

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

**JANUARY 11, 2016**

Location: Council Chambers, Municipal Office

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

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

Items Added to the Agenda

Warden David indicated that there were no items added to the agenda.

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Review of Minutes: December 7, 2015

Moved by Councillor Samson, seconded by Councillor Sampson that the minutes of December 7, 2015 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Solicitors/Eastern District Planning Commission re: Proposed Demolition: Property of Shirley Anne McNamara, Evanston Road, Evanston, NS PID 75108720 and AAN 00835498;

- (i) Mr. Sean Donovan re: Update on Property

Mr. John Bain provided a power point presentation (copy attached).

Mr. Bain indicated the following:

- The property was posted with a notice of Proposed Demolition on December 22, 2015

- The dwelling appears to be abandoned. The exterior of the dwelling and the landscape are not being maintained
- Signs of wood rot on the exterior walls. Openings in the exterior walls exposing the structural studs and insulation to the elements
- Serious signs of wood rot on the exterior walls. You can see the sides of the foundation has begun to separate and move out from the exterior walls
- Unsightly amounts of garbage left at the back of the property
- The Certified Building Inspector Report indicated that:
  - Strong visual indication that both exterior siding and framing members are at the point they would all have to be replaced.
  - This dwelling is in such a state of non-repair as to be no longer used for human habitation or any other types of occupancy.
  - Constitutes as a fire hazard to itself and surrounding buildings.
  - Strongly recommends the dwelling be removed from the disposed of in the appropriate manner
  - Should a decision be made to upgrade this dwelling to the 2010 National Building Code, the project shall be overseen by a Certified Structural Engineer by the province of Nova Scotia
- The Administrator’s recommendation is:
  - The dwelling appears to be abandoned.
  - The dwelling meets the Municipal Government Act definition as “Dangerous and Unsightly”.
  - It is therefore our recommendation 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 dwelling is 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

Ms. Shirley McNamara addressed the Committee and requested a 6 month extension to obtain a report from a structural engineer and have the property repaired.

The following points were brought forward during discussion:

- It was noted that all things are repairable;
- Time should be provided to residents if they wish to comply with the requirements of the Administrator in order to have their property repaired;
- Other residents have been awarded extensions upon request.

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor Johnson that the Committee recommend to Council that a six (6) month extension be granted to Ms. Shirley

McNamara contingent on the property owner obtaining a report from a structural engineer and that the work is completed by the property owner and FURTHER MOVED that should the property owner not comply with this agreement that Council accept the recommendation of the Eastern District Planning Commission and that an “Order to Remedy Condition” be issued to Shirley Anne McNamara, Evanston Road, Evanston, NS PID 75108720 and AAN 00835498 and notice having been given, that the Order should state to the owners that the dwelling is 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.

#### Councillor Martell re: Financial Reform Plan Proposal

Councillor Martell provided a copy of the financial reform plan proposal (copy attached) to the Committee for recommendation to Council.

The financial reform proposal would provide a complete, transparent picture of the County’s finances including council and staff expenses.

The plan responds with the recent Grant Thornton audit findings and would eliminate the perception that there is a need for a forensic audit, as well as eliminate the costs associated to citizens with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act requests.

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- The proposal should be tabled and reviewed before proceeding;
- Staff should be given the opportunity to provide feedback before moving forward;
- This proposal has no fee associated with it;
- The proposal does not address all the areas of concern that were listed in the management letter.

Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that the Committee recommend to Council to adopt the financial reform proposal.

Further discussions ensued and permission was given by the mover and seconder of the motion to accept the following amendment:

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Samson that the contents of the financial reform proposal motion be amended to add that the proposal be examined by the administration staff and a committee of council and come back with recommendations prior to approval. Motion carried. (Ayes: 7, Nays: 3 Councillor Boucher, Councillor Marchand, Councillor Johnson).

Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that the Committee recommend to Council to adopt the financial reform proposal contingent on the contents being examined by the administration staff and a committee of council and that these parties report back to council with recommendations prior to approval. Motion carried. (Ayes: 6, Nays: 4 Councillor Boucher, Councillor Johnson, Councillor Marchand)

Councillor Marchand re:

- a) Calculation of Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPOP) Fees

Councillor Marchand requested a copy of the calculation for the FOIPOP fees.

The CAO noted that he would provide a copy of the form, (Calculation of FOIPOP Fees), to Council.

- b) Response to Auditors Credit Card Report

Councillor Marchand listed a series of events that transpired over the last several months regarding the financial audit for the 2014-15 fiscal year.

Councillor Marchand indicated that he had requested information pertaining to specific dates that had yet to be provided.

The CAO noted that he would provide Councillor Marchand with the information he was requesting in regards to the Auditors Credit Card report.

Correspondence:

Action Required:

- a) Director of Finance re: Loan Guarantee

The CAO indicated that the Village of St. Peter's was requesting a loan guarantee to purchase a sidewalk tractor. Some of the money for the purchase would be provided through other avenues and the loan guarantee would be for the balance of the purchase.

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council that a loan guarantee for the Village of St. Peter's, to purchase a sidewalk tractor, in the amount of \$43,312.50, be approved. Motion carried.

- b) Shannon Mury re: Grant Requests:
  - Chapel Cove Preservation Society, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #9 (\$1,500);

- River Bourgeois Senior’s 50+ Club, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #7 (\$500);
- Village of St. Peter’s, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #8 (\$30,000);
- Strait Richmond Healthcare Foundation, Municipal District Activity Fund, Multiple Districts (\$800);
- Mi’kmawey School, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #10 (\$600);
- Acadiaville Community Centre Society, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #4 (\$2,000).

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

- \$1,500 to Chapel Cove Preservation Society, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #9;
- \$500 to River Bourgeois Senior’s 50+ Club, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #7;
- \$30,000 to Village of St. Peter’s, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #8;
- \$800 to Strait Richmond Healthcare Foundation, Municipal District Activity Fund, Multiple Districts;
- \$600 to Mi’kmawey School, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #10;
- \$2,000 to Acadiaville Community Centre Society, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #4.

Motion carried.

Review of Cheques: December 2015:

For information purposes.

Items Added to the Agenda:

There were no items added to the agenda.

15 Minute Question Period:

Mr. Gary Gibson approached the Committee regarding an item on the agenda.

Mr. Doug Begg approached the Committee regarding an item on the agenda.

Mrs. Germaine MacDonald approached the Committee regarding an item on the agenda.

Mr. Godfrey Marchand approached the Committee regarding an item on the agenda.

Adjournment

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

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

MINUTES RECORDED BY:

CAO/MUNICIPAL CLERK:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIRPERSON