

Audit Committee Meeting
Monday June 4th, 2018
9am
Council Chambers

Council: Warden Betty Ann MacQuarrie
Deputy Warden Alfred Poirier
Councillor Laurie Cranton
Councillor John MacLennan
Councillor Jim Mustard arrived at 9:12
Councillor John Dowling

Staff: Keith MacDonald, CAO
Tanya Tibbo, Director of Finance
Garett Beaton, Director Public Works
Donna MacDonald, Director Recreation/Tourism
Ellen Murphy, Administrative Assistant

Warden MacQuarrie called the meeting to order at 9:05am

CAPITAL BUDGET – The presentation represents feedback from council, as well as, feedback from staff, on items prioritized over the next two years. It is a live document, so if an emergency were to arise, this capital budget would most likely change. Year 1 total of \$7,139,840 will include assessments of the water & wastewater facilities, internet & cellular connectivity, municipal building renovation, basement upgrades, 86 High Road building upgrades, Public Works building ventilation, Judique WWTP replacement, Whycocomagh WWTP replacement, Mabou WWTP replacement, Judique reservoir, excavating running gear, camera system trailer, Inverness water supply upgrade, radio read water meters, tourism strategy signage, Cheticamp lift station generator, portable generators for water utility, Judique fire hydrants, Vacuum trailer and Whycocomagh water valves. Funding will come from general operations, gas tax reserve, capital reserve, operating reserve, water depreciation reserve, approved infrastructure funding, approved infrastructure funding, other grants and local improvement charges. Year 2 total of \$3,992,000 will include Inverness water valves, Judique WWTP replacement, Whycocomagh WWTP replacement, Public Works building gate/fencing, security system on municipal properties, elevator PW building Strathlorne, Port Hood wharf decommissioning, Port Hood Island Wharf repair/replacement and municipal building landscaping & parking funded through general operations, gas tax reserve, operating reserve, anticipated infrastructure funding and local improvement charges.

It was recommended by Councillor Dowling that this capital budget go to the regular council meeting this afternoon, for approval.

FORMER SCHOOL BOARD OFFICES

Keith advised council that he would like to visit the site in Port Hastings. There are interested parties willing to purchase the property. The property is currently appraised at \$165,000. Councillor MacLennan recommended that the sale proceed, as per the Municipal Government

Act, at market value. Keith will put a package together for council's approval to move forward with the sale.

CAPE MABOU COMMUNITY PASTURE

Councillor Mustard recommended to council, that approval of an amount, not more than \$15,000, be approved, as the receivables come in for capital improvements.

FAÇADE – UPDATE FROM MELANIE BEATON

Façade & Streetscape programs are multi-partner, cross-sector partnerships aimed at elevating a community or region's visual attraction and lure capability by increasing the volume of business traffic and improving sales and revenues thereby supporting and strengthening the local business community and by investing in community shared infrastructure to improve both visitor and resident experiences.

The presentation consisted of past projects including the Cabot Trail, Inverness, Mabou, Port Hood façade programs, as well as, Streetscapes programs including branding and signage. Plans were based on conceptual designs by various design consultants throughout the county. The Cabot Trail Program from 2010 saw 41 businesses participate and then another 50 businesses in 2013. Mabou had 7 businesses participate in 2010. Inverness façade was \$1,102,854 program including signage. Port Hood Façade was a \$1,026,162 program including signage.

Projects like these have to be sold to ECBC in order to acquire funding at a 50/50 cost share with municipalities. The future of this is a Region-Wide Destination Marketing, Façade & Streetscape Program for the Ceilidh Trail and Whycomomagh which have already expressed interest. Melanie Beaton asked council to review the presentation and get back to Keith MacDonald with any concerns. Council thanked Melanie for a job well done.

Recess at 11:55am

Reconvened at 12:05pm

SMOKE FREE NOVA SCOTIA – JEAN MCQUEEN AND ROBERT MACDONALD- LUNG ASSOCIATION NOVA SCOTIA – PRESENTATION SUMMARY

Cannabis legislation is of great concern for the Lung Association of NS and Smoke Free NS because of the people it serves. The Lung Association is concerned with the legalization of cannabis as it pertains to the smoking aspect and the protection of the non-users who have COPD, asthma, lung cancer or other health issues related to smoking not only tobacco, but cannabis also. As most people know tobacco is an addiction and cannabis can be considered that as well. The legislation is being downloaded to municipalities. There will be restricted public use, but golf courses are exempt from public use right now. Smoke free NS has offered signage to municipalities who have a current by law in place for smoking. Signage can be produced by Smoke Free NS in relation to vaping and cannabis. The legalization will probably be delayed past the July 1st date for the recreational user. The municipality's current by law only refers to tobacco so it should be updated and enforced. Education and signage needs to be in place. The Lung Association and Smoke Free are happy to work with the municipality to be a resource for both education and signage.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Judique Community Centre - Councillor Dowling recommended that funding in the amount of \$2000 be granted from District 6 community development funds.

North Mountain Recreation Association – Deputy Warden Poirier recommended that funding in the amount of \$5100 be granted, contingent on funding from the provincial government, from District 1 community development funds.

Meat Cove Development Association/Cap Site – Deputy Warden Poirier recommended that funding in the amount of \$6000 be granted, contingent on funding from other partners, from District 1 community development funds.

Lake Ainslie Development Association - Councillor Mustard recommended that funding in the amount of \$2653.75 be granted from District 3 community development funds.

Highlands Metis Nation Association – Deputy Warden Poirier brought this request forward but no formal application has been made. The funding this group is requesting, was for work that had been completed prior to the request coming forward.

Syrian Family Reunification Project – Councillor Cranton recommended that council contribute \$1000 for the relocation of another Syrian family to the county. This will be funded through grants to organizations.

Consensus was to adjourn the meeting at 12:54pm