

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

A Committee of the Whole Meeting was held Tuesday, February 2nd, 2016 at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administrative Centre, 285 Beech Hill Road, Antigonish NS.

Present were: Warden Russell Boucher, Chair
 Deputy Warden Owen McCarron
 Councillor Mary MacLellan
 Councillor Pierre Boucher
 Councillor Angus Bowie
 Councillor Vaughan Chisholm
 Councillor Bill MacFarlane
 Councillor Donnie MacDonald
 Councillor Hughie Stewart
 Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer
 Shirlyn Donovan, Interim Deputy Clerk

Regrets: Councillor Rémi Deveau

The meeting of the Committee of the Whole was called to order by the Chair, Warden Boucher, at 5:35pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Nova Scotia Power's Response to Outages
- Municipal Response to Power Outages
- Meeting with Rodger Cuzner
- Letter of support for StFX University
- Letter of support for Bear Paw pipeline
- Heritage Ponderosa
- Personnel Matter (In-Camera)

Moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Stewart that the agenda be approved as amended. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Councillor Stewart and seconded by Councillor Chisholm that the Committee of the Whole minutes January 19th, 2016 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS (In-Camera)

This subject matter falls within Section 22(2) of the Municipal Government Act as a matter that a committee may discuss in a closed session. It is recommended a motion be made to initiate an in-camera session. Materials will follow.

Moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor MacLellan that the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned to an In-Camera Session to discuss contract negotiations and a personnel matter. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Stewart and seconded by Councillor MacLellan that Municipal Council proceed with the development of an MOU for renewable energy and share in proportional costs. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Boucher and seconded by Councillor MacLellan that the In-Camera session be adjourned at 6:48pm. Motion carried.

RCMP MONTHLY REPORT

Municipal Council was provided with the RCMP Monthly Report for December 2015.

REPORT ON CAPPED ASSESSMENTS AND IMPLICATIONS ON TAX REVENUE

Mr. Horne reviewed the breakdown of 2016/17 assessments for the Municipality. As outlined, this reflects a + 2.32% change in residential and + 1.10% change in commercial assessments from 2015/16. Please note that appeals to assessments may cause some variability in these numbers.

This represents the lowest growth rates the Municipality has experienced in the past decade. However, we are still experiencing growth, were most municipalities are experiencing decreases in either or both residential and commercial taxable assessments.

This change will result in the following additional revenues (approx.) for the Municipality from the previous fiscal year, based on retaining our existing tax rates:

- Additional residential tax revenue = **\$179,043.04**
- Additional commercial tax revenue = **\$13,627.64**
- Additional resource tax revenue = **\$10,181.60**

AWARDING RFP FOR MUNICIPAL VIGNETTES

Staff are recommending to engage Leah Johnston (World Beneath Productions Inc.) and Jeff Babineau (Babineau Visual Media) for a value of \$13,920.

Moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Bowie that the Municipality award the proposal for Municipal Vignettes to Leah Johnston and Jeff Babineau for \$13,920. Motion carried.

AMENDMENT OF KEPPOCH LEASE CLAUSE

Since October 2015, Mr. Horne has been in conversations with Positive Action for Keppoch (PAK). The Municipality owns Keppoch Mountain and leases it to the Positive Action for Keppoch group. It recently came to the attention of the group that they cannot insure the lodge because they are not the owners. It states in the PAK lease that they are to hold insurance over the property and building(s) (Section 6.8).

After discussions with PAK we thought it the best compromise that the Municipality hold the insurance for the building and invoice the PAK for the cost.

Adding a clause for insurance to be in the name of the Municipality but paid by the Society conforms with the spirit of the original lease. Mr. Horne has received confirmation from Dr. John Chiasson, Chair of PAK, that this language meets the organization's needs.

Moved by Councillor Chisholm and seconded by Councillor Stewart that the Keppoch Lease clause be amended for insurance to be in the name of the Municipality but paid by the Positive Action for Keppoch Society. Motion carried.

AWARDING OF A TENDER – WATER METERS AND METER READING SYSTEM

The RFP for Water Meters closed on January 28, 2016. One tender was received from Neptune Technology Group (Canada) Ltd. The tender price was \$644,950.00. The tender was reviewed by Benjamin Theuerkauf of SNC Lavalin Inc., he found no discrepancies or reasons to advise against possible award. Their submission is competitively priced.

Staff recommended municipal council award the water meter tender to Neptune Technology Group (Canada) Ltd.

Councillor MacFarlane asked where the money is coming from. Mr. Horne said that some of the costs are coming from existing water rates, gas tax and maybe reserve.

Councillor Chishom asked how many meters would be put in. Mr. Horne said about 1100 residential customers between The Fringe and Lower South River and about 300 customers in Gaspereaux Lake.

Councillor Boucher asked how that would work for landlords with multiple apartments. Mr. Horne said each apartment would receive a water meter.

Moved by Councillor Stewart and seconded by Councillor MacDonald that tender for water meters be awarded to Neptune Technology Group (Canada) Inc. for a cost of \$644,950. Motion carried.

MUNICIPAL PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION SIGNAGE

In spring 2015, the Municipality posted Highway oriented Community Identity signs on Highway 104 at Marshy Hope and Aulds Cove. These signs were designed by WeUsThem and have received a great deal of positive feedback. Municipal Council has recently provided direction to

build on this identity signage by developing integrated municipal property signage that takes inspiration from the Highway Identity signs erected in spring 2015.

The Municipality is seeking to install municipal property identification signage that will enhance the Municipality's presence through visibility of coordinated graphics, colours and typography. The signage elements should identify municipal facilities and welcome residents and guests. Further, the Municipality is seeking a common look and feel of municipal signage that contributes to a more corporate and business-like presence.

Staff recommends moving forward with WeUsThem Inc. to have the outlined scope of work completed for a total cost of \$4250. Design timeline to be developed in contract negotiations.

Moved by Councillor MacLellan and seconded by Councillor MacDonald that Municipal Council contract WeUsThem Inc. to design the Municipal Property Identification Signage. Motion carried.

INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT RENEWAL

In 2011, nine municipal units signed an inter-municipal agreement and created the Diamond Municipal Solutions Corporation. The Corporation's objective is the provision of inter-municipal computer services including the funding, operations, and relations with the nine municipal units. The agreement has been in force for the past five years and is up for renewal commencing on April 1, 2016. The Intermunicipal Agreement has been instrumental in implementing and maintenance of the municipal software solution for the nine units.

Staff is recommending that Council approve The County's continued participation in this group and allow a designated signing authority from the County to sign on for another five year term with the group.

Moved by Deputy Warden McCarron and seconded by Councillor MacDonald that Municipal Council approve the continued participation of the County in the Intermunicipal Agreement for another five years. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP GRANTS POLICY

The draft policy attempts to merge the recreation grants with the municipal grants to make for a more concise policy and application process. Under the draft Policy there are 5 categories of grants that groups can apply for. Development, Operating and Capital Grants can be applied for prior to budget time each year by filling out the application form attached. Recreation, Sport & Culture as well as Leadership Grants can be applied for on an ongoing basis throughout the year by filling out the application for specific to Travel Assistance which is also attached.

The major change from the previous policies is that under the new policy the recreation grants would be applied for in March as opposed to June. Changes to the grant policies can be seen in the summary table provided.

Staff asked that the Committee recommend this Policy to Council for adoption.

Moved by Councillor Stewart and seconded by Councillor Boucher that Municipal Council approve the Community Partnership Grants Policy. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF COUNCIL BUSINESS EXPENSE AND CONFERENCE POLICY

Mr. Horne reviewed the draft Council Business Expense and Conference Policy.

Mr. Horne asked Council whether they would like to continue with collecting receipts or move to a per diem system. Council came to the consensus that they preferred the per diem system.

Councillor MacLellan asked about having to park away from an event and taking a taxi to the event. Mr. Horne said we can add something to the policy to clarify that.

Mr. Horne discussed the Warden, Deputy Warden and Councillors having the ability to authorize certain expenses if they are under a specific dollar value to perform their duties as such. Council asked Mr. Horne to look at other policies from across the province and come up with an average dollar value in which they would be able to authorize expenses without it having to go in front of Council.

HERITAGE/PONDEROSA

The residents of Heritage Drive and Ponderosa Drive are unhappy with their road maintenance. They are both provincial streets. Councillor MacFarlane would like the County to take over both streets.

We have taken over streets in the past but it was based on a service exchange. The Province took over Social Services and the County took on more roads.

If we take on the maintenance we take on everything, paving/repaving along with the winter maintenance.

Council if staff could find out from Daryl how much it costs per km of winter maintenance.

It was suggested to add Ponderosa and Heritage to the list of J Class roads for the Province to pave and if they bring it up to standard then perhaps the County could take it over.

NOVA SCOTIA POWER'S RESPONSE TO OUTAGES

Mr. Horne wanted to give Councillors an opportunity to voice their concerns about the recent power outages in regards to Nova Scotia Power's response time.

Councillors said there was some serious issues with dispatching crews to get to the sites that where maintenance was needed.

MUNICIPAL RESPONSE TO POWER OUTAGES

Mr. Horne wanted to get some direction from Council regarding the Municipal Response to the recent storm and power outages. Mr. Horne asked Council is they saw a need for comfort centres. Mr. Horne suggested that our plans should be articulated better so the decision is easier to make on where or not to open comfort centres.

Council discussed that there should be better coordination between managers of community centres and the EMO coordinator.

The Lower South River and Gasperaux Lake water utility do not have back up power sources so the water pumps do not work without power. Mr. Horne said backup power sources will be purchased for both utilities in the next budget year.

MEETING WITH RODGER CUZNER

Rodger Cuzner would like to set up a meeting with Municipal Council. He suggested, Tuesday February 11, 2016 at 10am and is wondering if that works for Council. Shirlyn Donovan will send out an email to coordinate.

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR STFX UNIVERSITY

The university is currently looking for funding from the federal government to support an energy management program and the new Institute on Government. University administration have asked for both the Town and the County to write letters of support for the project.

Committee of the Whole came to the consensus they would like to send the letter of support.

LETTER FOR SUPPORT FOR BEAR PAW PIPELINE

CAO of Richmond County is requesting a letter of support for the Bear Paw Pipeline which would go from Goldboro to Point Tupper. All Municipalities in the area have been asked to send letter of support to the URB.

Committee of the Whole came to the consensus they would like to send the letter of support.

ANTIGONISH ARENA

There has been a question raised about whether or not the arena floor would be able to hold up if they host the exhibition. There have been input from Higgins and CJ MacLellan and there are concerns.

The Arena Commission is going to have to address this very soon. The understanding from the beginning was that the Exhibition would always go forward on the new floor.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Deputy Warden McCarron and seconded by Councillor Chisholm that the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 8:40pm. Motion carried.

Warden Russell Boucher

Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer