

RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

OCTOBER 10, 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.

The Clerk took roll call of Councillors.

Items Added to the Agenda

Warden Cotton indicated there were four items added to the agenda, as outlined in the Clerk's memo: (i) Councillor Sampson re: Road name and a presentation to Councillor Beaton; (ii) Councillor MacPhee re: Petition regarding #4 Highway; (iii) Clerk re: Arichat Groundwater Supply Development Study and (iv) Warden Cotton re: DIMA Contract.

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

Review of Minutes: September 11, 2000

Moved by Councillor Goyetche, seconded by Councillor Stone that the minutes of September 11, 2000 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Petitions and/or Delegations:

(a) Development Isle Madame re: Update on CED Projects

Warden Cotton welcomed Mr. Darryl Landry and Mr. Darren Doyle to the meeting.

Mr. Landry distributed lengthy reports on the Cape Auget Eco-Trail and the Virtual CED Centre (copies attached).

(i) Cape Auget Eco-Trail

Mr. Landry briefed Council on the Cape Auget Eco-Trail Project indicating construction has been ongoing since June, 1999. He noted this 12.3 kilometer trail will be a functional walking and hiking trail, which follows the rocky coastline overlooking the Chedabucto Bay and passes through several eco-systems, with elevations as high as 150 feet, along beaches and rocky shores and meanders through both soft and hardwood stands. He noted historically significant rock boundary lines and foundations can be found along the major coves which are ruins of abandoned Acadian settlements that existed for a period of 200 years. He noted other attractions include whale and bald eagle sightings, a spouting rock, interesting vegetation and bird life, and a large salt water marsh. He also indicated a 1 km looping system would be constructed in both Boudreauville and Cape Auget.

In response to a question, Mr. Landry indicated the Nova Scotia Trail Association would determine if this would be a multi-use trail or just a hiking trail.

Mr. Landry indicated E.C.B.C. had approached them approximately one month ago to create a world-class trail, which would become an ecological and historical attraction. He noted they have indicated they were willing to provide FRAM funding of approximately \$250,000 if the Municipality endorsed the project.

Mr. Landry indicated he had spoken to other trail groups in the province who have maintenance partnerships with their town or municipality, who provide an annual grant to the trail group for the maintenance and monitoring and he was requesting that Municipal Council grant a yearly maintenance allowance of \$5,000 per year for a ten year period, to help maintain this trail.

In response to a question from Councillor Goyetche, the Clerk indicated he was unaware of the maintenance partnership until this evening.

Mr. Landry highlighted the budget for this project (copy attached).

A question and answer period followed.

Warden Cotton recommended that Council endorse this project in order that DIMA can receive FRAM funding for the next two years and that Council look at developing a maintenance plan for the Municipality to partner in that plan, if a Committee is formed.

(ii) Virtual CED Centre

Mr. Doyle briefed Council on the Virtual CED Centre project indicating this is an on-line centre providing free educational resources for community groups focused on

community, social and economic development. He indicated this project has five main components, namely (1) on-line content delivery and maintenance system; (2) digitizing and publishing of the CED certificate curriculum; (3) marketing and advertising; (4) programmer cooperative; and (5) maintenance of Virtual CED Centre and CED Village.

He noted they were looking at creating an IT Centre on Isle Madame which will be housed at the old Irving Building in Arichat and noted the many benefits of an IT Centre to the community such as: (i) the retention of a skilled IT workforce; (ii) opportunities for young persons; (iii) a change to move home from away; (iv) local businesses will have access to the cluster; (v) competitive salaries; (vi) environmentally-friendly industry; (vii) low levels of noise pollution; (viii) a self-funded waterfront development that the community will have access to; and (ix) a gateway to the new economy for Isle Madame.

Mr. Doyle reviewed the budget for the project (copy attached) and indicated \$432,083 was available through FRAM funding for this project if endorsement of the project was received from Municipal Council.

In response to a question from the Clerk requesting if any networking was taking place around the County, Mr. Doyle indicated he had received a proposal from Glenda Sampson on web site development and also a proposal from a gentleman from Johnstown on software.

