

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

SEPTEMBER 9, 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

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

Review of Minutes: May 21, 2013 (Committee of the Whole – Budgets) and June 10, 2013 (Committee of the Whole)

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the minutes of May 21, 2013 (Committee of the Whole – Budgets) and June 10, 2013 (Committee of the Whole) be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Review of Draft Policies

a) Hours of Operation

The CAO noted that the Hours of Operation Policy had been created as a result of discussions with Council regarding hours of work and office closure between Christmas and New Years. He also noted that this policy would eliminate the need to bring the Christmas/New Years closure to Council for yearly approval.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Samson that notice be given to adopt the Hours of Operation Policy as a policy of the Municipality of Richmond County. Motion carried. (Ayes: 7, Nays: 2, Councillor David and Councillor Marchand)

b) Purchasing and Tendering

The CAO noted that the Purchasing and Tendering Policy, amended by the Director of Public Works, was based on a template provided by the Province. He also noted that the amended policy had been reviewed by the solicitor with no issues and that Mr. Chris Boudreau, Director of Public Works was available at the meeting to answer any questions.

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- There was concern regarding bulk buying and its effects on local business;
- There should be no bulk buying for things such as parts, tires etc;
- Anything over \$5000 goes to public tender;
- \$25,000 or greater falls under the Atlantic Procurement Agreement;
- Most purchases by the Municipality are below \$25,000;
- This number has been reduced to \$10,000 to have to tender publicly;
- It is a little more expensive to do business in rural Nova Scotia;
- 10% only applies to purchases of \$10,000 or less;
- Estimates on costs are based on professional opinion;
- The Municipality is currently not in compliance;
- Buy Local had been added into the policy to support local business;

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor Beaton that notice be given to amend the Purchasing and Tendering Policy for the Municipality of the County of Richmond, as recommended by the Director of Public Works (copy attached). Motion carried.

Warden re:

a) UNSM Rural Caucus

The Warden noted that the UNSM Rural Caucus would be held on September 11, 2013 in Antigonish from 6:30 pm to 9:15 pm and encouraged all Councillors to attend. He also noted that this was a great forum for discussion on such issues as policing etc.

b) Report/Update

The Warden presented a report which highlighted the following events and meetings that took place over the summer:

- News conference for the world under 17 hockey game which will be held at the Richmond Arena on December 28th featuring a game between the USA and Quebec;
- 350 tickets to the hockey game were sold at the Richmond County Business Expo;
- Port Days;
- Race the Cape;

- Beggar's Banquet;
- IWK Pig Roast which was housed at the Richmond Arena;
- Community BBQ's;
- PH Paper BBQ held on August 26th;
- 2nd Annual Business Expo where a lot of business to business networking was noted;
- Meetings regarding the REN between Richmond, Victoria and CBRM;
- Meeting with Minister Rob Moore highlighting the relationship between ECBC and staff;

He also noted the following:

- Implementation of the Tourism Strategy is moving forward;
- Economic Development/CB Partnership – Investment Readiness Strategy. The cost of the study is approximately \$155,000 with the Municipality's share being \$6,000;
- UNSM Fall Conference is approaching and all Councillors are encouraged to attend;
- Strait Area Transit Focus Group meetings are taking place over the next few days;
- There will be a 2nd annual gathering of Cape Breton elected officials at the Gaelic College on October 28th and 29th and Regular Council will be moved to Wednesday (October 30, 2013) that week;
- There will be a Regional Caucus meeting in Antigonish on September 11, 2013, and Councillors are encouraged to attend.

CAO RE:

a) West Richmond Education Centre

The CAO indicated that the Municipality now owns the West Richmond Education Centre and recommended that there be an expression of interest for the property. He also noted that the ownership changeover process was completed via correspondence with little notice and/or communication on the part of the Strait Regional School Board.

The CAO noted that a letter had been sent to the Minister of Education by Warden Sampson expressing Council's displeasure with the changeover process which could have had serious implications as the West Richmond Education Centre was the designated emergency shelter for the Strait Richmond Hospital.

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

- Property should be sold as is;
- Property cannot be sold without completing due diligence regarding contamination;
- WREC will be maintained as an emergency shelter for the Strait Richmond Hospital until the end of the month and will then be re-evaluated;
- Strait Richmond Hospital needs to find an alternate emergency shelter location;
- Ms. Josette Marchand and Councillor McNamara will set up a meeting with the Strait Richmond Hospital to aid in creating a new emergency plan;

- CAO will look into a generator for the local hall so that it could be used as a shelter for the hospital;
- The Community should be given strong consideration over any corporate entity;
- There has been no reply as of yet from the Education Minister;

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor David that the Committee recommend to Council that an expression of interest be sought regarding the West Richmond Education Centre property. Motion carried.

b) Courthouse

The CAO noted that a memo had been received from the Director of Public Works regarding Courthouse related costs for the 2012/2013 fiscal year (attached). He also noted that the costs were approximately \$55,000 - \$60,000/year and noted that the building is of historical significance but will deteriorate without needed repairs.

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

- Maintenance costs do not include the new roof which would have been capital;
- The labour costs for janitorial are approximately \$12,000/year;
- There is no rental income from DIMA who has offices in the building. Expenses are paid by the Municipality;
- There is no known agreement with DIMA;
- There was significant water damage which was torn out but still needs reconstruction;
- The building needs to be heated in the winter;
- DIMA is using the facilities and should pay for usage;
- This is a historical site and may have Tourism potential;
- The building must be maintained, should be brought up to standards as per the Heritage Act and downsized to its original size;
- The Courthouse adds significant value to the community;
- The Registry of Deeds is also using a portion of the building;
- A boiler repair will be required in the near future in addition to the repairs from the flooding;
- Expenses for this building get higher every year;

It was a consensus of the Committee that staff, after consultation with community groups, prepares a staff report with recommendations on the future of the Courthouse to be presented to Council.

Review of amendment of By-Law #17, Solid Waste Management By-Law, to reflect the changes recommended by the Director of Public Works. (Attached as Appendix "C")

Moved by Councillor David, seconded by Councillor Boucher that notice be given to amend By-Law #17, Solid Waste Management By-Law, to reflect the changes recommended by the Director of Public Works (copy attached). Motion carried.

Correspondence:

- a) Department of Natural Resources (Charlie Parker) re: Parks and Protected Areas Plan;

The CAO indicated that correspondence had been received from Minister Charlie Parker in response to a letter sent to him by Warden Sampson regarding the proposed Parks and Protected Areas Plan.

For information purposes.

- b) GASHA re: Physician Relocation Expenses

The CAO noted that correspondence had been received from GASHA indicating that Richmond County had agreed to provide \$11,523.90 to GASHA to cover the cost of Dr. Jonah Samson's relocation expenses.

Warden Sampson indicated that the letter was inaccurate and he confirmed, after conversations with Dr. Hillyard, that the letter represented a request to Council regarding reimbursement of the relocation expenses of Dr. Jonah Samson.

Moved by Councillor David, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that the Committee recommend to Council that the request by GASHA to reimburse the relocation expenses incurred by Dr. Jonah Samson in the amount of \$11,523.90 be approved. Motion carried.

- c) Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations re: Municipal Advisors' Territory Assignments;

The CAO indicated that correspondence had been received from Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations regarding the Municipal Advisors' Territory Assignments. He also indicated that Mr. Paul Willis would be the new advisor for Richmond County.

- d) Cape Breton Fiddlers' Association re: Thank You

For information purposes

- e) Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Review Officer re: Proclamation of September 23 – September 28, 2013 as "Right to Know Week";

The CAO noted that correspondence had been received from the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Review Officer requesting that the week of September 23 – September 28, 2013 be proclaimed "Right to Know Week" by the Municipality of the County of Richmond.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Deputy Warden Martell that the Committee recommend to Council that Richmond Municipal Council proclaim the week of September 23 to September 28, 2013 as “Right to Know Week” in Richmond County in order to raise awareness of the right to access information and its value, with a local focus on what it means to those living and working in Nova Scotia. Motion carried.

- f) Eastern District Planning Commission re: Property of Gary and Kathleen Pretty, St. Peters Fourchu Road, Framboise, NS PID #75082990, AAN #00810029;

The CAO reported the following:

- A letter was received from the Eastern District Planning Commission in response to a complaint regarding the property of Gary and Kathleen Pretty, St. Peters Fourchu Road, Framboise, NS PID #75082990, AAN #00810029, the 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 Johnson, seconded by Councillor Boucher 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 Gary and Kathleen Pretty, St. Peters Fourchu Road, Framboise, NS PID #75082990, AAN #00810029, and that the Order be a Demolition Order issued from Council to the owners of said property, instructing that both the dwelling unit and storage garage 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.

- g) The ROC Society re: Thank You

For information purposes

- h) Festival Acadien de Petit de Grat re: Thank You

For information purposes.

- i) River Bourgeois Community Services Society re: Thank You

For information purposes.

- j) Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations re: Pumping Station Upgrade Funding;

The CAO indicated that correspondence had been received from Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations regarding the Municipality's request for PCAP funding for the pumping stations upgrade project. He also indicated that they would contribute 50% of the eligible costs to a maximum of \$150,000 toward the cost of the project which included eight lift stations in Louisdale, one in Evanston and one in Petit de Grat.

The CAO also noted that the tender would be going out in the near future.

k) Shannon Mury re: Grant requests

- IWK Community Pig Roast Committee, Municipal District Activity Fund, Multiple Districts (\$300);
- Richmond Academy, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, Multiple Districts (\$850);
- River Bourgeois Community Services Society, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #7 (\$1,800);
- St. John the Baptist Parish, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #7 (\$10,000);
- Little Anse Sampson's Cove Social Action Centre, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #2 (\$7,000);
- Development Isle Madame Association, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #1 (\$500);
- Sacred Heart Ladies Group, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #10 (\$500);
- Acadiaville Community Centre Society, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #4 (\$300);

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Samson that the Committee recommend to Council that the following grants be approved:

- \$300 to IWK Community Pig Roast Committee, Municipal District Activity Fund, Multiple Districts;
- \$850 to Richmond Academy, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, Multiple Districts;
- \$1,800 to River Bourgeois Community Services Society, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #7;
- \$10,000; St. John the Baptist Parish, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #7;
- \$7,000 to Little Anse Sampson's Cove Social Action Centre, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #2;
- \$500 to Development Isle Madame Association, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #1;
- \$500 to Sacred Heart Ladies Group, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #10;

- \$300 to Acadiaville Community Centre Society, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #4;

Motion carried.

Approval of Cheques Issued: May 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 Samson that the list of cheques issued, in the amount of \$1,068,324.07, for the month of May 2013 be approved. Motion carried.

Review of Cheques Issued: June, July and August, 2013

For information purposes.

Items Added to the Agenda

There were no items added to the agenda.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

Mr. Lorenzo Boudrot addressed the Committee regarding an item 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