

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

MAY 13, 2013

Location: Council Chambers, Municipal Office

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

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

Warden Sampson indicated that Councillor Samson was unable to attend.

### Items Added to the Agenda

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor Johnson that the agenda be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

### Review of Minutes: April 8, 2013

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that the minutes of April 8, 2013 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

### Presentations:

- a) Town of Port Hawkesbury re: Pool Funding and Fire Services

Warden Sampson welcomed CAO, Maris Freimanis, Deputy Mayor Brenda Chisholm Beaton, Councillor Dr. Trevor Boudreau, Councillor Joe Janega and Councillor Bert Lewis, of the Town of Port Hawkesbury, to the meeting.

CAO, Maris Freimanis provided a presentation regarding the Strait Area Pool and Fire Services and the following points were brought forth:

- The Town of Port Hawkesbury has maintained the pool since 1978;
- Water programs and aquatic education have been provided to residents of Port Hawkesbury and the surrounding municipalities;
- Improvements have been made to increase operational efficiency and costs;

- Bather load averages 21,000/year in aquatic programs with total bather load being approximately 30,000/year;
- Patrons are from Guysborough, Antigonish, Richmond, Mulgrave and Victoria with the majority being from Inverness, Richmond and Port Hawkesbury;
- The pool employs 27 full and part time employees;
- There are 5 employees from Richmond County;
- The Strait Area Pool has been running a deficit of approximately \$135,000 for the last number of years;
- The Town reduced operation of the pool by 4 months in the past year in order to mitigate the deficit to the taxpayers;
- Due to an increased contribution level from Richmond, the pool remained open during the winter months;
- The Town of Port Hawkesbury is requesting that funding participation by Richmond County continue at \$35,000/year;
- The Town is prepared to give consideration to a more cooperative approach to management of the pool with participation from contributing Municipal units;
- Without adjustment to the current level of inter-municipal sharing, the Town will need to consider the continuation of this service;
- Having no pool would have a negative impact on physical activity and water safety awareness;
- It would be beneficial for Richmond County to have input on process when contributing money;
- There have been no contributions by the Strait Regional School Board;
- SAERC school does not use the pool;
- Detailed information on program usage and cost figures (attached) for the Strait Area Pool during the last 5 years was handed out before the meeting.

### Fire Services

- The Town of Port Hawkesbury is requesting \$271,858 in funding from Richmond County for fire protection;
- Equipment and the fire station need replacement and the funds derived from this type of exercise need to be used for those purposes;
- A \$271,858 funding request for fire services in Point Tupper is ludicrous;
- Port Hawkesbury does not respond to fire services in Point Tupper, the Strait Area Mutual Aid does;
- The Town of Port Hawkesbury does not support Strait Area Mutual Aid;
- It is believed that previous years' funding from Richmond County has gone to general revenue not directly to fire services;
- Fire Services are rarely needed in Point Tupper and the ladder truck is almost never needed;
- With an increased contribution comes a more cooperative approach to management of the fire service;
- Perhaps one fire station could service Port Hastings and Port Hawkesbury;
- The intent of the presentation from the Town of Port Hawkesbury regarding fire services was only to give an introduction to costs and more formal documentation can be

- provided to the Committee such as equipment schedules, building replacement costs, number of responses, percentage of calls to Point Tupper versus Port Hawkesbury;
- It's difficult to support services for Port Hawkesbury that Richmond County already has in their own districts that are in need of equipment and upgrades as well;
  - If Point Tupper is only serviced 10% of the time, then the funding already in place is sufficient;
  - There are residents that live in Point Tupper with very little fire protection and for the funding amount being requested from Port Hawkesbury, there could be a fire department located in Point Tupper.

It was a consensus of the Committee that the funding request from the Town of Port Hawkesbury, for the Strait Area Pool, in the amount of \$35,000 be moved to budget deliberations.

b) Strait Richmond Healthcare Foundation

Warden Sampson welcomed Mrs. Aurine Richard to the meeting.

