

**RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**  
**THIRD ANNUAL SESSION OF THE 44 TH COUNCIL**

**JUNE 19, 2000**

Location: Court House, Arichat

The Warden called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for O'Canada.

The Clerk took roll call of Councillors.

Opening Remarks of the Warden

Warden Cotton presented his opening remarks of the Annual Council Session, summarizing this year's achievements including the West Richmond Plan, the Richmond County Tourism Strategic Plan, the Richmond Opportunities Study, programs administered by the Youth Coordinator as well as involvement in issues such as storm damage, job creation, job retention etc. Warden Cotton thanked the Deputy Warden, all Councillors and staff for their cooperation and hard work over the past year.

Items Added to the Agenda

The Warden indicated there were three items to be added to tonight's agenda, as outlined in the Clerk's memo, regarding Isle Madame Volunteer Fire Department; Literacy Network Report and Illegal Dumping in Richmond County.

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

Review of Minutes: (a) May 8, 2000 (Regular Meeting)  
(b) May 29, 2000 (Public Hearing)  
(c) May 29, 2000 (Special Meeting)  
(d) June 5, 2000 (Public Hearing)  
(e) June 5, 2000 (Special Meeting)

Councillor Bourque indicated that there was an error in the May 29, 2000 Special Council Meeting Minutes on page 1 where Isle Madame Recreation should read Arichat Recreation.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that the minutes of May 8, 2000 (Regular Meeting), May 29, 2000 (Public Hearing), June 5, 2000 (Public Hearing) and June 5, 2000 (Special Meeting) be adopted as presented and further moved

that the minutes of May 29, 2000 (Special Meeting) be adopted as amended. Motion carried.

Notice of Motion – Councillor McNamara: To Adopt a Policy Regarding Interest on Taxes Rebated Due to Assessment Appeal, attached as Schedule “A”.

Councillor Bourque declared a potential conflict of interest and left his seat during voting and discussion of this item.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Stone that Council adopt the policy regarding interest on taxes rebated due to assessment appeal, attached as Schedule “A”. Motion carried.

Reports:

(a) Committee of the Whole re: Estimates/Tax Rates/Other

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

Councillor Bourque declared a conflict of interest and left his seat during voting and discussion of this item.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and write to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, requesting that the Province provide a mechanism for rebating funds paid by municipal units that relate to uniform assessment (i.e. education costs, correction costs, etc.) to provide for the possibility of a retroactive reduction in uniform assessment, and the wrongful costs arising to the Municipality, in the event that the Sable assessment appeal is successful. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Bourque that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and authorize a one year lease for Bay #4 at the Industrial Mall to Snow’s Econoprint. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Goyetche that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and request that the Royal Bank execute a Release of Mortgage to the Municipality, at no charge, and further moved that our municipal solicitor be authorized to prepare the necessary documents. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and give approval to the allocation of one half of the funding available for District #7, in the amount of approximately \$3,550 to the South Loop Economic Development Society and further moved that the remaining half of the CED allocation from 1999/2000 for District #7 be

allocated to the River Bourgeois Community Economic Development Committee, in the amount of approximately \$3,550. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Goyetche that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and request that staff prepare a report to deal with the request from Development Isle Madame Association for the exchange of lands on the waterfront (review of title/ boundaries, etc.); and further moved that the District Planning Commission be advised that the Municipality is granting permission to Development Isle Madame to erect several buildings for their tourist/waterfront development project, to be located on the LeNoir Forge property. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Goyetche that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and authorize staff to proceed with a six week storm restoration program and further moved that Municipal Council authorize a municipal contribution of \$6,000, together with a contribution of tipping fees to a maximum of 100 tons. Motion carried.

Warden Cotton indicated that he will be attending a meeting with the Department of Transportation and Public Works tomorrow to discuss the clean up and he believes that they will help with the costs.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that a letter be written to the Premier to advise that there is no representation from the communities in the Strait Area that are directly involved with the oil and gas industry and further to request that one or two representatives from the Strait Area communities involved in the industry be appointed to this group. Motion carried.

Warden Cotton indicated that he conferred with the UNSM and they had indicated that Mr. Ernie Bolliver had been appointed as the UNSM representative on the Premier's Energy Council, so any representation of potential membership would be too late.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and direct that staff provide a background report and draft policy on the taxation of non-residents, for the next fiscal year, as authorized in recent amendments to the new Municipal Government Act. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Stone that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and have staff determine if this lot in St. Peter's is a street requiring provincial approval for closure/sale and further moved that staff be authorized to have the lot appraised and offered to Mr. & Mrs. Robertson at fair market value, if it is determined that the property is not a street. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and authorize the Warden to establish meetings with Inverness and Victoria County as well as the Executive of the U.N.S.M., to discuss the tax sharing issue. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Boudreau gave notice that he will introduce a motion at the next regular Council session to establish a policy which will provide that the term of office of the Warden shall be for a two year term, following regular Council elections, with the option to re-offer.

Deputy Warden Boudreau gave notice that he will introduce a motion at the next regular Council Meeting to establish a policy to the effect that the term of office of the Deputy Warden shall be one year, to commence following the regular Council elections.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and table the proposal from I.B.M. to carry out a workshop on E-business/Internet strategy, with initial fees in the range of \$30,000 to \$35,000 plus applicable taxes and expenses; and further moved that the Economic Development staff be requested to provide a report on the feasibility of carrying out a wider strategy for the County on E-business/Internet/ community strategy for Council consideration; and further moved that staff be directed to procure a web page for the Municipality out of existing funds from the economic development budget. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Goyetche that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and establish the three-year capital projections of the Municipality of Richmond as follows:

### **Year 1**

- (1) Arichat/Petit De Grat Phase I Groundwater Exploration Program (\$35,000)
- (2) Arichat/Petit De Grat Water Storage Tank Repainting (\$20,000)
- (3) Louisdale/Evanston – Evanston Tank Repainting (\$160,000)
- (4) Arichat Sewage Treatment – Evaluate Treatment Plant Siting & Costs (\$20,000)
- (5) Arichat Sewage - (i) I/I Study (\$25,000)  
(ii) Replace Lift Station No. 3 (\$130,000)

### **Year 2**

- (1) Arichat/Petit De Grat - (i) Phase II Groundwater Exploration Program (\$30,000)  
(ii) Develop a Groundwater Supply (\$975,000)
- (2) Louisdale/Evanston Water Storage Tank Replacement (\$300,000)
- (3) Arichat Sewage – Replace Lift Station No. 4 (\$190,000)

### **Year 3**

- (1) Evanston Sewage – Replace or Upgrade Sewage Treatment Plant (\$800,000)
- (2) Arichat Sewage - (i) Replace Lift Station No. 2 (\$100,000)  
(ii) Piping System Repairs to Reduce I/I (\$100,000)
- (3) Arichat Sewage – Upgrade or Replace Sewage Treatment Plant (\$1,500,000)
- (4) Arichat/Petit De Grat – Upgrade Surface Water Supply (\$1,360,000)

Motion carried.

Warden Cotton indicated that the Committee of the Whole were recommending an amendment to the policy regarding the definition of “Just Cause”, however, Municipal Councillors have approached him informally and indicated that they felt the consensus was that the Policy/Recorded Resolution that establishes payment of Councillors be amended to delete the section that provides for penalties for missing more than three Council or Committee Meetings in a year and also that the policy regarding the definition of “Just Cause” and method of payment of stipends be amended by deleting the sections that define “Just Cause” and that provide for a holdback of Councillor stipend for absences from meetings.

Moved by Councillor Goyetche, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council hereby give notice that the Recorded Resolution authorizing payment of Councillors be amended by deleting the section that refers to a penalty for Councillors who miss more than three Council or Committee Meetings per year and further moved that Council hereby give notice that the policy that provides for the definition of “Just Cause” and the method of payment of stipends be amended by deleting the sections that define “Just Cause” and also that provide for a holdback from Councillors’ stipends to provide for penalties for absence from meetings. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and establish Saturday, October 14, 2000, as a second advance poll for the Year 2000 Municipal and School Board elections. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Bourque that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and authorize staff and the solicitor to negotiate an agreement for providing services associated with water and sewer for the Richmond Academy, with costs attributable to the school to be paid for by the Province/School Board/P3 Consortium. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and provide a total exemption from property taxes for the fiscal year 2000/2001 for the property of the Johnstown

Development Co-op, the Isle Madame Seniors Citizens Club, the Bonnie Brae Seniors Club, the Little Anse Social Action Club, and the St. Peter's Lions Club. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and provide a grant to the following organizations, in an amount equal to the property taxes on their community facilities for the current year:

Rocky Bay Hall  
D'Escousse Hall  
Salmon River Hall  
Framboise Hall  
Lakeside Hall  
MacAskill House Museum  
Isle Madame Historical Society  
Forchu Hall  
River Bourgeois Community Services Society  
South Mountain Arm of Gold  
Nicholas Denys Museum  
Grand River Volunteer Fire Department  
St. Peter's Fire Department  
Isle Madame Fire Department  
Louisdale Fire Department  
Loch Lomond Fire Department  
Point Tupper War Memorial  
Whiteside War Memorial

Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Stone that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and award the following grants to community groups:

- \$15,000 to Richmond Arena (Year 2 of 4 Year Commitment)
  - \$10,000 to Richmond Literacy Society (Year 3 of 3 Year Commitment)
  - \$1,750 to Richmond County Tourist Association (Year 2 of 5 Year Commitment)
  - \$7,000 Grant to Richmond Arena
  - \$1,200 to Stora Tournament
  - \$750 each to MacAskill House Museum; the Point Tupper Heritage Association; the Nicholas Denys Museum; the LeNoir Forge and the Oceanview Wildlife Association
  - \$600 to Island Community Justice Society
- Total      \$39,300**

Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and allot \$1,500 per district for Canada Day festivities for the current year. Motion carried.

Moved By Councillor Bourque, seconded by Councillor Beaton that Council accept the request by the Isle Madame Volunteer Fire Department and approve their proposed area rate of .09¢. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and establish the area rates for fire departments that have been received as of the date of this meeting, at the rate approved by communities at their public meetings:

Grand River Volunteer Fire Department	-	.15c
St. Peter's & District Volunteer Fire Department	-	.12c
District #10 Volunteer Fire Department	-	.12c
L'Ardoise Volunteer Fire Department	-	.16c
Loch Lomond Volunteer Fire Department	-	.12c

AND FURTHER MOVED that the rates that are requested by community meetings following the June 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting be authorized by Council, if they do not exceed the rate established by Council in the last fiscal year;

AND FURTHER MOVED that the West Bay Road Fire Department be provided with the fire levy collected in that portion of District #5 that is afforded fire protection by the West Bay Road Fire Department. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and authorize a merit increase of 1.5% to staff who have room on their salary scales for lateral movement and further moved that the two staff outlined in the report for merit increase of 3% be authorized and further moved that employees who are receiving a merit increase be permitted to use it to buy years of past pension service, if they so desire. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and senior staff, to end the probationary employment of Darrin McLean, by appointing him to his position of Municipal Engineer/Director of Public Works on a full-time basis. Motion carried

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Bourque that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and amend the following job descriptions and salary scales:

Karen Doyle; add Council Recorder (responsibility for recording Council minutes, assisting with preparation of agendas and directing correspondence

arising from Council minutes)

Current salary scale:	13	\$36,610 to \$44,500
Proposed salary scale:	16	\$42,381 to \$51,514

Don Marchand; Tax Collector and Vested Property Clerk (responsibility for tax collection and vested property management).

