

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

JUNE 10, 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 the CAO wished to add a letter from Parks Canada.

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

Review of Minutes:

- a) May 13, 2013 (Committee of the Whole)
- b) May 21, 2013 (Committee of the Whole – Budgets)

Councillor Marchand indicated that the minutes of May 21, 2013 (Committee of the Whole – Budgets) were not in the package.

The CAO indicated that the minutes of May 21, 2013 (Committee of the Whole – Budgets) would be added to the June 24, 2013 Annual Session for approval.

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor David that the minutes of May 13, 2013 (Committee of the Whole) be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Chief Financial Officer re:

- a) Area Rates

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor David that the Committee accept the recommendation of the Chief Financial Officer and recommend to Council that the following area rates be approved:

- St. Peter's Fire Dept 0.09
- West Bay road Fire Dept. 0.10
- L'Ardoise Fire Dept. 0.16
- Grand River Fire Dept. 0.15
- Loch Lomond Fire Dept; 0.12
- Louisdale Fire Dept. 0.10
- Framboise-Fourchu Fire Dept. 0.15
- Isle Madame Fire Dept. 0.11
- District Ten Fire Dept. 0.15
- Louisdale Sidewalks 0.10
- District #2 Community Rate 0.04
- District #4 Community Rate 0.05
- St. Peter's Village Commission - collect whatever rate they establish, conditional on them providing their rate to the Municipality by July 31, 2013.

Motion carried.

b) Capital Budget

The Chief Financial Officer noted the following:

- A copy of the one year capital budget which was discussed at the May 21, 2013 Committee of the Whole Meeting is attached for review;
- A letter from the Canada-Nova Scotia Infrastructure Secretariat indicating the remaining funds in the gas tax fund must be spent by March 31, 2014;
- An extension is available for one year but only if the funds are committed to an eligible project approved by Council;
- There is approximately \$1,779,000 to be spent by the deadline date;
- If the funds are not spent by the deadline, they will be returned to the Canada-Nova Scotia Infrastructure Secretariat.

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- There is a 50 % funding cap per project;
- The majority of the projects indicated on the list are for the Department of Public Works because they are currently the only projects that fit the criteria;

- A new funding calculation is coming out which may allow for Recreation projects to be eligible as well as an increase in the amount of funding available;
- Gas tax funding cannot be applied to studies; funds can be committed to projects that are ready to start;
- The dewatering truck can be exempt from the list, for the moment, in order for the Director of Public Works to start preparing a list of projects that meet the gas tax funding requirements and are required to be done.

Moved by Councillor David, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Staff review the list of capital projects and prepare a list according to priority and report back to Council at the June 24, 2014 Annual Session. Motion carried.

Strategic Plan

Warden Sampson indicated that a strategic plan has been developed since the session that took place in Sydney in the fall of 2012. A copy of the document has been provided for review.

The CAO noted the following:

- There have been no comments received since circulation of the document;
- There are still some areas that require Council decision in order for the document to be complete;
- Feedback can be sent via email and/or phone;
- The document will be on the annual session agenda for approval in order to commence implementation of the plan.

Jeff Stanley re: Tourism Plan

Warden Sampson welcomed Mr. Jeff Stanley, Mr. Harvey Sawler and Mr. Dan Glenn to the meeting.

Mr. Stanley, Mr. Sawler and Mr. Glenn presented an overview of the Richmond County Tourism Plan (Copy attached), and noted the following:

- The goals of the Tourism Plan are:
 - To put Richmond Municipality on the Nova Scotia tourism map once and for all.
 - To create a true tourism economy with outstanding products, outstanding infrastructure and outstanding experiences!
- The Tourism Department came from:
 - A faux tourism economy
 - Minimal tourism infrastructure

