

**RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**MAY 8, 2000**

Location: Court House, Arichat

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

Councillor Sampson requested that fellow Councillors observe a one minute of silence in memory of Frank Mombourquette, who was a Municipal Councillor from 1952 to 1967, and who will be sadly missed by the residents of L'Ardoise for his involvement in the community.

The Clerk took roll call of Councillors.

Warden Cotton noted Councillor Bourque was unable to attend due to sickness and Councillor Johnson was on vacation.

Items Added to the Agenda

Warden Cotton indicated he wished to add the Provincial Health Council Findings and Threat to Emergency Room Services in Richmond County; the May 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting with the Hon. Jamie Muir regarding storm damage and the May 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting with Small Craft Harbours.

Warden Cotton requested and received unanimous consent for Deputy Warden Boudreau to add a letter of thanks to E.C.B.C. regarding the OTC Conference and the results of the THM testing in Arichat.

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

Review of Minutes: April 10, 2000

Moved by Councillor Goyetche, seconded by Councillor Beaton that the minutes of April 10, 2000 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

## Petitions and/or Delegations

### (a) Canada Post re: New Service Delivery

Warden Cotton noted representatives of Canada Post were not in attendance.

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor McNamara that letters be sent to the President of Canada Post and the Minister in Charge of Canada Post indicating that representatives have failed to attend two Council Meetings and request the reason why they did not attend and request information on what the new services will be for Richmond County. Motion carried.

### (b) St. Peter's and Area Lions Club re: Grant Request

Warden Cotton welcomed Mr. Gerry Gibson, Mr. Alfred Sampson and Mr. Kelvin Digout to the meeting.

Mr. Gibson presented the brief on behalf of the Lions Club indicating they were requesting financial support from Municipal Council in the amount of \$20,000 for the second phase of their marina expansion projection.

Mr. Gibson noted the Lions Club wishes to revamp the existing marina in St. Peter's to include a much broader base of service and to expand the clientele by offering to the tourist and local boating public a wide variety of existing and new services. He noted they also wished to expand existing services to offer such items as being able to safely and environmentally flush sewage systems of boats.

Mr. Gibson indicated funding had been requested from both the federal and provincial governments but no response had been received as of yet and he noted he has been communicating with E.C.B.C. regarding funding.

A question and answer period followed.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Goyetche that the report of the St. Peter's & Area Lions Club be accepted as presented and that their grant request in the amount of \$20,000 be referred to the Committee on budget deliberations. Motion carried.

Warden Cotton thanked Mr. Gibson, Mr. Sampson and Mr. Digout for attending the meeting and commended them for their work with the Club.

### (c) Little Harbour Port Authority re: Grant Request

Warden Cotton welcomed Mr. Blaire Martell to the meeting.

Mr. Martell indicated the Little Harbour Port Authority is a non-profit community group which is proposing to construct an ice producing plant at their facility in Lower L'Ardoise which would allow the local and surrounding fishermen access to freshly produced ice for use in the lobster, snow crab and shrimp fishery, and which would maintain the quality of the live seafood while it is being gathered and transported. He indicated the ice plant would utilize the structure that houses the ice plant. He noted ice would be produced and sold to the buyers and would also rent space to the local lobster and shrimp buyers to establish a dockside buying station. Mr. Martell indicated an individual would be hired and noted the duties would also include harbour maintenance. Mr. Martell indicated the estimated cost of the entire project would be \$135,000.

Mr. Martell noted Little Harbour was the only Core Harbour between Point Tupper and Louisbourg and Small Crafts Harbour have committed to maintain the harbour.

A question and answer period followed.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the report of the Little Harbour Port Authority be accepted as presented and that their grant request be referred to the Committee on budget deliberations. Motion carried.

Mr. Martell noted Nova Scotia Power had indicated a fee of approximately \$50,000 to bring power to Little Harbour and asked if the Municipality could write a letter requesting assistance.

Warden Cotton indicated that Nova Scotia Power has made a commitment to be proactive with the Municipality in job creation.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Deputy Warden Boudreau that a letter be written to Nova Scotia Power requesting that they provide assistance with acquiring three phase power for the Little Harbour Port Authority at their facility in L'Ardoise. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Beaton that the motion previously made regarding Canada Post be rescinded. Motion carried.

Warden Cotton noted representatives from Canada Post had arrived and he called a five minute recess at 7:50 p.m. in order to give them an opportunity to set up for their presentation.

Warden Cotton reconvened the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Warden Cotton welcomed Mr. Terry MacDonald and Mr. Norm Jones to the meeting.

Mr. MacDonald apologized to Council for being late, indicating that a phone message and fax indicating a change in the location of the meeting from Louisdale to Arichat, had not been delivered to him by support staff.

Mr. MacDonald showed a slide presentation on the new program that has been instituted on “Solutions for Service Improvements for Underserved Customers”. Mr. MacDonald indicated this was a Canada-wide initiative to improve mail service to residents in smaller communities and he noted there were approximately 400 customers at present that were not on permanent delivery. He indicated Canada Post would be renovating lobbies at seven post offices in Richmond County.

Councillor Beaton noted there were mail boxes in deplorable conditions in his district and Mr. MacDonald suggested this information be reported to the Postmaster who will report this to Canada Post for replacement.

Councillor Goyetche expressed great concern with the postal service in Petit De Grat and indicated he has made numerous requests to have the post office re-opened in that community, which is the largest community in Richmond County, and noted there has been no effort from Canada Post to reinstate postal service in that multi-cultural community. The Canada Post representatives indicated they were not aware of this problem and have indicated they would investigate this matter and contact Councillor Goyetche.

In response to a question from the Clerk, Mr. MacDonald indicated he would be approaching Mr. John Bain for civic addresses for the Point Tupper area.

Warden Cotton thanked Mr. MacDonald and Mr. Jones for their presentation.

Notice of Motion – Deputy Warden Boudreau: To Establish a Policy on Streetlights, Appendix “A” (attached)

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Goyetche that Municipal Council establish a policy on streetlights, as attached in Appendix “A”. Motion carried.

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 Sampson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and adopt the Occupational Health and Safety Policies, attached as Schedule “A” and being Policy 001 “Sharing Responsibility for the Occupational Health and Safety Policy and Program”; Policy 002 “Structuring the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee – JOHSC”; Policy 006 “Documenting Safe Work Practices”; Policy 012 “Refusing Unsafe Work”; and Policy 015 “Locking and Tagging Out Energy Sources”. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that authority be given to the Warden to appoint an Island Councillor to the Strategic Planning Steering Committee, in consultation with the four Island Councillors. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that E.C.B.C. be approached regarding their criteria for FRAM funding, how much funding is available for Richmond County, and how much has been allocated to this point. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and authorize staff to arrange a partnership with St. Francis Xavier University to offer Skills Workshops in Richmond County for our CED and volunteer organizations. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that a letter be sent to the Department of Justice indicating disappointment with the continued erosion of court facilities and court sittings in Richmond County. 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 Richmond Housing Corporation to convey the property on which the Nicholas Denys Museum is located to the group that operates the museum and further moved that authority be given to the Richmond Housing Corporation to convey the property on which the East Richmond Medical Centre is located to the group operating that facility. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Beaton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and nominate Alan MacDonald as the Richmond Representative on the Strait Superport Authority. Motion carried (one nay – Councillor Goyetche).

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and authorize an area rate in District #9 of .16c per \$100, to be utilized for the purposes of the L'Ardoise Volunteer Fire Department. Motion carried.

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

(b) Planning Advisory Committee

Councillor McNamara presented the monthly report of the Planning Advisory Committee (copy attached).

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Deputy Warden Boudreau that Council accept the recommendation of the Planning Advisory Committee and adopt the West Richmond Municipal Development Plan and Zoning By-Law, as attached as Appendix "A" and "B" with First Reading approval being hereby given;

AND FURTHER MOVED that a Public Hearing be held on the West Richmond Municipal Development Plan and Zoning By-Law on May 29, 2000 at the Point Tupper Museum at 6:30 p.m., to be followed by Second Reading consideration at a Special Council Meeting to be held at 7:00 p.m.;

AND FURTHER MOVED that the former Municipal Development Plan and Zoning By-Law be rescinded, following approval of the proposed Municipal Development Plan and Zoning By-Law. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Beaton that Council accept the recommendation of the Planning Advisory Committee and approve of the proposed St. Peter's Plan and Zoning By-Law Amendments, and give First Reading approval to these amendments, as attached;

AND FURTHER MOVED that a Public Hearing be scheduled to discuss the amendments, with the Hearing to be held at 6:30 p.m. on June 5, 2000 at the St. Peter's Fire Hall, to be followed by a Special Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m. to consider Second Reading approval. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Sampson that the report of the Planning Advisory Committee for the month of May be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

(a) Fisheries and Oceans re: Arichat and Chapel Cove Wharves

Warden Cotton requested and received unanimous consent to discuss his items added regarding the meeting date with Small Crafts Harbour and the meeting with the Minister of Health regarding storm damage.

Warden Cotton indicated a meeting has been set for Thursday, May 18, 2000 at 5:00 p.m. at the Dundee Resort with Mr. Gerrior, Mr. MacDonald and Mr. Chaisson of Small Crafts Harbour. Warden Cotton indicated this meeting should not be public because he was unsure of their position at this time, and he felt a further consultation could be held with the public if that were necessary.

Warden Cotton indicated a meeting has been established with the Hon. Jamie Muir for 3:00 p.m. on May 11, 2000 in Halifax to address concerns regarding the storm policy. He

noted Deputy Warden Boudreau and Councillor Sampson would attend the meeting with him.