Mrs. Richard provided a power point presentation on behalf of the Strait Richmond Healthcare Foundation and the following points were brought forth:

- Part of the vision of the Foundation is to have healthier people in communities working together for wellness and contributing to a healthier environment;
- Strait Richmond Hospital has 15 acute care, 5 restorative care and 11 addiction services beds and serves residents of Richmond, Inverness and Guysborough Counties;
- The hospital provides several services such as emergency, x-ray, laboratory, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, mental health, palliative care, pastoral care, chemotherapy, diabetes education, foot care, kidney dialysis, NS hearing and speech as well as visiting physicians;
- Gift Appeal Campaign and Lights for Life Campaign are two major annual fundraising events;
- Main source of donations are through Tree of Life, In Memoriam and Local Corporate Sponsorships;
- The raised funds have been used for such things as blood pressure monitors, a dynamap blood pressure machine, a walking sling and ceiling mount, a digital microscope, a lab grade freezer, a portable x-ray machine, a software upgrade, ER renovations and beds;
- Between April 2012 and February 2013 there have been 35,158 visits to the Strait Richmond Hospital;
- The Annual Gift Appeal Campaign will consist of 7,200 packages being sent to residents and 290 to the businesses in the Counties of Inverness and Richmond and the Towns of Port Hawkesbury and Mulgrave.

c) Josette Marchand re: Departmental Update

Warden Sampson welcomed Mrs. Josette Marchand to the meeting.

Mrs. Marchand presented a power point presentation and the following points were brought forth:

- The question that should be asked when planning the strategies for the Department of Recreation, Leisure and Community Relation should be, “How do we want to live?”
- Some of the services offered by this department are community relations (external and internal), Reflections of Richmond, Community Organizations, Partnerships, arena and equipment;
- The department has organized 130+ programs this year and has been involved with grants, seniors, youth and signature events;
- Some of the opportunities and initiatives of the department are, Age Friendly Communities, Physical Activity Strategy, Special Events, Tourism as it relates to recreation, 8 to 80, Communications Strategy and Culture;
- To ensure the success of the social and economic well-being of residents the department has focused on such things as Community Relations, Events, Partnerships with local businesses for the delivery of programs and Culture;

CAO re:

a) LED Street Lights

The CAO noted that the deadline for municipalities to file a report with the Minister of Energy is June 30, 2013 indicating whether the municipality intends to take ownership of any non-high mast roadway lights owned by NSPI, and the plan to replace the lights to meet the LED requirements. The stranded asset cost for the municipality would be approximately \$437,000.

He also noted that there were significant costs to the County associated with such an undertaking with additional maintenance costs in the upcoming years. If the county remains with NSPI the power rates for street lights would remain fixed during the implementation period which is expected to be seven years and following the implementation, the monthly energy rate would be reduced to reflect the savings that LED lights provide.

The CAO indicated that an inventory of the street lights located in the municipality will be completed and the information will be provided to Council. He also indicated that Councillors should email the Director of Public Works, Chris Boudreau, with any concerns regarding issues with street lights in their respective districts.

Moved by Councillor David, seconded by Councillor Johnson that the Committee recommend to Council to accept the recommendation of the Director of Public works and inform the Department of Energy that the municipality will have full streetlight service from Nova Scotia Power and instead focus on working with Nova Scotia Power to address issues relating to service. Motion carried.

b) Solid Waste Management Facility re: Usage Stats

The CAO noted that the requested stats from usage at the landfill had been emailed to Councillors. He also noted that Saturdays have approximately 20% more traffic but smaller loads (less commercial traffic) and is the busiest day at the landfill.

c) HR Pros re: Personnel Policy Manual

The CAO noted that the current Personnel Policy is very outdated and HR Pros had been hired to answer any questions and implement the policy with staff once it receives approval from Council. He also noted that this had been a tremendous amount of work and has gone through four drafts and represented a clear set of rules for everyone.

The CAO indicated that a document summarizing the changes made to the Personnel Policy would be provided to Council for review prior to approval. He also indicated that Councillors who had not received a copy would be provided one.

Warden Sampson noted the importance of having these guidelines for Council and Staff.

The CAO indicated that if the Personnel Policy is approved at the Regular Council meeting on May 27, 2013, the representative from HR Pros would be present at the Municipal Office on May 28, 2013 to facilitate sessions with the employees regarding the new policy.

