

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

NOVEMBER 12, 2013

Location: Council Chambers, Municipal Office

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

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

Items Added to the Agenda

Warden Sampson indicated than an item was previously added; Councillor McNamara re: Canada Post re: Rural Mailbox Traffic Safety Review;

The CAO requested that prior to the adoption of the agenda he wished to advise Council that the Renewable Energy Committee presentation scheduled to take place during the meeting would be postponed to a later date.

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

Review of Minutes: October 22, 2013

Moved by Councillor David , seconded by Deputy Warden Martell that the minutes of October 22, 2013 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Presentations:

- a) Department of Transportation (Darren Blundon) re: Winter Maintenance

Warden Sampson welcomed Mr. Darren Blundon to the meeting.

Mr. Blundon presented a Power Point presentation and the following points were brought forth:

- The focus of the presentation was to review the winter maintenance policy;
- The provincial policy has been in place for 5 years;
- Some areas receive a higher level of service than others as a result of this policy;
- The sequence of plowing priorities is 100-series highways, trunk highways, route highways and local paved roads;
- There are different standards for different roads, ex: highways bare within 8 hours after the end of a storm;
- Department of Transportation is staffed based on the standards;
- New Brunswick doesn't plow during a storm;
- Local DOT wants to achieve results as fast as possible;
- There have been very few complaints on 100 series highways or trunks;
- 911 and Nova Scotia Power calls are a priority;
- Occasionally the conditions may be too severe for plows to be out;
- DOT is trying to improve local communications through the radio station;
- DOT has been mandated to reduce salt consumption by 30% due to toxicity to the environment, wells, run off and vegetation;
- Trucks equipped with pre-wet tanks will reduce the amount of salt needed on the roads;
- The cost of salt is \$150/ton with 20,000 tons used last year in Port Hawkesbury alone;
- The government funds all districts equally regardless of winter conditions;
- When there is lower winter spending, it frees up money for other things;
- There are route maps in every truck;
- A brine solution is being tested which is applied to the highway and helps to prevent ice buildup on the road;
- Dispatchers log every complaint;

A discussion followed and the following points were brought forth:

- RIM funding exists but was reduced to 50%;
- There is an unequal balance of funding allocated to this area;
- There is more equipment in Richmond County per class of Road;
- There are 3 supervisors with the DOT in each County;
- 24 hour dispatcher line # is 902-625-2540 and is the fastest way to get results;
- Ferry Road in Louisdale is considered a local road;
- During major storms, local contractors may be used;
- There are 700+ people on the Municipality facebook page and this could be used as a form of communication during storms;
- Service by the DOT is generally very good;
- It is a challenge to complete regular maintenance work with the provided funding;
- DOT budgets have been severely impacted;
- The Department of Transportation accomplishes a lot given the budge provided;
- Department of Transportation is the 3rd biggest department behind Health and Education;

- The new government eliminated the chip seal crew;
- There is a need for more lobbying for road improvements regarding Trunk 4;
- This Council will advocate on behalf of the Department of Transportation with our local members of parliament;
- A list of priorities, from Council's point of view, would be helpful to the DOT;

The CAO indicated that Richmond Municipal staff could be of assistance by posting the slide and timeframes on their Facebook page and would be available to the communications staff of the Department of Transportation to assist in any way.

Renewable Energy Committee (Jeff Stanley & Robert Anderson)

This item was previously addressed.

Solicitors/Eastern District Planning Commission re: Proposed Demolition:

- Property of Gary and Kathleen Pretty, St. Peters Fourchu Road, Framboise, Richmond County (PID #75082990, AAN# 00810029)

(i) Mr. John Bain re: Update on Property

Warden Sampson welcomed Mr. Sean Donovan to the meeting.