- Few legitimate tourism operations
- No clear positioning, theming or brand ownership
- The Tourism department has completed to date:
 - 15 months of research and planning
 - 15 months of constant community consultation and engagement
 - Strategic plans for SPEDO Tourism Committee and Isle Madame Tourism Partnership Task Force
- The Tourism Department is currently:
 - In strong strategic alignment with Nova Scotia Tourism and ECBC
 - The most advanced tourism strategy on Cape Breton Island
- The Tourism Department is moving in a direction of:
 - A true tourism economy
 - Strategic new tourism infrastructure
 - Clear positioning and theming
 - Total ownership of three brands
 - Creating the climate for potential tourism entrepreneurs
- This is a Three-Pronged Strategy
 - Isle of 100 Coves
 - Where the Ocean Meets the Inland Sea
 - Cape Breton Blueways
- The product visioning process includes:
 - Municipality demonstrating leadership
 - Forerunner Creative on the ground analyzing opportunities
 - Extensive inter-active consultations and debate
 - Glenn Group on the ground breathing life into opportunities
- The Implementation includes:
 - True Tourism Economy
 - Outstanding Products, Infrastructure and Experiences
 - Phased Approach
 - St. Peters' Canal, Haddock Harbour, Burnt Island, Blueways prototypes – first
- The budget is approximately \$6,631,000 inclusive with phase one totalling approximately \$2,670,000

The following points were brought forth during discussions:

- A letter from Parks Canada was received indicating that the Tourism vision for the enhancement of the grounds and proposed activities is in accordance with Parks Canada's mandate and is based on sound principles and practices;
- Parks Canada would be pleased to entertain a proposal to implement the plans for the St. Peter's Canal National Historic Site;

- There was no mention of accommodations (ie: campsites, bed and breakfasts, lodging) in the presentation;
- The need for accommodations on Isle Madame is prevalent and it would be more beneficial to have more lodging types than only a few; therefore the objective is to work with local entrepreneurs to encourage this type of business start-up opportunity;
- This presentation will move the County forward within the Tourism Industry;
- RV parks will be addressed in the final report.

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor David that the Committee recommend to Council that the Tourism Strategy Development process begin by working with funding partners and community groups to establish it's movement forward AND FURTHER MOVED that staff accept a final report from Harvey Sawler and Dan Glenn AND FURTHER MOVED that the final report be presented to Council for approval in order to work with stakeholders to implement the strategy. Motion carried.

Regional Enterprise Networks (RENs)

The CAO reported the following:

- There has been a lot of discussion regarding the dissolving of the local RDA;
- There are not enough funds to have a 7th REN;
- Some neighboring municipalities are not interested in partnering with the Cape Breton REN;
- A proposed REN for Eastern Nova Scotia is being discussed.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor McNamara that staff continue to work in conjunction with neighboring municipalities to explore the option of a Regional Enterprise Network for Eastern Nova Scotia. Motion carried.

Tipping Fee Analysis – 2013

The Director of Public Works noted the following:

- A review of the present tipping fees structure, comparison of alternative structures and recommendation for the Richmond Solid Waste Management Facility was completed;
- A review of the present tipping fees, comparison to other waste management facilities and recommendations for the Richmond Waste Management Facility was completed;
- The data used for the analysis spans the period from January 2 to March 23, 2013;
- The data excludes loads from the contractors performing curbside collection for the Municipality;
- With the exception of option 1, the alternatives presented aims to avoid a loss of revenue from tipping fees;

- Costs to operate the Solid Waste Management facility continue to rise;
- Tipping fees serve as a user pay system for residents who use the Solid Waste Management facility more than the average resident;
- Tipping fees ensure that those who use the service more also pay a larger proportion of the cost to operate the facility;
- Option #4 is that of the preferred choice of staff for the proposed tipping fee structure;
- Tipping fees have not increased since prior to 2007;
- Operational costs have increased by approximately 29 %;
- A moderate increase in tipping fees is preferred.

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- In an attempt to diversify revenue, these options should be considered;
- Residents already pay for curbside collection, therefore we should be discouraging rather than encouraging people from frequenting the solid waste management facility because it increases operating costs;
- It is important to implement controls in order to maintain revenue;
- A debit machine will be installed on site for payments;
- There will be no tipping fees for residential organics;
- There will be tipping fees applied to commercial organics;
- There has been great progress at the waste management facility.