Councillor Bourque noted that he had seen many projects reviewed by Council during the past fifteen years that he's been on Council, but indicated this project was by far the most exciting.

Warden Cotton noted that there may be funding for both projects but he had indicated to Mr. Landry to prioritize their projects before Council would give their support for FRAM funding.

Mr. Landry indicated DIMA's priorities were the Virtual CED Centre Project (#1) and the Cape Auget Eco-Trail Project (#2).

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that a letter be written to Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation indicating that Richmond Municipal Council fully supports Development Isle Madame and the use of FRAM funds to assist with the Virtual CED Centre project and the Cape Auget Eco-Trail Project and further moved that they be advised that the Virtual CED Centre project has been prioritized as #1 and the Cape Auget Eco-Trail Project prioritized as #2. Motion carried.

Warden Cotton noted that the Municipality will need to look at a maintenance agreement and decide if we will be partners, and to what extend, and recommended that this be reviewed with next year's funding requests.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Goyetche that the maintenance agreement matter be tabled until budget deliberations are held for the next fiscal year. Motion carried.

Warden Cotton thanked Mr. Landry and Mr. Doyle for attending the meeting.

Notices of Motions:

- (a) Councillor Beaton: to amend the Council policy on grants (attached as Schedule “A”), by deleting the first sentence of paragraph 6, and replacing it with: “50% of the funds will be advanced upon the applicant demonstrating that the project has commenced”

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor Goyetche that the Council policy on grants be amended by deleting the first sentence of paragraph 6, and replacing it with: “50% of the funds will be advanced upon the applicant demonstrating that the project has commenced”. Motion carried.

- (b) Councillor Beaton: to adopt the attached policy on confidentiality, attached as Schedule “B”

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor Bourque that the policy on confidentiality be adopted as attached in Schedule “B”. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

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

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Goyetche that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and accept the revised project criteria evaluation that will be used to evaluate requests for CED funding, attached as Schedule “A”. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and adopt the tourism plan as the Strategic Tourism Plan for the Municipality of Richmond. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Richmond Villa Board of Directors be authorized to request and construct a new facility for the Richmond Villa and further moved that a request be made to the Department of Health for their approval to construct a new building. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that a letter be written to

the Department of Transportation requesting that they examine the areas in District #5 who presently have 50km speed zones and request that they extend this speed limit to other areas in the district as well. Motion carried.

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

Correspondence:

(a) U.N.S.M. re: Assessment Services Recovery

Councillor Bourque declared a conflict of interest indicating he is an employee of the Assessment Department and he left his seat during discussion and voting of this item.

The Clerk indicated the correspondence includes a copy of the discussion paper that was prepared by a Joint Staff Committee of the U.N.S.M. and the Department of Housing and Municipal Affairs. He noted this item had been debated at the U.N.S.M. conference and indicated the deadline for feedback was October 20. He noted the formula being recommended is 50% of cost coming from uniform assessment and the other 50% coming from the number of accounts, with the cost to Richmond being \$220,729.

Warden Cotton indicated Council had previously opposed the roles and responsibilities process and he indicated he has made the Executive Committee members aware that he will be making a motion at the first meeting to withdraw from the roles and responsibilities process if the U.N.S.M. does not endorse our presentation to them, noting this is another very serious downloading of costs and feels this should be opposed.

The Clerk suggested that if the process goes forward, the Province should be requested to collect the full cost of assessment services themselves.

In response to a question from Councillor Johnson, the Clerk indicated the Municipality can be forced to collect these costs because it is being done presently for education and corrections.

Moved by Councillor Goyette, seconded by Councillor Johnson that the Department of Municipal Affairs and the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities be advised that Richmond Municipal Council strongly disagrees with the concept of downloading the cost of assessment services from the Province to municipal governments;

AND FURTHER MOVED that Richmond Council express that the proposal from the Department of Municipal Affairs contravenes the process established in the review of provincial/ municipal roles and responsibilities;

AND FURTHER MOVED that the Province and the U.N.S.M. be advised that, if the proposal proceeds, Richmond Municipal Council would prefer a formula of recovering

cost that is based on both uniform assessment and the number of accounts (50/50), with the Province collecting the fees directly from property taxpayers. Motion carried.