Mr. Donovan presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Proposed Demolition of the property of Gary and Kathleen Pretty and the following points were brought forth:

- Complaint was received on May 13, 2013 regarding the above property;
- The structures on the property were posted on October 8, 2013 with a Proposed Demolition Order;
- A registered letter was sent to the property owners and was returned marked "Moved".
- Building is open and accessible. Front steps are a serious hazard to anyone and the front windows are broken with pieces of glass on the ground;
- The foundation wall has collapsed and fallen into the basement;
- There are serious signs of wood rot and the property is unstable;
- There is a large amount of debris lying on the property;
- The buildings are in a ruinous and dilapidated condition and in a state of non repair, not suitable for human habitation or business purposes;
- The buildings are unsightly;
- The Certified Building Official Report strongly recommends that the buildings be removed from the property and disposed of in the appropriate manner;
- The buildings meet the Municipal Government Act definition as "dangerous and unsightly";

Mr. Donovan noted that it was the recommendation of the Administrator of the Eastern District Planning Commission that an "Order to Remedy Condition" be issued and that the Order be a Demolition Order issued from Council to the owners. The Order should state to the owners that the buildings are to be demolished and all debris be removed and disposed of in the appropriate manner within thirty (30) days. If the property owner fails to comply, the Municipality will complete the same and recover the costs.

(ii) Opportunity for the Above Property Owner to Address the Committee

Warden Sampson wished to note in the minutes that the property owners were not in attendance.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council that an "Order to Remedy Condition" be issued to Gary and Kathleen Pretty, St. Peters Fourchu Road, Framboise, Richmond County (PID #75082990, AAN# 00810029) and that the Order be a Demolition Order issued from Council to the owners. The Order should state to the owners that the buildings are to be demolished and all debris be removed and disposed of in the appropriate manner within thirty (30) days. If the property owner fails to comply, the Municipality will complete the same and recover the costs. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

- a) Vested Property Clerk re: Kenneth & Evie Boudreau, Property destroyed by Fire, Account# 00402125;

The CAO indicated that correspondence had been received from the Vested Property Clerk regarding a request from Kenneth & Evie Boudreau to write off taxes for Assessment Account # 00402125 due to fire. He also indicated that it was the recommendation of the Vested Property Clerk that the Municipality of Richmond write off taxes in the amount of \$385.63 which represents taxes on the dwelling for June 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014.

Moved by Councillor Samson, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the Committee accept the recommendation of the Vested Property Clerk and recommend to Council that taxes be written off for Assessment Account # 00402125, assessed to Kenneth & Evie Boudreau in the amount of \$385.63 which represents taxes on the dwelling for June 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014. Motion carried.

- b) Vested Property Clerk re: Ginette Therrien, Property Destroyed by Fire, Account # 05190517;

The CAO indicated that correspondence had been received from the Vested Property Clerk regarding a request from Ginette Therrien to write off taxes for Assessment Account # 05190517 due to fire. He also indicated that it was the recommendation of the Vested Property Clerk that the Municipality of Richmond write off taxes in the amount of \$174.72 which represents taxes on the dwelling for April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014.

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the Committee accept the recommendation of the Vested Property Clerk and recommend to Council that taxes be written off for Assessment Account # 05190517, assessed to Ginette Therrien in the amount of \$174.72 which represents taxes on the dwelling for April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014. Motion carried.

- c) Vested Property Clerk re: Premium Seafoods, Property Destroyed by Fire, Account #05190517 & #00385212;

The CAO indicated that correspondence had been received from the Vested Property Clerk regarding a request from Premium Seafoods to write off taxes for Assessment Accounts #05190517 & #00385212 due to fire. He also indicated that it was the recommendation of the Vested Property Clerk that the Municipality of Richmond write off taxes in the amount of \$637.11 on account # 00385212 and \$7,847.46 on account #05700396 which represents taxes on the dwelling to March 31, 2014.

Moved by Councillor David, seconded by Deputy Warden Martell that the Committee accept the recommendation of the Vested Property Clerk and recommend to Council that taxes be written off for Assessment Account # 00385212 assessed to Premium Seafoods in the amount of \$637.11 and on account # 05700396, assessed to Premium Seafoods in the amount of \$7,847.46 which represents taxes on the dwelling to March 31, 2014. Motion carried.

- d) Wall St. – CGE – Landowners Association re: Road Maintenance;

The CAO noted that correspondence had been received from Wall St.-Cape George Estates – Landowners Association requesting assistance from the Municipality of the County of Richmond, for road maintenance including grading, gravelling and snow removal or relief from high tax levies that are assessed each year.

