

**RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**DECEMBER 11, 2000**

Location: Tara Lynn Community Centre, River Bourgeois

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

The Clerk asked everyone to remain standing and observe one minute of silence in memory of Leo Gracie, who was a long time municipal employee, and who had been actively involved with the New Horizons Seniors Club in Arichat.

Warden Cotton indicated that Councillor Boudreau had indicated he would be late for the meeting because he was going to a wake prior to the meeting.

Items Added to the Agenda

Warden Cotton indicated there were two items added to the agenda; he and the Clerk wished to add Bill 80 Proposed Gas Asset Review and he wished to add the Growth Fund Seminar.

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

Review of Minutes: November 14, 2000

Councillor Beaton noted he wished to add to his conflict of interest that the Richmond Villa is a member of the Nova Scotia Association of Health Organizations, to which his employer is also a member.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Johnson that the minutes of November 14, 2000 be adopted as amended. Motion carried.

Presentations: Richmond Council to Corporal Francois Bidal and Mr. Kirk Stone, in Appreciation of Service

Warden Cotton presented Mr. Stone with a plaque, thanking him for his three years of service to Richmond Municipal Council, the Richmond Villa Board of Directors, the Eastern Counties Regional Library Board and to the residents of District #8.

Warden Cotton indicated Council wished to make a presentation to Corporal Bidal, noting the background associated with the presentation, indicating that Corporal Bidal went above and beyond the call of duty and obtained the trust of both the employees and the Receivers during the walk-out of Scotia Rainbow employees and he kept everything under control, with no major labour disruptions.

Warden Cotton presented Corporal Bidal with a plaque and read the inscription on the plaque thanking Corporal Bidal for his exemplary mediation efforts.

Warden Cotton noted Corporal Bidal was on duty tonight, and would not be able to stay for the remainder of the meeting.

Warden Cotton thanked Corporal Bidal and Mr. Stone for attending the meeting.

Petitions and/or Delegations:

(a) Department of Transportation re: Route 4

Warden Cotton welcomed Mr. Bruce Fitzner and Mr. Robert Carroll to the meeting and indicated they would update Council on the situation with Route 4 and what can be expected with regards to remediation of these projects.

Mr. Fitzner indicated major repaving jobs are normally done under the capital programs, with the capital funding being approved each year by the government for their budget and other maintenance work (asphalt patching, etc.). He indicated they were still in the process of putting their capital programs together for the next fiscal year and lists have been sent in for the Eastern District, which is all of Cape Breton Island, Antigonish County and Guysborough County. He noted 180 repaving projects had been submitted and indicated the top 20 will be selected for our district and they will send out the Automatic Road Analyzing Machine that video tapes the highway and measures running depths and cracks and come up with a score of 1 to 10 (i.e. the worst condition the highway is in, the higher the number).

Mr. Fitzner indicated that out of the 180 projects submitted, there are two sections of Trunk 4 in Richmond County that are in the top 20, which is the section from the Hawker Overpass to Fougere Road and the other being 2.7 km west of Soldier's Cove Road to 3 km east of Soldier's Cove Road. He indicated these sections have now been analyzed and are being considered. He noted there was another section of Trunk 4, towards Port Hawkesbury, that was identified on the list as well.

In response to a question from the Clerk, Mr. Carroll indicated that the section of road from the Hawker Overpass to Fougere Road was 4.7 km and would cost approximately \$800,000 to pave.

Mr. Carroll noted the maintenance dollars are certainly a lot less than the capital dollars, with the allotment for maintenance varying for snow and ice control, pot hole patchwork, drainage cleaning, etc., which are much smaller scale projects. He noted that the Operation Supervisor and himself establish priorities for their areas.

Mr. Carroll indicated patch work had been done on Trunk 4 last year from River Bourgeois to Hawker Road and identified some work on Trunk 4 that will qualify for the Rural Impact Mitigation funding.

In response to a question from Councillor MacPhee requesting figures in terms of reductions that have taken place in the last three years, Mr. Fitzner indicated there was a \$9 million increase received last year for RIM funding, which was relatively the same as two years before for operating. He indicated that cost-shared money from two years ago for series funding was slightly down this year for capital funding.

Councillor Sampson commended the Department of Transportation staff for their cooperation and the good working relationship he has with them.

In response to a question from Councillor Sampson, Mr. Fitzner indicated they are trying to negotiate a new cost-shared agreement with Ottawa for the national highway system, but noted that if federal funds are secured, they may not be able to use it for secondary roads.

Mr. Fitzner indicated this is the perfect time for Councillors to submit their list of priorities because they are in the process of putting their projects together for next year, noting the new year begins on April 1.

Mr. Carroll indicated there was no mechanism for carrying money forward, noting most of their employees are on wage guarantees, and they come out pretty much on budget each year.

Councillor Johnson indicated she received a lot of cooperation from D.O.T. staff and noted that most of the needs in her district have been met.