Current salary scale:	10	\$31,626 to \$38,441
Proposed salary scale:	14	\$38,441 to \$46,725

Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Goyetche that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and authorize a six-month term contract at the landfill, for a casual employee, with staff being authorized to fill the contract with the incumbent. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and offer a one-year contract to the incumbent Youth Co-Ordinator, with terms as outlined by senior staff, including quarterly monitoring of progress. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Beaton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and establish a full time Tourism position within the Recreation Department, on a one year renewable contract basis. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Goyetche that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and give approval to the municipal estimates of revenues and expenditures for the year ending March 31, 2001 in the amount of \$8,498,120 (copy of budget attached as Appendix "A");

AND FURTHER MOVED THAT WHEREAS pursuant to the Municipal Act, the Municipal Council of the Municipality of Richmond estimates that sums amounting to \$6,556,669 are required for the lawful purpose of the said Municipality for the year ending March 31, 2001, after crediting the probable revenue from all sources other than rates for the said year and making due allowance for the abatement and losses which may occur in the collection of the taxes and for taxes for the said year which may not be collectible or collected;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that Richmond Council hereby authorizes the levying and collection of a residential rate of .67c on each \$100 of the assessed value of residential property assessed on the assessment roll and a commercial rate of \$1.33 which



rates said Council deems sufficient to raise the sums required to defray the expenditures of the said Municipality for this year, and any deficit from the preceding years;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Richmond Council hereby imposes an additional percentage charge of 18 percent per annum on all rates and taxes remaining unpaid from the final billing after the 31<sup>st</sup> day of October, 2000;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Richmond Council hereby fixes the 30<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2000 as the day of which the Tax Collector or Treasurer may proceed to issue warrants for the collection of all rates and taxes then unpaid.

Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole that the option recommended by the Pension Committee, which offers employees a buy-back of past years of service on a 50/50 basis, with the annual purchase based on the number of years of service remaining until age 55, or 10 years for those employees that are over age 55. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Beaton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and approve of \$10,000 for the Arichat Waterfront Revitalization Project, submitted by DIMA, with the remaining requested funds for the same proposal to be reviewed with the other projects at a later date. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Johnson that the report of the Committee of the Whole be adopted. Motion carried.

(b) Clerk re: Annual Report

The Clerk presented his annual report, outlining major activities for the past year and financial performance (copy attached).

#### Annual Appointments

(a) Municipal Solicitors.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Stone that the firm of Pickup and MacDowell be re-appointed as the municipal solicitors for the current fiscal year. Motion carried.

(b) Municipal Auditors.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Bourque that Mr. Dave Smith be re-appointed as Municipal Auditor. Motion carried.

(c) Signing Officers.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the Clerk, the Deputy Clerk and the Warden be appointed as Signing Officers, with the Deputy Warden being appointed as an Alternate to the Warden. Motion carried.

(d) Representative – Eastern Counties Regional Library

Moved by Councillor Goyetche, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Councillor Stone be re-appointed as the municipal representative on the Eastern Counties Regional Library Board. Motion carried.

(e) Heritage Advisory Committee

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Bourque that this item be tabled until the next regular Council session. Motion carried.

(f) Inverness/Richmond District Planning Commission

Moved by Councillor Stone, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Councillor McNamara and Councillor Bourque be re-appointed as the municipal representatives on the Inverness/Richmond District Planning Commission. Motion carried.

(g) Strait Regional Airport Committee

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Deputy Warden Boudreau that Councillor Beaton be re-appointed as the municipal representative on the Strait Regional Airport Committee. Motion carried.

(h) Planning Advisory Committee

Moved by Councillor Bourque, seconded by Councillor Stone that Deputy Warden Boudreau, Councillor Goyetche, Councillor Bourque, Councillor MacPhee and Councillor McNamara be re-appointed as the municipal representatives on the Planning Advisory Committee. Motion carried.

(i) Richmond/Port Hawkesbury Joint Development Commission

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Warden Cotton, Councillor Bourque and Councillor McNamara be appointed as the municipal representatives on the Richmond/Port Hawkesbury Joint Development Commission. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

(a) Hon. Angus MacIsaac re: Land Registration Act

(b) Hon. Michael Baker re: Downloading of New Costs for Site Assessments

Councillor Goyetche indicated that the costs of having a site assessment have increased significantly, making it almost unaffordable to have an on-site sewage disposal system.

Warden Cotton indicated that an option would be to set up subdivisions in the less populated areas, with water and sewer services to encourage growth away from the serviced areas of the County.

