



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

APRIL 11, 2023

- Location:** Council Chambers
- Present:** Councillor Shawn Samson, Councillor Michael Diggdon, Councillor Melanie Sampson, Deputy Warden Brent Sampson, Warden Amanda Mombourquette,
- Staff:** Troy MacCulloch, Chief Administrative Officer, Shelley David, Municipal Clerk
- Other:** Jim Mustard, Raising the Village
- Regrets:** Chris Boudreau, Director of Public Works, Shannon Mury, Recreation Manager, Jason Martell, Chief Financial Officer

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Items Added to the Agenda (Approval of Agenda)

Warden Amanda Mombourquette requested and received unanimous consent to add the following items:

- a) Doug Griffiths, President & CEO, 13 Ways Inc. & Cape Breton Regional Enterprise Network Event
- b) In Camera - Contract Negotiations

Moved by Councillor Michael Diggdon, seconded by Councillor Melanie Sampson that the agenda be approved with the added items.

Motion carried.

Review of Minutes, March 27, 2023, Committee of the Whole

Moved by Councillor Shawn Samson, seconded by Deputy Warden Brent Sampson that the minutes of March 27, 2023 Committee of the Whole be approved.

Motion carried.



Presentations

Jim Mustard, on behalf of Raising the Village, presented a PowerPoint presentation on Early Years – Starting Strong.

Notice to be Given:

Notice be Given - On April 24, 2023 at Regular Council, a motion will be made to adopt the Comfort Centre and Emergency Shelter Policy. The purpose of this policy is to outline the overview of procedures and responsibilities regarding the activation of one or more of the Centres or Shelters to ensure residents have adequate access to temporary sheltering following an emergency.

Review of Warden’s Council Report

For information purposes.

Deputy Warden Sampson, Re: Fire Services

For information purposes.

CAO, Re: 2023/024 Budget Planning Discussion

For information purposes

Community Acknowledgements

For information purposes.

Correspondence – Action Required

- a) Jason Martell, CFO, Re: L’Ardoise Acadian Heritage Society Grant Request for Type 2- Start-up Activity Grant Funds in the amount of \$500.**

Moved by Deputy Warden Brent Sampson, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson that the Committee recommend to Council that the L’Ardoise Acadian Heritage Society Grant Request for Type 2- Start-up Activity Grant Funds in the amount of \$500 for the purpose of supporting the costs of equipment and supplies, be approved and allocated as follows: \$ 500.00 from District 5 Funds.

Motion carried.

- b) Jason Martell, CFO, Re: St. Peter’s Grand River Loch Lomond Pastoral Charge Grant Request for Type 4 - Regional/Health/General Grant Funds in the amount of \$5000.**

Deputy Warden Brent Samspon declared a conflict of interest and removed himself from the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Moved by Councillor Melanie Sampson, seconded by Councillor Michael Diggdon that the Committee recommend to Council that the St. Peter's Grand River Loch Lomond Pastoral Charge Grant Request for Type 4 - Regional/Health/General Grant Funds be the amount of \$3,000 for the purpose of supporting the costs of building repairs and allocate as follows: \$3,000.00 from General Grant Funds.

Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Brent Sampson returned to the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

c) Jim Cavanagh, Strait Area Mutual Aid Association, Re: Funding Request for Equipment in the amount of \$5,000.

Moved by Councillor Michael Diggdon, seconded by Deputy Warden Brent Sampson that the Committee recommend to Council to have the CAO inquire with the CFO regarding whether or not the Strait Area Mutual Aid Association funding request meets the criteria for the grant application process and FURTHER MOVE that the request be referred to budget deliberations if the Association does not qualify for the grant application process.

Motion carried.

d) Angela Silvia, Communities in Bloom, Re: Invitation to Participate

It was the consensus of the Committee to not participate at this time.

e) Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Re: Retroactive RCMP Costs

Moved by Councillor Melanie Sampson, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson that the Committee recommend to Council to support the Federation of Canadian Municipalities resolution opposing the decision of the Federal Government to not absorb retroactive RCMP costs and FURTHER MOVE that the Warden issue a press release. The resolution is as follows:

Prioritizing Municipal Input in Future RCMP Contract Policing Decisions

WHEREAS, The Government of Canada has made the decision in Budget 2023 to make municipalities responsible for all retroactive costs stemming from the latest RCMP collective bargaining agreement; and

WHEREAS, These extraordinary one-time costs, which in some jurisdictions amount to millions of dollars, will cause significant hardship for communities and residents across the country, and were negotiated without meaningful consultation or a seat at the table for the municipalities responsible for paying the bill; and

WHEREAS, Municipal governments are already paying a growing share of policing costs, but unlike other orders of government, cannot run deficits to spread out the impact of these extraordinary one-time sums, and have limited revenue tools; and

WHEREAS, Local governments will now be forced to make difficult decisions that will impact residents, such as cutting essential services, reducing policing levels, raising property taxes significantly, and/or cancelling work on local infrastructure, at a time when Canadians' concerns about community safety and the cost of living are already rising; and

WHEREAS, Going forward, it is critical that municipalities be proactively engaged in any forthcoming processes related to contract policing to prevent this occurring again; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Municipality of the County of Richmond joins the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in calling on the federal government to commit to ensuring that local governments are meaningfully consulted, fully informed, and at the table on issues related to policing costs given the municipal role in keeping our communities safe; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Municipality of the County of Richmond conveys this support in writing to local Members of Parliament.

Motion carried.

f) Landrie Lake Water Utility Board, Re: Letter to Minister of Public Works regarding Green Hydrogen Development Support

Moved by Councillor Shawn Samson, seconded by Councillor Melanie Sampson that the Committee recommend to Council to support the letter drafted by the Landrie Lake Water Utility Board to the Minister of Public Works requesting that the Nova Scotia Department of Public Works work with the utility to reestablish water transfer from the Little River Reservoir to Landrie Lake.

Motion carried.

g) Mayor Brenda Chisholm-Beaton, Re: Meeting with Council to Discuss Shared Municipal Files

Moved by Councillor Michael Diggdon, seconded by Councillor Melanie Sampson that the Committee recommend to Council to have staff organize and coordinate a meeting with the Port Hawkesbury Town Council to discuss shared files.

Motion carried.

Correspondence – For Information Only

a) Celeste Gotell, Local Coordinator, Acting Collectively Project, Re: Acting Collectively Year End Report

For information purposes.



Unfinished Business: Question Period, Re: Response from the Department of Finance

For information purposes.

Review of Cheques Issued re: March 2023

For information purposes.

Review of Action Items

For information purposes.

Items Added to the Agenda

- a) Doug Griffiths, President & CEO, 13 Ways Inc. & Cape Breton Regional Enterprise Network Event

Moved by Deputy Warden Brent Sampson, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson that the Committee recommend to Council to have the CAO and staff pursue a community focused event with Doug Griffiths.

Motion carried.

15 Minute Question Period 902-226-9885 (Not Restricted to Items on the Agenda)

There were no questions

“In Camera” Session (*Added Agenda Item: Contract Negotiations*)

Moved by Councillor Melanie Sampson seconded by Councillor Micheal Diggdon that the meeting move to an “In-Camera” session at 8:37 p.m.

Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson that the meeting revert to “Regular” session at 9:20 p.m.

Motion carried.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:21p.m.

MUNICIPAL CLERK

CHAIRPERSON