CFO re: Budget Overview

The CAO noted that a copy of the complete Draft Budget 2013/2014 was provided for review and that everything, as it relates to the budget, is in this document. He also noted that all directors would be present at the Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> and Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> Committee of the Whole Meeting in order to answer any questions.

Correspondence:

a) Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal re: Snow Clearing – Richmond County

The CAO indicated that correspondence had been received from Darren Blundon, Area Manager of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal in response to Warden Sampson's letter regarding snow clearing. He also indicated that it was his recommendation that a meeting be scheduled with Mr. Blundon for September 2013 before the beginning of snow storms.

b) Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse re: Financial Request

The CAO noted that correspondence had been received from the Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse requesting financial assistance in the amount of \$5,000 intended to be used in the boundary review fight.

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor Marchand that staff write a letter to the Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse indicating that the Municipality had denied their financial assistance request which was intended to be used in the boundary review fight. Motion carried.

c) Shubenacadie Indian Residential School re : Thank You

For information purposes.

d) Cape Breton Partnership re : Regional Enterprise Network Model

The CAO noted that correspondence had been received from the Cape Breton Partnership addressed to the Honourable Percy Paris expressing their support for the new REN's and the Cape Breton area in particular. He also noted that it was important that Council have a discussion regarding the Strait Area REN's.

e) Port Hawkesbury Veterans Memorial Park Society re : Financial Support

The CAO indicated that correspondence had been received from Belle MacIntyre on behalf of the Port Hawkesbury Veterans Memorial park as a followup to previous correspondence from Waddie Long regarding a request for financial support.

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the Committee recommend to Council that the request for financial support from the Port Hawkesbury Veterans Memorial Park in the amount of \$1,500 be approved. Motion carried.

e) St. Anne Community and Nursing Care Centre re : Board of Directors for 2013/2014

The CAO noted that correspondence had been received from St. Anne Community and Nursing Care Centre requesting the appointment of a representative to the Board of Directors for 2013-2014.

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor David that the Committee recommend to Council that Councillor Malcolm Beaton be re-appointed as the representative to St. Anne Community and Nursing Care Centre Board of Directors for 2013-2014. Motion carried.

f) Shannon Mury re: Grant requests

- 824 Silver Dart Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron, Municipal District Activity Fund, Multiple Districts (\$1,800);
- Lennox Passage Yacht Club, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #3 (\$10,000);

- L'Archeveque Wharf Preservation Society, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #10 (\$9,648.50);
- Rocky Bay Irish Club, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #3 (\$5,454);
- Basin River Inhabitants Historical Society, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #5 (\$2,000);
- Grand River Seniors' Club, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #10 (\$300);
- Village on the Canal Association, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #8 (\$300);
- Saint Peter's Parish, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #8 (\$10,000);
- Immaculate Conception Parish, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #4 (\$250).

Moved by Councillor David, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that the Committee recommend to Council that the Committee recommend to Council to approve the following grant requests:

- \$1,800 to 824 Silver Dart Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron, Municipal District Activity Fund, Multiple Districts;
- \$10,000 to Lennox Passage Yacht Club, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #3;
- \$9,648.50 to L'Archeveque Wharf Preservation Society, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #10;
- \$5,454 to Rocky Bay Irish Club, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #3;
- \$2,000 to Basin River Inhabitants Historical Society, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #5;
- \$300 to Grand River Seniors' Club, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #10;
- \$300 to Village on the Canal Association, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #8;
- \$10,000 to Saint Peter's Parish, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #8;
- \$250 to Immaculate Conception Parish, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #4.

Motion carried.

Approval of Cheques Issued: March 2013

Councillor David declared a conflict of interest due to cheques being written to his business and removed himself from discussions.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the list of cheques issued for the month of March 2013 in the amount of \$1,015,038.08 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Review of Cheques Issued: April 2013

For information purposes.

Items Added to the Agenda

There were no items added to the agenda.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

There were no questions from the gallery.

“In-Camera” Session, if required

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor Johnson that the meeting proceed to “In-Camera” session at 9:08 pm. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor David, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the meeting reconvene to regular session at 9:20 pm. Motion carried.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Warden Sampson adjourned the meeting 9:20 p.m.

MINUTES RECORDED BY:

MUNICIPAL CLERK:

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\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIRPERSON

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