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor Johnson that the Committee recommend to Council to accept the recommendation of the Director of Public Works and reduce allowance for commercial customers to 200 kg and implement stepped tipping fees for residents for weights up to 1 tonne after which standard tipping fees apply. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor David, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the Committee recommend to Council to accept the recommendation of the Director of Public Works and implement the following tipping fee structure for the Solid Waste Management Facility:

Residual Solid Waste	\$85 per tonne
Sorted C&D Waste	\$40 per tonne
Unsorted C&D Waste	\$80 per tonne
Contaminated Organics (non-residential)	\$75 per tonne
Organics (non-residential)	\$25 per tonne
Recyclables	\$85 per tonne

Motion carried.

Councillor Marchand re: David Landry

Councillor David declared a conflict of interest, because he deals with Mr. Landry through his business, and removed himself from discussion.

Councillor Marchand noted the following:

- Mr. Landry requested that he would like to present his 2010 proposal to Council for consideration under the private public infrastructure policy;
- Mr. Landry is concerned because Council never had the opportunity to review his proposal.

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- The private public infrastructure policy was disbanded in November 2011;
- The proposal was denied prior to disbanding the policy;
- The Municipal Government Act states that private (for profit) businesses cannot be funded by the Municipality;
- This request was dealt with several years ago and there is no need to revisit this request.

Moved by Councillor Marchand that Mr. Landry be permitted to make a presentation to Council regarding his proposal.

There was no seconder for this motion, therefore the motion was lost.

Correspondence:

- a) Nova Scotia Communities, Culture and Heritage re: Heritage Property Program;

The CAO noted that the grant program has been modified and if there are any groups within each Councillor's district that may be interested; they may pass this information along.

- b) Canada Post Communications re: Rural Mailbox Traffic Safety Review;

The CAO noted the following:

- Canada Post will begin a Rural Mailbox Traffic Safety Review on the rural routes out of Cleveland & West Bay Post offices;
- The review started in response to traffic safety complaints and refusals from rural mail drivers;
- Some customers may have the opportunity to relocate their rural mailbox to a safer location so delivery can continue; others be given the option of changing to either a Community Mailbox in the area or a free PO Box at any post office or postal outlet of their choosing.

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- Upon completion of the review there will be less mailboxes and more cluster mailboxes;
- A letter should be written expressing the discontent of this review.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Boucher that a letter be written to Canada Post expressing their displeasure regarding the outcomes from the Rural Mailbox Traffic Safety Review. Motion carried.

c) Shannon Mury re: Grant requests

- Lakeside Community Association, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #8 (\$500);
- Adult Drop-In Centre for Mental Health, Municipal District Activity Fund, Multiple Districts (\$500);
- River Bourgeois Mariners Society, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #7 (\$4,217.14).

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

- \$500 to Lakeside Community Association, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #8;
- \$500 to Adult Drop-In Centre for Mental Health, Municipal District Activity Fund, Multiple Districts;
- \$4,217.14 to River Bourgeois Mariners Society, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #7

Motion carried.

Approval of Cheques Issued: April 2013

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

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor Johnson that the list of cheques, in the amount of \$1,343,781.39, for the month of April 2013 be approved. Motion carried.

Review of Cheques Issued: May 2013

For information purposes.

Items Added to the Agenda

This item was previously dealt with during the Tourism Plan.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

Lisa Boudreau addressed the Committee regarding an item on the agenda.

In-Camera

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor David that the meeting proceed to “In-Camera” session at 9:42 p.m. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor David, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the meeting reconvene to regular session at 10:11 p.m. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Richmond County Municipal Council proceed with the proposed settlement agreement with Scotian Windfields. Motion carried

Adjournment

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

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:12 p.m.

MINUTES RECORDED BY:

MUNICIPAL CLERK:

CHAIRPERSON

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER