

**RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**MARCH 13, 2000**

Location: Tara Lynn Community Centre, River Bourgeois

Deputy Warden Boudreau called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.; and the meeting observed the playing of O'Canada.

The Clerk took roll call of Councillors.

Items Added to the Agenda

Deputy Warden Boudreau indicated that there were seven items to be added to tonight's agenda including the advertising for representatives to serve on the board of the Super Port Corporation, a presentation by the Strait Watch Water Ways Association Steering Committee, the Conference on Community Development to be held in Sydney, Oil and Gas prices (Councillor McNamara), School Closures (Councillor Sampson), Economic Development funding in District 7, and a request for a grant from District 7.

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

Review of Minutes: February 14, 2000

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the Minutes of February 14, 2000 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Petitions and/or Delegations:

(a) I.A.M.S. re: Services

Ms. Madeline Libbus and Ms. Pat Gorham made a presentation to Councilor behalf of the Island Community Justice Society.

Ms. Gorham indicated that their organization is in the midst of significant change as a result of the provinces new Restorative Justice Program, noting that the new system allows the youth offender to be held accountable, allows the victim to have a voice and gets the community involved.

Ms. Libbus noted that there is great support in the Strait Area, indicating that there is an proactive Advisory Committee comprised of members of the Police, School, Recreation as well as the Chamber.

Ms. Libbus indicated that there are five volunteers that have dedicated their time towards R.C.M.P. training and that efforts have resulted in a 98% completion or success rate of the program.

In response to a question from Councillor Sampson, Ms. Gorham indicated that the Island Community Justice Society has a working relationship with over 250 organizations in various communities and this provides for volunteers for both the offender as well as the victim, including outlets for community service.

Council indicated that they were very pleased with the approach of the Island Community Justice Society and expressed significant support.

Moved by Warden Cotton, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that the grant request of the Island Community Justice Society be tabled until budget deliberations. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Beaton that a letter of support be written on behalf of Council to the Island Community Justice Society indicating Councils support for the new Restorative Justice Program. Motion carried.

(b) Strait Watch Water Ways Association, Steering Committee re: Bounty Bay Shellfish Inc.

Ms. Anne Carter, Mr. Peter Maschlanka, Mr. Terry White, Mr. Colin Sampson and Mr. Robert Walsh presented on behalf of the Steering Committee.

Ms. Carter presented the report of the Steering Committee, explaining in detail several reasons why Council should not support Bounty Bay Shellfish Inc. including: restriction on navigation, the negative impact on tourism and development, loss of property values, negative impact on employment opportunities, the negative impact on the socio-economic fabric of Richmond, the environmental impact and the opposition to the West Richmond Development Plan.

In response to a question from Councillor Bourque, Warden Cotton indicated that the waterways involved with the plans of Bounty Bay Shellfish Inc. interfere with 2100 acres involved with the west Richmond Development Plan.

In response to a comment from Councillor Goyetche, Warden Cotton confirmed that Council has not received an application from Bounty Bay Shellfish Inc., however representation by Bounty Bay Shellfish Inc. was made to the Municipal Economic Development Officer requesting Councils support, noting that Bounty Bay Shellfish Inc. had been invited to appear before Council but has not done so.

In response to a question from Councillor Sampson, Mr. Terry White indicated that in early February the members of his Committee met with representatives of Bounty Bay.

Councillor Beaton indicated that he has dealt with such situations in his community and believes that the magnitude of the Bounty Bay operation is too great not to get involved.

Several Councillors expressed that they would not support the application of Bounty Bay Shellfish Inc. to set up operations in Richmond County.

Peter Maschlanka addressed Council, indicating that his business involves land development and sale of land in Richmond County to customers from Europe. He indicated that he estimates his customers spend approximately \$50 million in the Richmond County area, and the site of the buoys from the mussel farms in the harbour would have a serious impact on this business.

Warden Cotton noted that the West Richmond Plan proposes heavy industrial development in most of this area, and the leases would appear to conflict with some of the navigational uses of the water that these industries would require.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Beaton that a letter be written to the Minister of Fisheries, to indicate that Richmond Municipal Council does not support the proposal of Bounty Bay Shellfish Inc., to locate a mussel aquaculture business in the waters of west Richmond County. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Bourque, seconded by Warden Cotton that the meeting recess at 8:30 p.m. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Boudreau reconvene the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Warden Cotton indicated that he had been advised by Legal Counsel that the motion regarding Bounty Bay Shellfish, was in direct conflict with a previous motion to table, which was adopted at the February 14<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting.

The solicitor has advised that the motion must be rescinded, with unanimous approval.

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that the motion adopted at the February 14<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting, to table representation regarding Bounty Bay Shellfish Inc. be rescinded. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Beaton that a letter be written to the Minister of Fisheries, to indicate that Richmond Municipal Council does not support the proposal of Bounty Bay Shellfish Inc., to locate a mussel aquaculture business in the waters of west Richmond County. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Boudreau indicated that he has been advised by legal Council that the previous regarding Bounty Bay Shellfish Inc. was in direct conflict with a previous motion to table the issue and must be rescinded.

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that the motion to table the issue of Bounty Bay Shellfish Inc. be rescinded. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Beaton that representation be made to Bounty Bay Shellfish Inc. on behalf on Council declaring that Richmond County Council will not be supporting their application to set up operations in Richmond County. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

(a) Committee of the Whole Report for the Month of March, 2000

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Bourque that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and adopt the following as the three year capital projections for the Municipality of Richmond, with the stipulation that if further testing determines that THM levels in Arichat are a problem, then Arichat will become the #2 priority:

1.	Louisdale Well #1 Study and Re-Commissioning	-	\$20,000
2.	Louisdale Water Tower Replacement	-	300,000
3.	Evanston Water Tower Re-Painting	-	100,000
4.	Evanston Sewage Treatment Plant Replacement	-	800,000
5.	Arichat Lift Station #3 Replacement	-	130,000
6.	Arichat Lift Station #4 Replacement	-	190,000
7.	Arichat Water Treatment Plant Upgrade	-	1,400,000
8.	Arichat Supplemental Water Supply	-	1,100,000
9.	Arichat Sewage Collection System I/I Study	-	25,000
10.	Arichat Sewage Collection System Repairs	-	200,000
11.	Arichat Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrade	-	1,500,000

Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Beaton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and create one full-time position by combining dog control, Emergency Measures, and a seasonal commitment to the Public Works Department and further move that Council create a part-time seasonal position in the Public Works Department, and further moved that the positions committed to the Public Works Department be assigned to repairing the backlog of meters and to providing seasonal and vacation support, and further moved that the staffing pattern be evaluated following the construction season. Motion carried

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and approve of the tariff of fees and expenses for the Municipal and School Board elections with the following revisions:

- Section 9 “\$30.00 for attendance to receive instruction from the Returning Officer plus mileage”;
- Section 11 “for attendance to receive instructions from Returning Officer \$30.00 plus mileage”;
- Section 12 “for attendance to receive instructions from Returning Officer \$30.00 plus mileage”.

Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and award the tender for the municipal insurance for the year commencing April 1, 2000 to AON Reid Stenhouse, at their low tender bid. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and authorize an amendment to our municipal medical benefits plan to include all regular employees of the Municipality, including Public Works staff. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Stone that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and establish a nominal employee/employer relationship with the Executive Director of the Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission (John Bain) permitting him to be Administrator of unsightly and dangerous premises and further moved that the C.A.O. be authorized to implement this employee relationship, in accordance with our policies. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and delegate all authority of the Unsightly and Dangerous Premises By-Law to the Planning Advisory Committee, with the exception of demolition orders/hearings that must be authorized by Council. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Warden Cotton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and give approval of the name “Trout Lake Drive” to the private road in a new subdivision at Third Lake in Municipal District #7 and further moved that this recommendation be sent forward to the Department of Transportation and the District Planning Commission for their approval and further moved that the Department of Transportation be requested to provide information on erecting signs on private roads. Motion carried.

Councillor Johnson noted that she spoke with representatives of the Department of Transportation regarding signage for private roads and they indicated that they will not erect signs on private roads.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and provide a grant to the West Richmond Economic Development Group in the amount of approximately \$5,077.00, to be used to assist them to develop and promote their community and leverage external funding, conditional on the group supplying the information required in the Council policy on this grant fund. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and authorize a grant of \$5,276.00 for District #10 (75% x \$7,034.00) to the L'Archeveque Fishermen's Association in District #10 from our Community Economic Development Fund for unserved areas, to be used for their construction project in L'Archeveque to replace buildings destroyed by storm damage; conditional on the group providing the information required in the Council policy governing this fund. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Johnson that the remaining funds in the Community Economic Development Fund for unserved areas be carried to the next fiscal year. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Stone move that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and award a grant of \$500 to the St. Peter's Village Commission, to assist in funding the Tall Ships visit that is occurring this summer, with the funding to be taken from the CED grant fund for unserved areas. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Municipality enter into a two-year employment contract with Allan MacDonald, and also with Robert MacDonald, to commence April 1, 2000, with the terms as outlined in the Clerks memo. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Warden Cotton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Municipality enter into a one-year employment contract with Tracy Skinner, with terms as outlined in the Clerks confidential report. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and appoint Robert J. Sampson of Louisdale as the returning officer for the upcoming elections. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and give approval to the information technology project proposed by staff, to involve a survey and workshops for the Business and Community sectors. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Sampson that the Report of the Committee of the Whole for the Month of March 2000 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

(c) Planning Advisory Committee Report for the Month of March 2000.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Bourque that Council accept the recommendation of the Planning Advisory Committee and write to the Province of Nova Scotia, suggesting that the blue and white fluorescent 911 signs currently in use in many parts of the Province, be ordered to be a provincial standard, noting that this request is supported by all fire service providers in the area. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that report of the Planning Advisory Committee for the Month of March 2000 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

(a) Department of Justice re: R.C.M.P. Costs

The Clerk indicated that correspondence was received from the Department of Justice outlining proposed increases in R.C.M.P. costs and also noting that they will provide further information when available.

In response to a question from Councillor Goyetche, the Clerk indicated that he will request reimbursement for the absence of staff in the Arichat and St. Peters detachments.

(b) Department of Environment re: Solid Waste Strategy

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Bourque that Municipal Council advise the provincial Department of Environment that the Municipality of Richmond will comply with the provincial solid waste resource management strategy, by working with the other municipal units in the Cape Breton Region to implement the management plan for the solid waste region of Cape Breton that was approved by Municipal Council and the Minister of Environment. Motion carried.

(c) Director of Recreation re: Festivals & Events

The Clerk indicated that Mr. Clifford Boudreau received a letter from ECBC indicating that they will no longer offer funding festivals and events, however Mr. Boudreau has become aware that ECBC will continue funding for other municipalities.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Warden Cotton represent Council and arrange a meeting with ECBC regarding the negative impact that removal of this funding will result in. Motion carried.

(d) Province of Nova Scotia re: Community Use of Schools

(e) January 21 Storm Damage

The Clerk indicated that there were several pieces of correspondence regarding storm damage including that from the Emergency Measures Organization regarding the ways disaster relief works and how federal assistance is available, the MLA regarding his request to meet with the Premier, the Department of the Environment indicating they will attend the meeting with the Premier and from Jamie Muir, Department of Health, indicating to MLA Michel Samson that there is no need for a meeting with the Premier to discuss storm damage.

Deputy Warden Boudreau noted that Hon Jamie Muir has agreed to meet tomorrow to discuss storm damage and that Councillor Johnson, Councillor Sampson, Mr. Stewart MacDonald, MLA Michel Samson and himself will be attending.

(f) U.N.S.M. re: Natural Gas Taxation

The Clerk indicated that Duart MacAuley has provided a summary of what was agreed upon at a recent meeting in Truro regarding Natural Gas Negotiations.