Councillor MacPhee circulated three pictures of the False Bay Brook Bridge, stressing the urgency on the repairs to be done on this structure.

Mr. Fitzner reported the bridge was structurally sound, but repairs will be conducted to the deteriorated guardrails and indicated rehabilitation work will be done to the structure next year.

In response to a question from Councillor Beaton, Mr. Fitzner reported that the Rocky Bay Road was on the list of priorities, which had been rated quite high. He noted some work will be done this year and possibly some more next year through the RIM funding.

Councillor McNamara thanked DOT staff for their cooperation and indicated that all roads in her district access the hospital and requested information on proposed work for the Whiteside-Evanston Road and the Lower River-Cleveland Road.

Councillor Bourque complemented DOT staff and indicated that problems in his district are with ditching, culverts, etc. rather than roads.

Councillor MacNeil indicated residents in his district had expressed a concern regarding a small stretch of highway between St. Peter's and Port Hawkesbury, along Highway 104, close to Louisdale. Mr. Fitzner reported that this section was on the top priority in the 100 series for this year.

In response to a question from the Clerk requesting information on capital work that is done in our County in comparison to capital work that is done in our neighboring counties (i.e. operating funds available in Richmond as compared to Inverness and Victoria for the past 2-3 years), Mr. Fitzner indicated the operating funding is broken down per km basis and the RIM funding received last year was done the same way. He noted each County would differ and noted the road km needed to be maintained is at a pro-rated amount. Mr. Fitzner indicated he would send the requested information to the Clerk.

In response to a question from the Clerk requesting the amount of funding Richmond received, Mr. Carroll indicated that Cape Breton Island, Antigonish and Guysborough received either \$2.2 or \$2.4 million, and indicated he would send this information to the Clerk as well.

The Clerk inquired on the status of the Highway 104 extension to Sydney, which was in the planning stages a few years ago. Mr. Fitzner indicated it remains in the long term planning. He indicated Cape Breton is still interested in having a controlled access highway from Port Hawkesbury to Sydney. Mr. Fitzner indicated the completion of Highway 104 to Sydney would be considered as the twinning of the national highway systems, and would require a federal/provincial funding agreement.

In response to a question from Deputy Warden Goyetche, Mr. Fitzner indicated the maintenance budget was broken down by road km (i.e. ice and snow control/ditching/gravelling/bush cutting, etc.) and the capital budget is broken down by 100 series (work on trunks/routes/local roads).

Deputy Warden Goyetche indicated he has grave concerns with the condition of roads in Richmond County. He also indicated that he has received many complaints regarding ditches.

Mr. Carroll noted that much of the budgeted money is used for paving and patching of roads.

Warden Cotton thanked Mr. Fitzner and Mr. Carroll for attending the meeting.

(b) Isle Madame Day Care Association re: Request for Council's Support for Pay Equity

Warden Cotton welcomed Ms. LeeAnn Marchand to the meeting.

Ms. Marchand read her presentation, that had been previously circulated to Councillors, noting she was seeking Council's support or endorsement for their plea to government for pay equity for Early Childhood Educators whose salaries begin at \$6.00/hour, which is not sufficient to survive in today's society.

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor McNamara that a letter be written to the provincial government indicating Municipal Council's support for pay equity and compensation that Early Childhood Educators deserve; and further moved that Municipal Council send a delegation to Halifax with the Day Care staff if required. Motion carried.

Warden Cotton thanked Ms. Marchand for her presentation and commended her and her Board for the excellent work they're doing.

#### Committee Reports:

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

Moved by Deputy Warden Goyetche, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Municipality enter into a Resident Policing Agreement for Louisdale and further moved that staff be authorized to manage future requests of this nature. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Goyetche, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Municipal Office in Arichat be closed the week of December 25, 2000; during the Christmas Holiday. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Goyetche, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and give approval to the road name change from "North Side Loch Lomond Road" to "Passage Road" in District #10, if it meets policy approval and receives the approval from the Department of Transportation and the District Planning Commission. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Goyetche, seconded by Councillor Beaton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and give approval to the road name changes from “The D’Escousse Loop” to “Bonaventure Lane” and from “Poulamon-D’Escousse Road” to “Poulamon-Shore Road” in District #3, if they meet policy approval and receive the approval from the Department of Transportation and the District Planning Commission. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Goyetche, seconded by Councillor Bourque that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and award the snow plow tenders for Year 2001 as follows:

<b><u>Contractor:</u></b>	<b><u>Sites:</u></b>	<b><u>Plow:</u></b>	<b><u>Sand:</u></b>
T. Sampson & Sons	Louisdale Well #1 & #2 Area	\$50.00	\$50.00
	Louisdale Sewage Treatment Plant	105.00	50.00
Richmond Sand & Gravel	Industrial Mall	125.00	125.00
Paul Shears Snow Removal	Evanston Sewage Treatment Plant	26.09	N/A
	Evanston Water Storage Tank	26.09	N/A
Peter Covin’s Contracting	Municipal Office	45.00	60.00
	Court House Parking Lot	45.00	50.00
	Arichat Sewage Treatment Plant	35.00	N/A
	Arichat Water Storage Tank	35.00	N/A
	Petit De Grat Sewage Treatment Plant	50.00	N/A
	West Arichat Landfill	100.00	110.00

Motion carried.