(b) Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission

The Clerk noted the District Planning Commission have indicated that most of the residents are residing in Germany and expressed a safety concern regarding the 911 civic addressing and the District Planning Commission had no objection to Mr. Winkler acting on the non-resident owners' behalf and further noting that they were granting their approval to these road names.

Councillor McNamara indicated she had recently visited the subdivision that they have been using these two names since the subdivision was built.

Moved by Councillor Stone, seconded by Councillor Bourque that Municipal Council give approval to the private road names "Diana Mountain Road" and "Bavaria Lane" in the Diana Resort Subdivision at The Points, West Bay (District # 8) and further moved that these names be forwarded to the Department of Transportation for their approval. Motion carried.

(c) Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission re: Road Name Change from Highway 4 to Grenville Street, St. Peter's

Moved by Councillor Stone, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Municipal Council give approval to the road name change from Highway 4 to Grenville Street in St. Peter's (District #8), if this road name change meets policy approval and receives the approval of the Department of Transportation and the District Planning Commission. Motion carried.

(d) Department of Housing & Municipal Affairs re: Orientation 2000

It was the consensus of Council that new Councillors attend the Orientation 2000 session scheduled for November 17, 2000.

(e) Department of Health re: West Nile Virus and Nova Scotia's Response Plan

Items Added to the Agenda

Councillor Sampson indicated that residents presently residing on an unnamed road in L'Ardoise wished to have this road named "Boulet Lane" for 911 purposes.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Municipal Council give approval to name an unnamed road in L'Ardoise as "Boulet Lane", if this road name meets policy approval and receives the approval of the Department of Transportation and the District Planning Commission. Motion carried.

Councillor Sampson indicated Municipal Council had recently accepted the resignation of Councillor Beaton from the Richmond Villa Board of Directors, and as Chairperson of the Board, he wished to present Councillor Beaton with a plaque in appreciation of his nine years of service to the Richmond Housing Corporation and to the guests and staff of the Richmond Villa.

Councillor Beaton thanked Council, the Villa Board members and Villa staff for their thoughtfulness and support during the time he served as Board member.

Councillor MacPhee indicated he wished to present a petition from residents of River Bourgeois who were concerned about the deteriorating condition of the local highway through the community (copy attached).

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Stone that the petition from the residents of River Bourgeois be accepted and that it be forwarded to the Hon. Ron Russell and Mr. Bruce Fitzner requesting that they immediately institute plans to carry out the necessary repairs and repaving to bring the local highway to present day standards. Motion carried.

The Clerk indicated a number of requests had been forwarded to the Province for Capital Works funding and indicated approval has been received from the Minister's office indicating they will provide 33.3% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$23,310 towards the Groundwater Exploration Program for the Arichat water system, but must be expended prior to March 31, 2001.

Moved by Councillor Goyetche, seconded by Deputy Warden Boudreau that the terms of reference submitted by the Director of Public Works be accepted as presented and further moved that the Director be instructed to proceed with the project. Motion carried.

Warden Cotton indicated he has received a copy of a revised and updated agreement between the Municipality and DIMA Inc. from Jason Boudrot and suggested that this agreement be referred to our solicitor for his perusal.

Moved by Councillor Goyetche, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that the agreement between the Municipality and DIMA Inc. be referred to the solicitor for his perusal and advice, to be presented at the next Committee of the Whole Meeting. Motion carried.

Warden Cotton indicated this was the last official meeting of the 1997 Council and indicated he was very pleased with the support, hard work and dedication of this Council, noting this was one of the most productive Councils and thanked Councillors on behalf of the Municipality and wished Councillors the best with their Council elections.

Councillors McNamara, MacPhee, Stone and Sampson indicated they wished to thank Council and staff members for their help and support during their years on Council and wished Council members who were running in the upcoming election the best of luck and congratulated Councillors who received acclamations.

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 8:40 p.m.