

RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

FEBRUARY 14, 2000

Location: Lions Den, Louisdale

Warden Cotton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for O'Canada.

The Clerk took roll call of Councillors.

Items Added to the Agenda

Warden Cotton indicated he wished to add a report regarding storm damages; Department of Transportation priorities; Cape Breton separation; provincial hiring of 71 additional Social Services staff and the hearing date for the Utilities and Review Board boundaries review.

Warden Cotton indicated Bounty Bay would not be making a presentation this evening due to the weather.

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

Review of Minutes: January 10, 2000

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the minutes of January 10, 2000 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Presentations/Delegations:

(a) George Kyte/Community Health Board re: Provincial Health Consultation

Warden Cotton welcomed Mr. George Kyte to the meeting.

Mr. Kyte indicated the Provincial Health Council has been asked by the Government of Nova Scotia to develop a list of health services that must be delivered to Nova Scotians and he noted he had distributed a survey booklet and urged Councillors to fill it out and mail it in. He indicated there was a public meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 22,

2000 at 7:00 p.m. in the Strait Richmond Hospital Cafeteria for input in developing a list of health services for communities.

A question and answer period followed.

Warden Cotton thanked Mr. Kyte for attending the meeting.

Committee Reports

(a) Committee of the Whole

Deputy Warden Boudreau presented the monthly report of the Committee of the Whole (copy attached).

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that a plebiscite on the issue of an elected Mayor/or a Warden appointed by Council, not be held during the upcoming municipal election. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Bourque that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and authorize the implementation of the recommendations of the Jacques Whitford study regarding the establishment of a municipal development plan to implement zones to protect the Louisdale/Evanston water supply and further moved that the District Planning Commission be approached to carry out the implementation of this work. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and donate this parcel of land to the Point Tupper Heritage Association for \$1.00, conditional on an appraisal providing a fair market value for the property of less than \$10,000. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and adopt the policy attached on Youth Leadership Development Grants. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded Councillor Beaton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and provide the funding for the current year for District #3, unserviced area CED funding, in the amount of approximately \$3,700 to the Isle Madame Day Care Association in order to assist with their project. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and provide the CED funding for unserviced areas for District #9, in the amount of approximately \$5,000, to the

L'Ardoise Economic Association for Development, to assist in establishing and operating their organization. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and give approval to the funding required to supply and install street lights, four poles, and related anchors and guys at a total cost of approximately \$3,110.00, for the Little Harbour area in District #9. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Goyetche that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and authorize the Richmond Villa Board of Directors to sell the Richmond Villa, at fair market value. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Bourque that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and authorize the sale of the two lots adjacent to the business of Bavaria Studio (Oscar Kobb) in St. Peter's to Mr. Kobb, because they meet the criteria of the land sale policy regarding adjacency to his property and job creation, and also because they are no longer required for municipal purposes; and further moved that the sale be conditional on Mr. Kobb agreeing to pay the appraised fair market value, and the cost of survey, with the conveyance proceeding by quit claim deed. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and give approval to a tentative negotiated settlement with staff, to include a 6% salary increase, improvements to the dental plan (cost of one half of 1%), improvements to life insurance and cost-sharing on benefits (cost of 2.33%), one additional floater, an extension of the computer purchase program, and an agreement to review in good faith the pension plan, through the Pension Committee, with respect to the buy-back of past years service with a contribution from the Municipality. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Bourque that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and write off the business occupancy tax on the property assessed to Doug Marchand Enterprises Limited (account #5659701), together with the interest on outstanding commercial and sewer taxes (account #1295454) and a side lot (account #3019233). Motion carried.

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

Correspondence:

(a) Human Resources Development Canada re: Richmond County Services

Warden Cotton indicated this letter was a result of a letter sent to the Minister of Human Resources Development Canada regarding services.

(b) L'Ardoise Economic Association for Development re: Tourism Plan (2)

(c) Staff re: Aquaculture Proposal

Warden Cotton noted he had indicated to Bounty Bay that public meetings would have to be held prior to Council dealing with this issue. He indicated he had simply invited them to attending this evening's meeting to answer questions regarding their proposal.

Several Councillors indicated they had received calls from individuals who were very concerned about this issue and the need to hold public information sessions.

Councillor Bourque indicated that Bounty Bay should fulfill their mandate as part of the Department of Fisheries' protocol and hold well-publicized public meetings.

Councillor McNamara indicated that individuals living in close proximity to the proposed aquaculture site were very concerned about the impact of this site on their property values and recreational opportunities. Councillor McNamara indicated that these residents needed more information, and she requested that they be given an opportunity to make a presentation on the same agenda as Bounty Bay Shellfish Inc., should the company approach Council again.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Deputy Warden Boudreau that Council table this issue until Bounty Bay Shellfish Inc. have completed the federal and provincial governments legal protocol and requirements regarding public consultation and public hearings in the community that they propose to establish their business and further moved that concerned citizens of our community be provided the opportunity to appear on the same agenda as Bounty Bay, should they make a future presentation to Council. Motion carried.

