site(s) when safe and appropriate;
  - Brief the media as required;
  - Inform public of significant developments;
  - Inform provincial authorities;
  - Terminate state of local emergency.
- CAO
- On receipt of the warning of a real or potential emergency or disaster:
    - Activate emergency control group emergency alerting system in whole or in part;
    - Report to Emergency Operations Center;
    - Activate the Emergency Plan in whole or in part;
    - Advise & update Warden on current emergency situation;
    - Assume responsibilities as Emergency Center Manager;
    - Appoint agency to manage emergency site(s);
    - Coordinate municipal response as per emergency plan;
    - Cooperate with municipal departments, adjacent Municipalities & other applicable agencies;
    - Approve activation of Mutual Aid when required;
    - Assess adequacy of municipal resources to handle emergency;
    - Recommend Provincial EMO when required;
    - Advise Warden and Council of any necessary actions not covered under emergency plan;
    - Maintain log of all actions taken.
- Public Works
- Activate municipal services Emergency Response Systems;
  - Provide municipal equipment and personnel as required;
  - Provide list of equipment, supplies, companies, contractors and engineering services;
  - Arrange for tests to determine any potential hazards from explosive, flammable or toxic agents & eliminate same;
  - Arrange for disconnect of services representing hazard;
  - Provide clean-up/damage repair for Municipal areas of responsibility;
  - Arrange for emergency lighting where required;
  - Provide alternate water supplies/sanitation facilities as required;
  - Restore essential services;
  - Liaise with NSPI, Aliant, Eastlink, etc.

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- The update on community shelters are the local halls;

- Generators purchased for these shelters are stored in Louisdale, and perhaps it would be more advantageous to store them in the main areas of the County;
- The community hall in District #5 which is the emergency shelter for the Strait Richmond Hospital is not equipped to operate with a generator. This is critical and should be addressed;
- The Emergency Measures Officer and Director of Public Works will prepare an inventory report on generators and halls to present to Council.

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the Committee recommend to Council that the recommendations of the Director of Public Works be accepted and the revisions to the Richmond County Emergency Plan be approved. Motion carried.

CAO re: Food Banks

The CAO noted the following:

- The local area food banks are facing difficult times and are in need of support;
- The food banks are reaching out to other community organizations and asking for fundraising assistance;
- An option would be to have Council make a donation and invite the representatives from the local food banks to come and accept the donation.

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- There are an increasing number of seniors that are accessing the food banks this year;
- The local food banks are working together to monitor the users that do not require the assistance of the food bank, as well as users who are “double dipping”;
- It would be useful to have the food bank regulations to distribute items to those in need and compare those regulations among the local food banks in the area;
- There have been some instances where Councillors were contacted to access the food bank for their constituents because they are too proud to do so, regardless of their need;
- There are some corporate conscious groups in the area that donate to the local food banks during the holidays;
- Food banks are tracking those who are accessing their services and sharing it amongst neighboring food banks to discourage “double dipping”.

Moved by Councillor David, seconded by Councillor Johnson that the Committee recommend to Council that a financial contribution in the amount of \$2,000 be made to each local food bank with funds being taken from general revenue. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

Warden Sampson indicated that some of the correspondence will be discussed together as they are closely related.

- a) Nova Scotia Economic and Rural Development and Tourism re: Regional Development Plan;

The CAO noted the following:

- The Province has set some guidelines on the wind down of the Regional Development Agencies (RDA's);
- The Province has recognized the many years of hard work that the RDA's have provided to Nova Scotian communities;
- The federal government has decided to end its funding for RDAs as of July 22, 2013;
- The provincial government tasked an expert panel made up of four community and business leaders to provide recommendations on the best approach for delivering regional economic development in Nova Scotia for the future, within a smaller funding formula;
- A new model reflecting the economic realities of today is required;
- Each RDA will need to evaluate its own individual situation, issues and funding envelope and develop an orderly plan to close its operations;
- New obligations state that the RDAs may not enter into agreement of new obligations without first seeking the approval of the Department of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism;
- The Municipality will maintain its budget commitment until the wind down is complete;
- If the Municipality commits to a new model, funding will not overlap;
- A final report for the current fiscal year is part of the accountability requirements;
- RDAs are encouraged to work with and seek the approval of their municipal funding partners on the wind-down plan and associated agreements. It is recommended that the municipalities have a dissolution agreement, including treatment of liabilities and assets (subject to the Minister of ERDT's approval);
- The CAO has followed up with the government and asked to be a part of information that is required by the RDA to the government;
- To date there are no associated agreements between the Municipality and the RDA.

- c) Strait Highlands Regional Development Agency re: Cape Breton Island Regional Enterprise Network Report;

The CAO noted the following:

- A proposed organizational blueprint was put together by Mr. Blaine Gillis and Eileen Oldford;
- The proposed blueprint is a Cape Breton wide Regional Enterprise Network;
- This plan has continued without the approval of the RDA, CAO's and the Province;
- A request for more information was sent to the group and it was not received;
- This proposal calls for the two CEO's of the RDA's to keep their position;
- Inverness and Richmond have not taken a position; Town of Port Hawkesbury has taken the position of wanting a Strait REN, which is currently not an option;
- The Mayor of Port Hawkesbury is pushing for a 7<sup>th</sup> REN which would be that of a Strait REN (Port Hawkesbury, Guysborough, Inverness, Richmond, Antigonish, Mulgrave).

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- There are two separate issues to consider
  - o How to wind down the local RDA;
  - o Which framework to support to move forward;
- CAO's should be meeting to discuss the choice for framework and report back to Council throughout the process;
- The employees of the Strait RDA have been notified of the closure of the RDA;
- Four employees have been retained as independent contractors to wind down the RDA;
- All available positions with the suggested frameworks should be open to the public for fair competition;
- It appears as though the Province is now doing the work of ECBC;
- If the Strait Area municipalities want to come together and form a REN there shouldn't be an issue;
- If the municipality is funding a new framework at a rate of 50%, we should have a strong say as a partner;
- There is disappointment with how little consideration there has been for Richmond County;
- It is unreasonable to think that Richmond County will be considered as an equal partner in the creation of a Cape Breton REN;
- The current model has not worked in favor of Richmond County and a change is required;
- The selection of a new framework is an opportunity for our County to have a voice in the requirement needs in order to develop the County as a whole.

The consensus of the Committee is that staff write a letter of support for a Strait Regional Enterprise Network, conditional to the terms of reference that there is a working group comprised.

- b) Eastern District Planning Commission re: Property of Isabelle Brousseau, 4 Samsons Cove Road, Sampsons Cove, NS, PID 75011700, AAN 04127358;

The CAO reported the following:

- Correspondence has been received from the Eastern District Planning Commission regarding the property of Isabelle Brousseau, 4 Samsons Cove Road, Sampsons Cove, NS, PID 75011700, AAN 04127358;
- An old shed is located on the property that falls under the following “dangerous and unsightly “ conditions as defined in the Municipal Government Act;
- The shed is in a ruinous and dilapidated condition;
- The shed is in such a state of non-repair as to be no longer suitable for human habitation or business purposes;
- It is the recommendation of the Eastern District Planning Commission that an “Order to Remedy Condition” be issued to the property owners.

Moved by Councillor Samson, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council that an “Order to Remedy Condition” be issued to the property of Isabelle Brousseau, 4 Samsons Cove Road, Sampsons Cove, NS, PID 75011700, AAN 04127358 and that the Order be a Demolition Order issued from Council to the owners instructing that the shed 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.

- d) Premier Darrell Dexter re: Energy Plan

For information purposes.

- e) Municipality of the District of Barrington (Brian Holland) re: Municipal Property Taxation

The CAO reported the following:

- At a recent meeting Barrington Municipal Council discussed the report titled Municipal Property Taxation that was circulated by the Nova Scotia Chamber of Commerce;
- It is believed that this issue will affect all 54 municipal units in Nova Scotia;
- The issue should be dealt with by the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities;
- Council of Barrington is requesting that the UNSM analyze the Chamber of Commerce Report and provide the appropriate response to the Chamber and the municipalities;
- Council of Barrington is seeking the support of all municipal units in Nova Scotia to request that the Union provide the appropriate response to this report in support of all municipalities.

- There are three short term recommendations:
  - The Province of Nova Scotia should legislate a cap on the multiple between commercial and residential rate, at the rate used in the province of New Brunswick, that being 150% or 1.5 times the residential rate;
  - That the Province of Nova Scotia should eliminate the cap on residential assessment;
  - That each Municipal Government should, within its borders, charge the same rates for the same service for all consumers.
  
- The final recommendation is:
  - That property assessment as a measure of cost recovery for municipal units be eliminated and that the province of Nova Scotia seriously investigate the use of either the HST system, income tax/flat tax or some combination of all three as a means to eliminate taxes over a ten year period in order to meet the characteristics of a good tax. This would also serve to produce savings by not valuing property any longer and lowering costs of tax collection administration.
  
- The UNSM has endorsed the second recommendation and discussions are scheduled to take place at the fall UNSM Conference.

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- This issue should be looked at by the UNSM;
- The option of equal rates for same services for all consumers was more relevant to urban areas.

f) Melford International Terminal Inc re: Request for Support

The CAO reported the following:

- The Maher Melford Terminal has been working for a number of years to develop a deep water container terminal at Melford in the Strait of Canso;
- When completed, the development will provide the potential for diversity, transform the economy of Eastern Nova Scotia, create significant employment and offer a huge spinoff in industrial opportunities;
- The Strait Area has no Port Authority, no legacy, no labor agreement and as a green-field site, can incorporate design and technology to enhance efficiency;
- An application has been made to Transport Canada to create a Canadian Port Authority to provide governance to the Ports in the Strait Area;

- Melford International Terminal Inc is requesting that Council oppose the creation of a Canadian Port Authority for the Strait of Canso;
- The creation of a Port Authority has not been clear and transparent.

