

RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

OCTOBER 23, 2017

Location: Council Chambers, Municipal Office

Present: Councillor James Goyetche, Councillor A. Martell
Warden B. Marchand, Councillor G. Boucher,

Absent: Deputy Warden Jason MacLean

Warden Marchand called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM and asked everyone to stand for the singing of O'Canada.

Roll Call of Councillors

The CAO took roll call of Councillors.

Items Added to the Agenda

Two items were previously added to the agenda.

Warden Marchand requested that #7 on the agenda, Election of Deputy Warden, be postponed to a later date, when all Councillors were present. Consent was not granted.

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

Review of Minutes

- a) October 16, 2017 (Special Meeting)
- b) September 25, 2017 (Regular Meeting)

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor Goyetche that the minutes of October 16, 2017 (Special Meeting) and September 25, 2017 (Regular Meeting) be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Presentations

Warden Marchand noted that the Clean NS presentation would be first due to travelling distance for the presenter.

a) Clean NS re: Home Warming Program Check-in

Warden Marchand welcomed Mr. Michael MacKay to the meeting.

Mr. MacKay gave a power point presentation and the following points were brought forth:

- 10 years of funding for the Home Warming program and it is in year 3;
- Income includes anyone in the home over the age of 18;
- Only information needed, if the income threshold is met, are a most recent tax Notice of Assessment for each resident 18 and over and proof of home ownership;
- Home Warming offers no charge energy assessments and home upgrades to income-qualified homeowners;
- If upgrades are discovered to reduce heating and power bills, they will be installed at no cost to the homeowner;
- For higher income residents there is the Property Assessment Clean Energy (PACE) financing which allows municipalities to provide low interest financing to qualifying homeowners;
- Homeowners can make clean energy upgrades and repay the municipality over time;
- Financing is attached to the property tax account and transfers with the home if sold;
- The Home Warming program is in partnership with Efficiency NS, for lower income households and the PACE program is based on municipal rules set on the needs of the area;
- Energy Poverty, the ability to pay heating bills, income and budget are the determinants for the Home Warming program;
- To date the program helped 5000 homes;
- Accommodations may be made for unique situations;
- Funding received for the program are 3 million from NS Power (Electric) and 12 million from the province (non-electric);
- For more information on the Home Warming Program, residents can contact Michael MacKay, Outreach Coordinator at 902-405-4266 or via email at info@homewarming.ca;

Warden Marchand thanked Mr. MacKay for the presentation.

b) Strait Richmond Community Health Board re: Collaborative Community Health Plan
Warden Marchand welcomed Ms. Dorothy Barnard to the meeting.

Ms. Barnard gave a power point presentation and the following points were brought forth:

- Community Health Boards have a legislated mandate;
- Health is affected by physical, social, environmental and emotional surroundings and is a responsibility of the municipality;
- Collaboration areas are supporting local community gardens, advocating for nutritious food in schools and municipal recreation activities;
- Municipality is encouraged to create a Living Wage Policy/By-Law for the county (there is a provincial template);
- Community Health Board is requesting a municipal representative to sit on their Board.

Warden Marchand thanked Ms. Barnard for the presentation.

c) Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve Association (Gordon Kerr) re: Signage plan for the Bras d'Or Lake watershed

Warden Marchand welcomed Mr. Gordon Kerr to the meeting.

Mr. Kerr gave a power point presentation and the following points were brought forth:

- In 2011 Bras d'Or Lake and watershed was designated under the Man and the Biosphere, a UNESCO initiative;
- The Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere is one third of Cape Breton Island;
- Biosphere Reserves promote conservation and biodiversity, sustainable economic development and education;
- The signage program will create high public awareness, easy public access to experiences, create economic development opportunities and affiliations;
- Signage project requires a broad government endorsement with a substantial financial investment;
- Request for Richmond County to become a funding partner;
- The cost of the signage program is over \$600,000;
- Possible funding sources were noted as follows: ACOA – 60% (approximately \$390,000, no commitment in writing), \$130,000 Provincial (20%), Municipal sources - \$65,000 (10% - \$16,250 per municipality), 2.5% from Richmond County;
- ACOA application will be in by mid-November;
- There needs to be more information regarding the project before the municipality could consider being a funding partner;
- Mr. Kerr noted that he would share the preliminary signage plan with Council;

- An RFP will be completed for a Project Manager;
- Tender will be put out for the project;

Moved by Councillor Martell that Richmond County support the signage program financially, conditional on supplying current budget information and approval by funding partners. Motion lost. No seconder.

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor Goyetche that a letter of support for the signage program be provided to the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve Association. Motion carried.

Council Election re: Deputy Warden

Warden Marchand asked for nominations for the position of Deputy Warden.

Councillor Boucher nominated Councillor Goyetche for the position of Deputy Warden, for the Municipality of the County of Richmond.

Councillor Goyetche accepted the nomination.

Warden Marchand called for further nominations, three times.

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor Martell that nominations cease. Motion carried.

Warden Marchand declared that nominations cease.

Councillor Goyetche becomes Deputy Warden for the Municipality of the County of Richmond.

Committee Reports

a) Committee of the Whole

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor Martell that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the following grants be paid out after a request has been submitted by the organization:

Blue Grass Music Festival (DIMA) \$ 5,000
Destination Cape Breton \$10,000
Spedo – Music Camp \$ 5,000
Spedo – Seaside Lobsterfest \$ 5,000
Celtic Colours \$ 5,000

Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor Martell that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the following grants, approved as part of the budget, be paid out:

St. Martha's Regional Hospital \$10,000
Cape Breton Regional Hospital \$10,000
Strait Richmond Palliative Care Society \$15,000
St. Anne's Community & Nursing Care Ctr \$ 5,000
Strait Richmond Hospital \$ 5,000
Adult Drop in Centre \$ 2,500

Motion carried.

Councillor Boucher gave notice of motion to amend the Municipality of the County of Richmond Travel Expense Policy to remove the time limit for the submission of claims, Section 1.3, Disbursements (v).

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Deputy Warden Goyetche that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that an "Order to Remedy Condition" be issued to Julia MacDonald, 3601 Loch Lomond Rd, Loch Lomond NS, Property Identifiers (PID) 75073353, Assessment Account (AAN) 02129299, subject to notice of proposed demolition in accordance with the legislation. The Order should state to the owners that the dwelling 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

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor Martell that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that an "Order to Remedy Condition" be issued to Darlene Dorey, Shore Road West Arichat NS, Property Identifiers (PID) 75085985, Assessment Account (AAN) 09249087, subject to notice of proposed demolition in accordance with the legislation. The Order should state to the owners that the shed and wharf are to 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

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor Martell that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that an "Order to Remedy Condition" be issued to Elias and Cathie Dorey, 117 Lower Road West Arichat NS, Property Identifiers (PID) 75025767, Assessment Account (AAN) 06091997, subject to notice of proposed demolition in accordance with the legislation. The Order should state to the owners that the shed and wharf are to 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.

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Deputy Warden Goyetche that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that Warden Marchand be appointed as the municipal representative on the Richmond Academy School Steering Team Committee for the Skilled Trades Project. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Deputy Warden Goyetche that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the following grant request be approved:

– \$500 to St. Joseph’s CWL, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #1&2
Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor Martell that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that funding be given to Conseil de développement économique de la Nouvelle-Écosse (CDENE), in the amount of \$2,500 towards the development of a heritage and cultural tourism circuit of the Acadian regions of Nova Scotia. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor Martell that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and In Camera Council and appoint Kent MacIntyre as Chief Administrative Officer effective January 1, 2018.

Warden Marchand provided background information for Mr. MacIntyre.

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Deputy Warden Goyetche that the Committee of the Whole Report for the month of October 2017 be adopted. Motion carried.

Correspondence

Action Required

a) Friends of St. John’s Arichat Society re: Tax Exemption;

Deputy Warden Goyetche gave notice that he would introduce a motion at the next Regular Council Meeting to amend By-Law #56, Tax Exemption By-Law, to include the property of “The Friends of St. John’s Arichat Society” (PID 75084517).

b) Eastern District Planning Commission re: Revised Appointment 2017-2018;

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor Martell that the appointment of Alternate Development Officer, Paul Dec, for the Eastern District Planning Commission, be approved. Motion carried.

c) Destination Cape Breton Association re: DCBA Board of Directors

The Warden indicated that he would speak to the current municipal representative for Richmond County regarding remaining as a member of the DCBA Board of Directors.

Items Added to the Agenda

Correspondence – Chris Boudreau, Director of Public Works/Municipal Engineer re: Tender Award Recommendations – French Cove Water Extension

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor Martell that Richmond Council award the tender for the French Cove Water Extension to the low bidder, A&A Touesnard Trucking Ltd, at the tendered price of \$324,867.87. Motion carried.

CAO re: Guarantee Resolution – Village of St. Peter's re: Toulouse Street Sewer Extension Project

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor Martell that Municipal Council adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Village of St. Peter's is a village in the Municipality of Richmond;

AND WHEREAS the Village of St. Peter's has determined to borrow the aggregate principal amount of Ninety-Five Thousand Seven Hundred Fifteen Dollars (\$95,715) for the purposes of a sewer extension project;

AND WHEREAS the Village of St. Peter's has requested a municipality to guarantee the said borrowing;

AND WHEREAS Section 89 of the Municipal Government Act provides that a municipality may guarantee a loan for a village;

AND WHEREAS Section 88(3) of the Municipal Government Act provides that no guarantee of a borrowing by a municipality shall have effect unless the Minister of Municipal Affairs has approved of the proposed borrowing or debenture and of the proposed guarantee;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED

THAT the Municipality of Richmond does hereby approve the borrowing by the Village of St. Peter's of Ninety-Five Thousand Seven Hundred Fifteen Dollars (\$95,715) for the purposes set out above;

THAT subject to the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs of the guarantee, the Municipality unconditionally guarantee repayment of the principal and interest of the borrowing so made;

THAT upon the issue of the debentures, the Warden and Clerk of the Municipality do sign the guarantee attached to each of the debentures and affix thereto the corporate seal of the Municipality.

Motion carried.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

Mrs. Germaine MacDonald approached Council.

Mr. Robert Fougere approached Council

Mrs. Annette Kehoe approached Council.

“In Camera” Session (If Required)

There was no “In Camera” Session required.

Adjournment

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

MINUTES RECORDED BY:

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

CHAIRPERSON