

Susan:

Further to your request, following please find the response to your questions outlined below.

Sincerely,
Vernon

From: Susan Allen <susan.allen@cbc.ca>
Date: September 13, 2016 at 2:00:49 PM ADT
To: Vernon Pitts <vpitts@modg.ca>
Cc: Pam Berman <pam.berman@cbc.ca>
Subject: Re: Request from CBC News

Thanks, Vernon,

Here are some of the questions we have:

1) What are the Municipal Business Investments you reference in your email?

- **13.8 megawatt windfarm (Sable Wind) developed in Canso/Little Dover Area which was a \$30 million +/- investment cost shared with NSP (51% MODG & 49% NSPI)**
- **5- 50 kilowatt wind turbines (3 in Goldboro, 2 in Melford), \$1.8 million investment**
- **Municipal owned (Regional) Landfill serving all Cape Breton, Antigonish, Pictou & Guysborough counties.
\$20 million invested**
- **The Municipality operates two long term nursing homes, Milford Haven Home for Special Care and Canso Seaside Manor.**
- **Three Municipal Industrial Parks to promote industrial development.**
 - **Goldboro- Goldboro LNG land purchase and Community Benefits Agreement; Pending Land sale option agreement with Bear Paw Pipeline; Ongoing hosting of Nova Scotia's Onshore Natural Gas Assets and other pending interests.**
 - **Melford- Industrial land sales for Melford Atlantic Gateway and Community Benefits Agreement; Land options with KO YO Canada Ltd and AC LNG Ltd and pending Community Benefits Agreements.**
 - **Black Point- Vulcan Materials – Option for Leasing Agreement and Community Benefits Agreement.**

2) What businesses provide the bulk of the tax revenue?

- **The businesses that provide a large portion of the tax revenue in our Municipality are: (Assessed values)**
 - **Sable Offshore Energy Inc/Exxon Mobile**
 - **Plant- \$76,100,300**
 - **Pipeline- \$13,127,900**
 - **Maritimes Northeast Pipeline**
 - **Pipeline- \$30,157,400**
 - **Encana**
 - **Pipeline- \$3,567,900**
 - **Martin Marietta (Rock Quarry)**
 - **Building & Structures & Land- \$12,792,800**

We also have a few questions about the annual Strategy Sessions held in Pictou County.

1) Why does the municipality chose to have these meetings in Pictou County rather than in Guysborough?

All regular Committee and Council meetings, including all open houses, etc. are held in the Municipality. Once a year, in advance of budget preparations for the upcoming fiscal year, Council has chosen to go offsite in a retreat setting to have a 2 day planning session. All Elected officials and Senior Management attend the meetings. It allows Council to deal with short and long term planning initiatives, without having to deal with the distractions that are inherent with meeting around our own table. It's a common approach that has been successful in the business world and with other government organizations, and our Council has found it to be a beneficial and worthwhile exercise, with lots of new ideas emanating from the session. From time to time, professional development work is also included.

2) How many people attended the 2016 session?

18

3) The VISA bills we've received under Freedom of Information do not include hotel costs for the 2016 conference. Could you please provide the total costs for hotel, including conference facilities and accommodation, for the 2016 Strategy Session.

\$2,600.15

4) Could you please provide the total cost for the 2016 conference, including hotel, meals, travel and hospitality.

\$6,595.73

Finally, would you be able to email us the financial statements for 2015/16. I see they are not yet posted online.

***The 2015-2016 Financial Statements can be found at <http://www.modg.ca/residents/reports>**

Thanks,

Susan Allen

CBC News

susan.allen@cbc.ca

[902-420-4135](tel:902-420-4135)

Susan,

Following please find the response to your questions as outlined below.

Sincerely,

Warden Vernon Pitts

From: Susan Allen <susan.allen@cbc.ca>
Date: September 16, 2016 at 2:16:18 PM ADT
To: Vernon Pitts <vpitts@modg.ca>
Cc: Pam Berman <pam.berman@cbc.ca>
Subject: Re: Request from CBC News

Thanks for your reply, Vernon.

We have a few more questions relating to municipal spending:

1) The Visa statements indicate the municipality is spending hundreds of dollars on alcohol annually, at dinners but also at parties for staff and councillors and at annual strategy sessions attended by councillors and senior staff.

In most municipalities and at higher levels of government, this would be contrary to policy. Is council considering a review of the policies around alcohol as an acceptable expense?

Yes, we are reviewing this policy.

2) The statements indicate that CAO Barry Carroll travels frequently outside the municipality for conferences. Receipts indicate that in April and May of 2015, he travelled to Vancouver and Victoria, followed by Houston, Edmonton and Newfoundland. He made a second trip to Vancouver in October, 2015. In 2014, Mr. Carroll travelled to Houston, Vancouver, Montreal and Alabama. In some cases, he travels with other senior staff and/or council members. What does the municipality consider in determining whether travel by staff and councillors is justified?

As you would already know, the District of Guysborough is home to the Natural Gas industry in Nova Scotia. Over the last two years, we have been very active in establishing Guysborough as the East Coast home to the Liquefied Natural Gas Industry. Mr. Carroll's trips to Vancouver, Victoria, Newfoundland, and Houston in both years centered around these two very important files. We currently have Exxon Mobil, Encana, Spectra Energy (Enbridge) as operating corporate partners in the Municipality. During the last two years, we have negotiated the sale of land to Goldboro LNG for \$3.2M, leased additional lands, and negotiated a Community Benefits Agreement for a LNG Facility to be located in the Goldboro Industrial Park. We have also negotiated Option to Purchase Agreements and pending Community Benefits Agreements with AC LNG Ltd. and Ko Yo Canada Ltd. to facilitate two separate LNG facilities in the Melford Industrial Park. He attended the FCM conference in Edmonton and as owners of two small windfarms and one large scale windfarm, Sable Wind, he attended the CanWea conference in Montreal. He travelled to Alabama as part of a due diligence trip centered around an option to lease agreement that the Municipality has negotiated with Vulcan Materials for a 50 year tidewater quarry operation. The Municipality of the District of Guysborough business activities have already resulted in our revenues being boosted by millions of dollars a year and potentially over the course of the next decade and beyond, these revenues can be boosted by 10's of Millions dollars if some of the existing projects in various stages of development become a reality. Travel is a necessary tool of business development.

3) Who approves travel and conference expenses for the CAO and other staff? Are the decisions made in public council sessions or during in-camera sessions. If they are made in-camera, are those decisions/motions ever published in council minutes?

Council approves Council and CAO travel either during public sessions or during the budget process. The CAO approves all other staff travel.

Regards,

Susan Allen
CBC News
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902-420-4135