The following points were brought for during discussion:

- It was noted that after many millions of dollars that have been invested into the Super Port, they are struggling;
- The regulations of a new Canadian Port Authority would have a negative impact on the current industrial businesses;
- It was noted that it is difficult enough, at present, to bring business to the Strait Area, without the creation of a Canadian Port Authority.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor David that the Committee recommend to Council that a letter be written to Melford International Terminal Inc indicating that Richmond County Municipal Council is not in support of the creation of a Canadian Port Authority for the Strait Area. Motion carried.

g) Municipality of the District of Guysborough (Warden Lloyd Hines) re:  
Request for Support

The CAO reported the following:

- The Municipality of the District of Guysborough is seeking Council’s support to oppose the creation of a Canadian Port Authority for the Strait of Canso;
- The Municipality of the District of Guysborough is requesting that if Council supports the opposition of the creation of a CPA that a letter be written to Transport Canada indicating the same;
- The Municipality of the District of Guysborough is not in favor of creating another level of Bureaucracy in the Strait Region nor endangering the one potential industry that is on the books;
- Maher Melford Terminals is a real project that will bring real benefits to the region for a very long time;
- A copy of a letter, written to Transport Canada, from the Municipality of the District of Guysborough has been provided for reference.

h) Chief Financial Officer re: Projection to November 30, 2012

The CAO reported the following:

- The Chief Financial Officer has provided a projection to November 30, 2012 which indicates a projected surplus of \$126, 554;
- Summary pages which highlight the positive and negative variances from the budget are attached to the projection;
- The Municipality is on track;
- Any questions can be directed to the CAO.

i) Shannon Mury re: Grant Requests:

- The Grand River Seniors Club, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #10 (\$281.19);
- Royal Canadian Legion Branch #47, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #8 (\$550);
- St. Peter's Scottish Country Dance Group, Municipal District Activity Fund, Multiple Districts (\$1,200);
- The Friends of Isle Madame Provincial Park, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #3 (\$200);
- Richmond County Literacy Network Association, Municipal District Activity Fund, Multiple Districts (\$1,200);
- Strait Richmond Healthcare Foundation, Municipal District Activity Fund, Multiple Districts (\$700);
- Royal Canadian Legion Isle Madame Branch #150, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, Multiple Districts (\$10,000);
- D'Escousse Civic Improvement Centre, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #3 (\$776);
- Richmond Cheer Athletics, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, Multiple Districts (\$3,050);
- Isle Madame ATV Riders Association, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #2 (\$175);
- Lennox Passage Yacht Club, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #1 (\$8,000);
- École Beau Port, Centre Santé Jeunesse, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #2 (\$500).

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

- \$281.19, The Grand River Seniors Club, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #10;
- \$550, Royal Canadian Legion Branch #47, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #8;

- \$1,200, St. Peter's Scottish Country Dance Group, Municipal District Activity Fund, Multiple Districts;
- \$200, The Friends of Isle Madame Provincial Park, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #3;
- \$1,200, Richmond County Literacy Network Association, Municipal District Activity Fund, Multiple Districts;
- \$700, Strait Richmond Healthcare Foundation, Municipal District Activity Fund, Multiple Districts;
- \$10,000, Royal Canadian Legion Isle Madame Branch #150, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, Multiple Districts;
- \$776, D'Escousse Civic Improvement Centre, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #3;
- \$3,050, Richmond Cheer Athletics, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, Multiple Districts ;
- \$175, Isle Madame ATV Riders Association, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #2;
- \$8,000, Lennox Passage Yacht Club, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #1;
- \$500, École Beau Port, Centre Santé Jeunesse, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #2.

Motion carried.

#### Approval of Cheques Issued: November & December 2012

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

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Deputy Warden Martell that the list of cheques issued for the month of November 2012, in the amount of \$725,206.50 and the month of December 2012, in the amount of \$833,038.96 be approved as presented.  
Motion carried.

#### Review of Cheques Issued: January 2013:

For information purposes.

Questions can be directed to the CAO.

#### Items Added to the Agenda

1. CAO re: Cape Breton Housing Authority Appointment

The CAO indicated that Councillor Johnson assisted with the selection of an appointment to the Cape Breton Housing Authority.

Mr. Gerard Boudreau has been selected for appointment to the Cape Breton Housing Authority.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the Committee recommend to Council that Mr. Gerard Boudreau be nominated as the municipal representative to serve on the Board of the Cape Breton Island Housing Authority. Motion carried.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

There were no questions from the gallery.

Adjournment

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

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

MINUTES RECORDED BY:

MUNICIPAL CLERK:

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIRPERSON

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