(d) Department of Municipal Affairs re: Land Registration Act

The Clerk indicated that one area has changed whereby the previous requirement was to have a Registry Office in each county and they are now proposing to only have one in each District.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Richmond Municipal Council express support for the proposed introduction of technology in the draft Land Registration Act; and further moved that Council express concern, and a desire to maintain Registry Offices in each county, in order to avoid contributing to the decline of rural economies; and further moved that copies of the correspondence be sent to the Premier, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and our MLA. Motion carried (unanimous).

(e) Department of Municipal Affairs re: Uniform Assessment

Councillor Bourque declared a conflict of interest with regards to items (e) and (f) relating to uniform assessment and exempt properties/taxable status indicating he is an employee of the Assessment Department and he left his seat during discussion of these items.

(f) Department of Municipal Affairs re: Exempt Properties/Taxable Status

(g) U.N.S.M. re: HST Rebate/NSPC Taxes

Warden Cotton noted the importance of the NSPC tax issue to Richmond County, and the lack of attention paid to the issue since the U.N.S.M. has adopted it as one of its top three priorities.

(h) Isle Madame Historical Society re: Tax Exemption

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Bourque that this request be tabled until budget deliberations. Motion carried.

Items Added to the Agenda

Warden Cotton indicated a report outlining the cost per district of the storm damages that had occurred as a result of the January 21, 2000 storm had been distributed to each Councillor (copy attached).

The Clerk indicated that staff had put together some photographs, included a summary of the damages by district, and had also separated the damages that had occurred to public properties. He noted the Municipality would continue to gather information as it comes in.

Several Councillors noted that there were still a significant number of quotes that have still not been received. The Clerk indicated he would continue to gather and compile information.

Warden Cotton indicated a meeting had been held this afternoon with John MacEachern who briefed Councillors regarding the process. He indicated a meeting should be arranged with Premier Hamm as soon as possible and bring a copy of the preliminary list to that meeting. Warden Cotton indicated that a meeting with Senator Boudreau would be appropriate, after meeting with Premier Hamm.

In response to a question from Councillor MacPhee regarding cost-sharing, Warden Cotton indicated the first million dollars would be coming from the province; the second million would be shared 50/50 (federal/provincial); the third million being shared 70 federal/30 provincial; the fourth million being shared 80 federal/20 provincial. Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Goyetche that Municipal Council request that the MLA establish a meeting with the Premier, as soon as possible,

in order to provide the Premier with information on the damages, and to request provincial and federal disaster relief. Motion carried (unanimous).

The Clerk received permission to share the information with the provincial Emergency Measures staff.

Warden Cotton indicated the MLA had provided him with a copy of correspondence from the Hon. Ron Russell who was requesting that a list of transportation priorities be sent to him as soon as possible. Warden Cotton urged Councillors to contact the MLA as soon as possible with their list of work they wished carried out in their districts.

In response to a question from Councillor MacPhee, Warden Cotton indicated the letter was dated January 26 and had been faxed to the MLA today.

Warden Cotton indicated an invitation had been received from Scott MacLean for a meeting to be held on February 19, 2000 in Baddeck with regards to separation of Cape Breton.

Warden Cotton suggested that a few Councillors attend this meeting and speak strongly against the issue and requested that Councillors who were interested in attending let him know during the week.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Municipal Council send representation to the meeting to be held in Baddeck on February 19, 2000 and strongly oppose the bid to separate. Motion carried.

Warden Cotton indicated the Province were hiring 71 much needed additional Social Services staff.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Johnson that a letter be written to Premier John Hamm, with copies to Cabinet Ministers, congratulating him for hiring the much needed 71 additional Social Services staff. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Goyetche, seconded by Councillor Sampson that a get well greeting be sent to the Hon. John Chataway who has recently undergone emergency surgery. Motion carried.

Warden Cotton indicated the Utility and Review Board had scheduled a hearing for March 6, 2000 at the New Horizons Seniors Citizens Club in Arichat and requested the solicitor to speak on the process to be followed regarding the hearing.

Mr. Pickup indicated there is a 25% variance used (from average voters per district) and indicated both District #4 and District #8 were greater than the 25% variance. The Board may look at consolidation or place part of those districts in other districts, and he felt Councillors should make every effort to attend the hearing and request many residents in their areas to speak on the status quo and support Council's position because the great

support and representation at the last boundaries review hearing worked very well in keeping our present boundaries.

The Clerk indicated advertisements will be placed in the local newspapers notifying the public of the scheduled hearing.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

Vicki Jenssen asked “what business “, did Economic Development staff have, in requesting that Council consider a letter of support for Bounty Bay. Ms. Jenssen proposed that the Municipality should not get involved in contentious economic development proposals such as this one, and expressing her opinion in that the municipal involvement in the Philip Environmental proposal was similar to this.

Terry White asked questions, and requested that a community group from his area be given the opportunity to appear before Council, at the same time as Bounty Bay, if Bounty Bay is given that opportunity.

Peter Maschlanka, Colin Samson, Raymond Samson, Rosemary Burns and Joe Doyle commented on the Bounty Bay Shellfish proposal.

Alena MacDonald requested a copy of the storm damage report; asked who John MacEachern was, requested clarification on the 25% variance on municipal districts and requested information on Lot 1120 mentioned regarding Bounty Bay’s proposal.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Goyetche that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

There being no further business, Warden Cotton adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.