(g) Canadian Oil Heat Association re: Natural Gas Taxation

(h) H.R.M. Natural Gas Taxation

(i) La Picasse re: ECBC Funding

Moved by Councillor Goyetche, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that a letter be written to ECBC indicating that the Municipality has their own strategic plans and that there is a legal agreement with the RDA that prohibits them from getting involved with economic development in Richmond County. Motion carried.

(j) Strait Area Labour Council re: EI Benefits

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Stone that Richmond Council support the efforts of the Strait Area District Labour Council and request a federal review of the UI(EI) Act, as soon as possible in order to increase benefits to their former levels. Motion carried unanimous.

(k) Chamber of Commerce re: Federal EI Changes

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Richmond Municipal Council support the recent federal government budget initiatives to extend employment insurance parental leave benefits and promote a more family friendly environment in federally regulated work places and further moved that Richmond



Council oppose the position of the Chamber of Commerce, which has requested that letters of opposition be submitted to the federal and provincial governments. Motion carried.

(l) District Planning Commission re: Development Officer Appointment

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Dawn Sutherland be appointed as an Alternative Development Officer effective April 1, 2000. Motion carried.

(m) F.C.M. re: Federal Budget/Infrastructure (2)

(n) Department of Municipal Affairs re: Temporary Borrowing Resolution

Moved by Councillor Stone, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that the resolution from the Department of Housing and Municipal Affairs be approved regarding the funding for the St. Peters Fire Department in the amount of \$160,000.00 with a term of five years. Motion carried.

(o) Le Conseil de Developpement Economique re: Economic Development Council

The Clerk indicated that this was a press release from Le Conseil indicating that the Province and Federal Government have confirmed contribution to an economic development agency for Acadians and Francophones in Nova Scotia.

(p) NSPI re: Good Neighbor Energy Fund

(q) Municipality of Barrington re: Single License Plate System

The Clerk indicated that the Municipality of Barrington was requesting support for having the two-plate system reinforced.

Council agreed that this was not a drastic issue, and that registration costs would increase because of it.

(r) Stora Hockey Tournament re: Request for Donation

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Warden Cotton that this item be tabled until budget deliberations. Motion carried.

(s) Port Hawkesbury Highland Dance Association re: Request for Donation

Moved by Councillor MacPhee seconded by Councillor McNamara that this item be tabled until budget deliberations. Motion carried.

(t) Oceanview Wildlife Museum re: Tax Exemption

Moved by Councillor Stone, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that this item be tabled until budget deliberations. Motion carried.

(u) Lakeside Community Association re: Tax Exemption

Moved by Councillor Stone, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that this item be tabled until budget deliberations. Motion carried.

#### Items Added to the Agenda

Moved by Warden Cotton, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Municipal Council advertise for a representative from Richmond County, to represent our community on the Strait Superport Committee. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Boudreau indicated that a Conference on Community Development will be held on April 6-8, 2000, in Sydney at the Coast Guard College entitled "Taking Root" and that those who are interested should contact Warden Cotton as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that a letter be sent to the Province encouraging the government to alleviate some of the tax on gas and heating fuel and that a copy be sent to the U.N.S.M. Motion carried.

Councillor Sampson indicated that pending school closures in the fall there are several unanswered questions that should be posed to the School Board regarding condition and date of closure and perhaps that discussions between that School Board and the Municipality should take place.

Discussions ensued.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Council refer the issue of turnover of schools to the Municipal Solicitor, requesting his opinion on the process of turnover by the School Board to the County, including the condition of buildings, the proper process to be followed in the divestiture by the School Board, including compliance with Sections 17 to 23 of the Education Act. Motion carried.

Moved by Warden Cotton, seconded by Councillor McNamara that a meeting be arranged with representatives of the Strait Regional School Board to get an understanding in reference to inventory/condition of the schools to be turned over. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Goyetche that the South Loop Economic Development Commission and the River Bourgeois Economic Development Commission be awarded grants by Council from the CED fund for unserved areas and further moved that the division of the funds for District #7 between these two groups be decided at a later date. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the grant request by the Oceanview Wildlife Association be tabled until budget deliberations. Motion carried.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

There were no questions.

Moved by Councillor Bourque, seconded by Councillor Sampson that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.