(b) Public Works and Government Services Canada re: Arichat Wharf

(c) Public Works and Government Services Canada re: Chapel Cove Wharf

(d) Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board re: Order and Decision of UARB to Confirm the Number and Boundaries of Polling Districts and to Confirm the Number of Councillors

(e) E.C.B.C. re: Project Administration

(f) Clerk re: Richmond Academy/Services

The Clerk indicated he has been communicating with the Ashford Group since last June but no response has been received as yet to indicate whether they will require water and sewer hook-up. He stressed the need to find out soon if our system needs to be upgraded in order to increase capacity to accommodate the school. He indicated he would report further to Council if they continue not to respond. He noted the Ashford Group had stated the land is owned by the Province, which is governed by provincial laws and they had indicated they did not require a building permit for the construction of the school.

Councillor Sampson expressed concern regarding the lack of communication from the School Board on this matter.

(g) Mr. Michel Samson, MLA re:

(i) Funding Application for Festivals and Events

Warden Cotton indicated he has requested a meeting with Mr. Rick Beaton regarding this matter.

(ii) Completion of Highway 104 (2)

(iii) On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems

Several Councillors noted that the dramatically increased costs to rural property owners was not the \$50 fee from D.O.E., but rather the cost of hiring a qualified person to evaluate a lot and designing a system, which had been previously provided for free by the Department of Environment.

(iv) Richmond Waste Facility

Warden Cotton indicated scavenging at the landfill had been prohibited by the provincial Department of Environment, and principally by the provincial Department of Labour, who indicated that there were serious Occupational Health and Safety concerns.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Goyetche that a letter be written to the MLA and indicate that scavenging has been prohibited at the landfill by provincial departments who indicated the dangerous activity of scavenging on the working face at the landfill was in violation of the provincial Occupational Health and Safety Act and its regulations. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Boudreau indicated a resident had expressed concern noting he felt there was still some activity at the landfill regarding the removal of metals. The Clerk indicated he would investigate this matter.

(h) Department of Labour re: Standard 911 Sign

(i) Department of Community Services re: Municipal Contributions/Social Services

(j) U.N.S.M. re: Assessment Services

(k) Hon. E. Fage re: Council Resolution

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Beaton that correspondence be addressed to the Hon. Ernie Fage, explaining that the opposition by Council to the Bounty Bay aquaculture proposal resulted from a conflict with proposals for that area in the West Richmond economic development plan such as impending development of the adjacent salt domes and further that the Minister be advised that Municipal Council does not object to aquaculture development in suitable locations. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor McNamara that a request be made to the Provincial Minister of Fisheries to have his Department inform Richmond Council of the other aquaculture applications for the West Richmond area referred to in his correspondence and also request that his Department provide us the status of the applications in the aquaculture review process. Motion carried.

(l) U.N.S.M. re: Provincial Initiatives

(m) Mr. Scott MacLean, The Spirit of the Times re: Plebiscite

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Goyetche that a letter be written to Scott MacLean, indicating that Richmond Municipal Council will not support initiatives regarding Cape Breton as a province, nor will a plebiscite on the issue be held and further moved that a letter be written to the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities requesting that the Union recommend to its members that they not participate in plebiscites on this issue. Motion carried unanimously.

Warden Cotton indicated he would raise this issue at next week's Regional Meeting of the U.N.S.M.

(n) Forchu Community Hall re: Tax Exemption

(o) St. Peter's United Church Hall re: Tax Exemption

(p) Isle Madame Historical Society re: Tax Exemption

Moved by Councillor Goyetche, seconded by Councillor Beaton that the requests for a tax exemption from the Forchu Community Hall; the St. Peter's United Church Hall and the Isle Madame Historical Society be referred to the Committee on budget deliberations. Motion carried.

#### Items Added to the Agenda

Warden Cotton expressed concern regarding Bill 34 regarding emergency services at the Strait Richmond Hospital and St. Anne's Community Nursing Care Centre.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor McNamara that a letter be written to the Minister of Health requesting information on the status and plans for emergency services at the Strait Richmond Hospital and St. Anne's Community Nursing Care Centre. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Boudreau indicated he wished to send a letter of thanks to Enterprise Cape Breton for being so cordial to Richmond delegates who attended the OTC Conference and for allowing ample room in their booth in order to display items from Richmond County.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Sampson that a letter of thanks be sent to Al England of E.C.B.C., with a copy to Rick Beaton, for the cordiality and cooperation extended by E.C.B.C. in permitting Richmond delegates to share the E.C.B.C. booth at the OTC Conference in Houston. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Boudreau requested information on the results of THM testing in Arichat.

The Clerk indicated that the DOE results were approximately 8 in the fall of 1999; 107 in February and 55 in April. Municipal testing provided results of 106 in early March, with four tests since being in the range of 55 to 80.

Deputy Warden Boudreau noted he wished to thank Mr. Darrin McLean for all his work in adjusting the chlorine levels in order to reduce the level of THM's in the water supply.

#### Fifteen Minute Question Period

There were no questions.

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

There being no further business, Warden Cotton adjourned the meeting at 9:50 p.m.