It was a consensus of the Committee that a letter be sent to the residents of Wall St., Cape George Estates- Landowners Association advising them that the road referred to in their request is a private road in a subdivision and is the responsibility of the homeowners.

- e) Canadian Union of Postal Workers re: Canadian Postal Service Charter Review;

The CAO indicated that correspondence had been received from the Canadian Union of Postal Workers regarding the Canadian Postal Service Charter Review and the request that Council pass the following two resolutions:

1. To use the upcoming review of the Canadian Postal Service Charter to focus on revenue-generating services, not cuts, including financial services such as bill payments, insurance and banking.
2. To improved the Canadian Postal Service Charter and make the upcoming review of the Charter open to public input.

It was a consensus of the Committee that a letter be sent to the Canadian Union of Postal Workers indicating that not enough information existed on the topic and that an invitation be extended to CUPW to make a presentation to Council.

- f) Christmas Daddies re: Annual Christmas Daddies Telethon;

For information purposes.

- g) L'Ardoise Seniors Jolly Club re: Housing Survey;

For information purposes.

- h) Communities in Bloom re: Signage Products;

For information purposes.

- i) Correctional Service Canada re: Restorative Justice Week 2013;

It was a consensus of the Committee that Richmond County Municipal Council proclaim November 17th – 24th, 2013 as “Restorative Justice Week”.

- j) Eastern Counties Regional Library re: Thank you;

For information purposes.

k) Shannon Mury re: Grant Requests:

- Richmond County Early Childhood Education Association, Municipal District Activity Fund, Multiple Districts (\$1,500);
- Development Isle Madame Association, Municipal District Activity Fund, Multiple Districts (\$600);

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Deputy Warden Martell that the Committee recommend to Council that the following grants be approved:

- \$1,500 to Richmond County Early Childhood Education Association, Municipal District Activity Fund, Multiple Districts;
- \$600 to Development Isle Madame Association, Municipal District Activity Fund, Multiple Districts;

Motion carried.

Approval of Cheques Issued: September, 2013

Councillor David declared a conflict due to cheques 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 September 2013 in the amount of \$1,054,678.42 be approved. Motion carried.

Review of Cheques Issued: October, 2013

It was noted that a copy of the cheques issued for October 2013 were missing from the package and they would be emailed to the Councillors for review.

The CAO requested a change to the current process of correspondence being added to meeting agendas. He noted that he would like correspondence received to be broken down into two categories, one for information purposes only and the other for correspondence which requires discussions, approvals or direction from Council.

It was a consensus of the Committee that the current process of correspondence being added to meeting agendas be changed to reflect a separation of correspondence into two

categories, one section being for information purposes only and the other for correspondence requiring discussion, approval or direction from Council.

Items Added to the Agenda

1. Councillor McNamara re: Canada Post re: Rural Mailbox Traffic Safety Review

Councillor McNamara indicated that an issue of safety existed with collective mailboxes being placed in communities. She also indicated that collective mailboxes had been placed on Grant Road with no consultation with the residents and this road is not wide enough and is unsafe with nowhere to turn.

Councillor Beaton expressed concern regarding the placement of collective mailboxes in District #3 with one in particular being placed at the D'Escousse Civic Improvement Center. Mailboxes are being placed on private property.

Councillor Boucher and Councillor Johnson indicated that there had been issues with the placement of collective mailboxes in District #7 and #10.

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor McNamara that a letter be sent from Municipal Council to Member of Parliament, Rodger Cuzner expressing concern and requesting reconsideration regarding collective mailboxes being placed in certain areas of the County without appropriate consultation or process being followed, causing unsafe conditions for residents.

Election of Deputy Warden

Warden Steve Sampson called for nominations for the position of Deputy Warden.

Deputy Warden Martell nominated Councillor Johnson for the position of Deputy Warden, for the Municipality of the County of Richmond.

Councillor Johnson accepted the nomination.

Warden Steve Sampson called for further nominations, three times.

Warden Steve Sampson declared that nominations cease.

Councillor Johnson thus becomes Deputy Warden, for the County of Richmond.

Deputy Warden Gail Johnson spoke with thanks.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

There were no questions from the gallery.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Boucher that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

MINUTES RECORDED BY:

MUNICIPAL CLERK:

CHAIRPERSON

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER