

RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

JANUARY 10, 2000; 7:00 P.M.

Location: D'Escousse Parish Hall

Warden Cotton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Clerk took roll call of Councillors.

Items Added to the Agenda

Warden Cotton indicated that there were six items to be added to the agenda including Stem-Net Training, a request for a letter of support from SENCEN, the recommendation of a Tourism Facilitator, a request for clarification of funding by the Richmond Arena, the condition of a guard rail in Poirierville and the proclamation of Literacy week.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Stone that the Items added be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Review of Minutes: December 13, 1999

In response to a question from Councillor Sampson, Warden Cotton indicated that the Minutes were correct, indicating that the Minister originally offered a four-year commitment for use of the Court House without additional funding.

Moved by Councillor Goyetche, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the Minutes of December 13, 1999 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Presentations:

(a) Island Community Justice Society re: Services

Council agreed to table this issue until a later date due to the absence of the presenters.

(b) Economic Development Staff re: Skills Inventory Project

Mr. Robert MacDonald, Economic Development Officer, indicated that this project was made possible through the support of HRDC, SENCEN, the Louisdale Cap Site as well as the Municipality of Richmond. Mr. MacDonald indicated that a total of 7143 residents were approached of which 6283 responded positively to the survey. Most of those residents who did not wish to respond were retired.

In response to questions, Mr. Robert MacDonald indicated that most residents perceived this project as positive.

The Clerk indicated that HRDC was a major financial contributor, and should be commended.

Councillor Goyetche indicated that we could also use the results of the survey to examine where we are lacking so that we can target areas that training is required.

Mr. Robert MacDonald indicated the interest of the Nova Scotia Community College, to use the results in order to provide customized training.

Committee Reports

Deputy Warden Boudreau presented the Committee of the Whole Report.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Beaton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and commit to the agreement negotiated with the Province for the renovations required in the Fire Marshall's report dated December 9, 1999, on a 50/50 basis, to a total maximum of \$140,000; and further moved that staff be authorized to award the tenders required in order to implement these recommendations, at a maximum budget of \$140,000. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that the Municipality elect a Mayor in the October 2000 election. Motion lost (3-7; Nays - Warden Cotton, Deputy Warden Boudreau and Councillors Goyetche, Beaton, Bourque, McNamara and Johnson; Ayes – Councillors Sampson, MacPhee and Stone).

Deputy Warden Boudreau indicated that the Committee of the Whole had referred the matter of the election of a Mayor or Warden directly to this Council Meeting.

Each Councillor expressed their opinion on the issue.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Johnson that a plebiscite be held on this issue, on the same ballot as the municipal election in October, requesting the support or opposition of voters to the issue of a Mayor elected at large.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Johnson that this issue be referred to the January Committee of the Whole Meeting, for a recommendation to Council. Motion carried.

The Clerk suggested that the solicitor provide information on the authority of Council to proceed with this suggested plebiscite.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the Committee of the Whole Report be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

(a) Department of Transportation re: Highway 104 Upgrade

The Clerk indicated that the response of the Department of Transportation was very positive to the upgrading of Highway 104 and that the Municipality should continue to pursue this endeavor.

Councillor MacPhee indicated that the upgrading of the Trunk 4 highway should not be put on the back burner or overlooked especially now considering traffic from the construction of the new school.

Moved by Councillor Goyetche, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Council authorize staff to continue to make representation to the Department of Transportation on this issue. Motion carried.

(b) Hon. Michael Baker re: Court House Improvements

(c) Hon. Angus MacIssac re: Municipal Election Act

Moved by Councillor Goyetche, seconded by Councillor Goyetche that Council authorize the engagement of a Returning Officer for the upcoming municipal election. Motion carried.

(d) Telile re: Thank You

(e) U.N.S.M./DMA re: Roles and Responsibilities Review

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Bourque that discussions on this issue be referred to a special Committee of the Whole Meeting and further that U.N.S.M. be advised that the Municipality has concerns and that these will be forwarded shortly. Motion carried.

Council agreed that a Special meeting to discuss the recommendations of the Municipal-Provincial Steering Committee on January 24, 2000.

(f) Claire Boyd re: Retirement

The Clerk indicated that Claire Boyd an employee of the Municipality for over 30 yrs. has submitted a letter of resignation.

Council agreed to celebrate Claire Boyd's retirement with a lunch, providing her with a gift of appreciation for her many years of service.

Items Added to the Agenda

Councillor Bourque indicated that he received notice of Stem-Net training where over 2000 war memorials are to be posted to the Web. He indicated that many legions have not been notified of this.

Moved by Councillor Bourque seconded by Deputy Warden Boudreau that a copy of the notification be sent to all Legion Branches in Richmond and also to Port Hawkesbury in case they are not aware. Motion carried.

Warden Cotton indicated that SENCEN had requested a letter of support from the Municipality, that would include the approximate funds that the Municipality expends in the area of information technology. Warden Cotton indicated that SENCEN were not requesting any financial support.

Moved by Councillor Goyetche, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that a letter of support be provided to SENCEN for their Information Technology Project. Motion carried.

The Clerk indicated that the Richmond Arena expressed appreciation for the grants provided by the Municipality for the current year, but requested clarification with regard to funding for their capital improvements for future years.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor McNamara that funding for the Richmond Arena of \$15,000. per year continue for four years, that is the current year plus three additional years. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor Bourque that a letter be sent to the Minister of Transportation requesting that immediate review and action be taken in replacing the deteriorating guardrail in Poirierville, noting that this is the second request to the Minister's Office without positive results, further moving that a copy be sent to the MLA, Robert Carol (DOT, Port Hawkesbury) and Councillor Beaton. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Richmond County declares the week of January 23-29, 2000 as Family Literacy week and acknowledges and proclaims support for Family Literacy week by the Municipality of Richmond. Motion carried

Warden Cotton advised that an Adhoc Sub-Committee had met to review the proposals from EDM and Plan Ahead Event Management and Tourism Consulting for the project

of a tourism plan/tourism facilitator. The Sub-Committee is recommending that Plan Ahead Event Management and Tourism Consulting be engaged to carry out this work.

Moved by Councillor Goyetche, seconded by Councillor Beaton that the recommendation of the Sub-Committee be accepted and that Plan Ahead Event Management and Tourism Consulting be engaged to carry out the tourism plan/tourism facilitation. Motion carried.

Warden Cotton indicated that the Recreation Department had submitted an application on behalf of the Municipality to E.C.B.C. for funding to assist with this work, however, there may be competing applications, and letters of support would be helpful.

Moved by Councillor Goyetche, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Municipal Council authorize a letter of support to Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation for the application submitted by Clifford Boudreau and further moved that E.C.B.C. be advised that this project has the support of the Council of the Municipality of the County of Richmond. Motion carried.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

In response to a question from Alena MacDonald, a reporter from CJFX, Warden Cotton indicated that Councillor MacPhee, Councillor Sampson and Councillor Stone were in support of having an elected Mayor whereas, Councillor McNamara, Councillor Bourque, Councillor Goyetche, Councillor Johnson, Deputy Warden Boudreau, Councillor Beaton as well as himself were in favor of the status quo.

In response to a question from Alena MacDonald, The Clerk indicated that there is no fixed date as to when the repairs for the Court House are to be completed however the priorities of the Fire Marshall will be completed immediately.

In response to a request from Alena MacDonald, Warden Cotton indicated that he would make available a copy of the project specification from SENCEN, which the Municipality will be supporting.

Warden Cotton acknowledged the presence of MLA, Michel Sampson as being in the audience.

MLA Sampson indicated that he decided to drop in because he received correspondence from Council regularly and thought it would be great to be here for discussions.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Goyetche that the meeting be adjourned.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.