Moved by Councillor Goyetche, seconded by Councillor Bourque that Municipal Council indicate to the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities that there is extreme discontent in rural areas with the downloading of the responsibility and costs for on-site sewage disposal system services to property owners in rural Nova Scotia; and further moved that the U.N.S.M. be requested to provide information on representation that they have made on this issue. Motion carried unanimously.

(c) Municipality of the County of Victoria re: Communications Centre

Moved by Councillor Goyetche, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Council make representation to the Hon. Michael Baker, in opposition to the transfer of the Cape Breton Communications Centre for the R.C.M.P. to the Mainland of Nova Scotia; and further moved that the Province and the R.C.M.P. be requested to relocate the Communications Centre from C.B.R.M. to Richmond County. Motion carried.

(d) Michelle Dockrill, MP re: Highway 104/Upgrading of Road Infrastructure.

(e) Office of the Minister of Transportation re: Highway 104

(f) Michel Samson, MLA re: Highway 104

The Clerk indicated that representation must be continued to the Premier and Ministers concerning the completion of Highway 104.

Warden Cotton suggested that a joint meeting be set with the Provincial Ministers to discuss the issue.

(g) Nova Scotia Highway Workers Union, Local 1867 re: Nova Scotia Roads

(h) Strait Regional School Board/Clerk re: Mandatory Municipal Education Tax

The Clerk indicated that the Strait Regional School Board has indicated a payment schedule for the mandatory education tax for the 2000-2001 fiscal year.

Councillor Sampson indicated that he read an article in the Reporter where the Strait Regional School Board indicated their plan for surplus schools, however has not approached the Municipality indicating their intent.

Councillor Sampson indicated that he wrote a letter to the Hon. Jane Purves expressing his frustration with the Strait Regional School Board, who continually ignore correspondence forwarded to them by Richmond Municipal Council.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Council request a meeting with the Minister of Education as soon as possible, to discuss the issues surrounding school divestiture in Richmond County and the lack of planning, cooperation, and community involvement from the Strait Regional School Board. Motion carried.

(i) Department of Education re: Regional Public Libraries Funding Review Committee 2000

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Stone that Richmond Municipal Council express concerns to the Regional Public Libraries Public Review Committee, 2000;

AND FURTHER MOVED that Richmond Council express the concern that rural areas, with a sparse population in proportion to geography, are not properly served by funding ratios that are “per capita” based;

AND FURTHER MOVED that Richmond Council support the position that supplementary funding is required to provide services in rural areas equivalent to those of urban centers;

AND FURTHER MOVED that Richmond Council express the opinion that public libraries are a vital part of lifelong learning initiatives;

AND FURTHER MOVED that the Committee be advised that the services provided in rural areas such as Richmond, have already been diminished by the loss of bookmobiles, due to funding changes and reductions. Motion carried

(j) Department of Education re: Provincial Operation Grants for Regional Library Boards.

The Clerk indicated that the Legislature has approved the Provincial operating grants for Regional Library Boards, noting that the Eastern Counties Regional Library Board will receive \$792,584.

(k) NSGEU re: Privatization of the Nova Scotia Liquor Commission

The Clerk indicated that the NSGEU is making people aware of the consideration of the Provincial Government to privatize liquor stores as well as the possible repercussions, further noting that the NSGEU is requesting Council's views on this matter.

(l) Public Works Canada re: Arrow Point (Petit De Grat) Wharf.

Moved by Councillor Goyetche, seconded by Councillor Bourque that a letter be written to the Federal Minister of Public Works requesting the criteria which is used to determine why a wharf is considered a surplus wharf and the reasons the Arrow Point Wharf is considered as surplus. Motion carried

(m) Public Works Canada re: Arichat Wharf

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Goyetche that Richmond Municipal Council advise Public Works and Government Services Canada indicating that the Municipality has no interest in assuming ownership of the Arichat Wharf. Motion carried.

(n) Municipality of Cumberland County re: Future Town's Meeting

Moved by Councillor Goyetche, seconded by Councillor McNamara that a letter be written to Warden Ralph Welton indicating that Richmond Municipal Council support the Municipality of Cumberland County's stance against the UNSM Towns' Caucus Committee. Motion carried.

(o) St. Peter's Village Commission re: Infrastructure Funding

Moved by Councillor Stone, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that a letter be written to Mr. Harnish of the St. Peter's Village Commission, indicating that representatives from the Municipality would be available to meet and discuss infrastructure funding once the Municipality has obtained information on the rules for the disbursement of these funds. Motion carried.

(p) Hon. Angus MacIsaac re: Fire Hall Assessments

Councillor Bourque declared a conflict of interest and left his seat during voting and discussion of this item.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Stone that a letter be written to the Hon. Angus MacIsaac indicating that the fundraising is necessary because fire departments are comprised of volunteer and the purpose of raising these monies is strictly for fire protection and therefore fire halls should not be assessed as taxable; and further moved that the process/requirements for assessing fire halls be requested. Motion carried.

(q) Municipality of Barrington re: Province-Wide Radio Communication System

Moved by Councillor Goyetche, seconded by Councillor Bourque that the Province and MTT be approached requesting what level of coverage IWANS will provide, as well as what research and testing was conducted and the associated outcome of the testing and further moved that the costs associated with this service be determined. Motion carried.

(r) District Planning Commission re: Annual Report

The Clerk indicated that the District Planning Commission has been providing a great level of service to the Municipality, and as displayed in their annual report, they are in good financial standing.

(s) Municipality of Guysborough County re: African Nova Scotia Seat on School Board

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Bourque that a letter be written to the Municipality of the District of Guysborough indicating that Richmond Municipal Council is in agreement with having the Returning Officer for the Municipality of Guysborough assume responsibility for the Returning Officers duties for the African Nova Scotian seat. Motion carried.

(t) Department of the Environment re: THM's

The Clerk indicated that the Department of Environment has submitted draft regulations for the monitoring of public drinking water supplies, which is expected to be finalized in the near future.

(u) Evans, MacIsaac, MacMillan re: Torus County Lands Inc. – Cape George Estates

Moved by Councillor Stone, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Municipal Council give approval of the names “Birch Crescent”; “Maple Drive” and “Spruce Lane” to a private road in a subdivision at Cape George known as Cape George Estates and further moved that these names be forwarded to the Department of Transportation and the District Planning Commission for their approval. Motion carried.

(v) Nova Scotia Priorities and Planning Secretariat re: red Tape Reduction Initiative

(w) Hon. Angus MacIsaac re: Municipal Taxation of Utilities

Moved by Councillor Goyetche, seconded by Councillor Sampson that staff be authorized to make representation to the Department of Municipal Affairs, in response to the Minister's request for submissions on the municipal taxation of utilities. Motion carried.

(x) West Richmond Economic Development Association re: CED Budget for West Richmond

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Municipal Council give approval to the allocation of CED funding available for District #5, in the amount of \$5,300, to the West Richmond Economic Development Association. Motion carried.

(y) F.C.M. re: National Aboriginal Day

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Deputy Warden Boudreau that Municipal Council declare June 21, 2000 as "National Aboriginal Day". Motion carried.

(z) Deputy Warden Boudreau re: E.R.E.E.C.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Stone that Richmond County Council acknowledge the efforts of the E.R.E.C. students and staff, in their commitment to the promotion of the peaceful school initiative over the past four years, by way of a plaque to be presented at the school. Motion carried.

#### Items Added to the Agenda

Councillor McNamara distributed copies of the Literacy Network report (copy attached) and briefed Council on their accomplishments, noting that they now have two locations.

Councillor Beaton indicated that the problem of illegal dumping is becoming very prevalent throughout the County, noting that he has made the R.C.M.P. aware of such instances.

Councillor Beaton indicated that in conversations with the R.C.M.P. it was concluded that the fine for littering was not nominal enough to deter the crime suggesting that minimum fines should increase and proper signage erected.

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor Bourque that a letter be written to the Minister of Transportation, with a copy to be forwarded to the U.N.S.M. requesting that the minimum fine for littering/illegal dumping be increased to \$1000.00 per instance and that the Department of Transportation be requested to install proper signage reflecting the increased fine. Motion carried

#### Fifteen Minute Question Period

There were no questions.

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

There being no further business, Warden Cotton adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.