Warden Cotton noted that all amounts listed are the low tenders received.

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

**Correspondence:**

(a) Applications for “Member at Large” to the Planning Advisory Committee

- Ann Carter
- Dougald Matthews
- Rosemary Burns

(b) Applications for “Member at Large” to the Richmond Villa Board of Directors

- Kirk Stone
- Alex Mombourquette

- Annette Martell

- (c) Applications for “Member at Large” to the Heritage Advisory Committee  
(no applications received)

Councillor McNamara indicated Mr. Paul Shears had faxed his application at 11:59 a.m. on December 5<sup>th</sup>, and had confirmation that the transmission had gone through, but it was received as a blank page at the Municipal Office.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that appointments for “Members at Large” for the Planning Advisory Committee, the Richmond Villa Board of Directors and the Heritage Advisory Committee be re-advertised for one week. Motion carried.

The Clerk indicated that individuals who have already submitted applications will be contacted and advised that their applications are on file and will be considered.

- (d) Hon. Michael Baker re: Survivor Pension Benefits for Widows

- (e) Department of Environment and Labour re: “Solid Waste-Resource Management: A Strategy for Nova Scotia”

The Clerk indicated they are requesting written comments by January 22, 2001 and will request staff to prepare a report for submission and would place the report on the agenda for the next Committee of the Whole Meeting, for review.

- (f) Town of Port Hawkesbury re: Fire Protection Agreement

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Deputy Warden Goyetche that this matter be tabled until the next Committee of the Whole Meeting. Motion carried.

- (g) Office of the Premier re: Acknowledgement

- (h) Municipality of the County of Cumberland re: Membership on Premier’s Energy Council

Warden Cotton indicated a meeting was being held on Friday and will find out if the term has expired and will report to the next Committee of the Whole Meeting.

- (i) Village of St. Peter’s re: Beautification Project at St. Peter’s

The Clerk indicated he had advised the Councillor and the Village Commission that a decision would not be made in December, but rather in the spring.

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Johnson that this grant request be referred to the Committee on budget deliberations. Motion carried.

- (j) Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission re: Road Name Change from “MacLean Road” to “Cooper Road”

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Municipal Council give approval to a road name change from “MacLean Road” to “Cooper Road” in District #5, if this road name change meets policy approval and receives the approval of the Department of Transportation and the District Planning Commission. Motion carried.

- (k) Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations re: New Department

- (l) Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations re: Canada/Nova Scotia Infrastructure Program

The Clerk noted the correspondence indicated that application forms would be sent out by the end of November, but have not been received as of yet.

- (m) Strait Richmond Health Care Foundation re: Grant Request

- (n) Recovery House re: Grant Request

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that the grant requests from the Strait Richmond Health Care Foundation and the Recovery House be referred to the Committee on budget deliberations. The mover and the seconder withdrew their motion, in order to allow Councillor McNamara to speak with regards to the request from the Strait Richmond Health Care Foundation.

Councillor McNamara indicated the hospital would be purchasing the cardiac monitoring system within the next three months, and noted if this request was tabled, Council may not be in a position to help them in the spring.

Warden Cotton noted that Council cannot entertain this request tonight because all funds for grant requests have been allocated for this fiscal year.

In response to a question from Councillor Sampson, Warden Cotton suggested that Municipal Council may want to approach the provincial government requesting that they change the legislation and allow municipal units to be able to exceed the 1% allotment for grant requests, at their own discretion.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Municipal Council request the provincial government to change the existing municipal government legislation in order to allow municipal units to use greater than 1% of the taxes for general municipal purposes, for grants or contributions. Motion carried.



Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that the grant request from the Strait Richmond Health Care Foundation and the Recovery House be referred to the Committee on budget deliberations. Motion carried.

#### Items Added to the Agenda

##### (1) Clerk/Warden re: Bill 80 Proposed Gas Asset Review

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

Warden Cotton gave an overview of the meeting held with municipal units and the meeting held with the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Deputy Minister, Director of Assessment and Mr. Dave Darrow, regarding the status of the assessment appeals, and the negotiating provisions of Bill 80.

In response to a question from Councillor Sampson, Warden Cotton indicated he had told the MLA that he personally supported this, but would have to go back to Council for their support.

The Clerk noted that a letter had been circulated with the items added to the agenda, which is proposed to be signed by the six affected municipal units, and would provide the parameters under which the six units together would discuss/negotiate the assessment and taxes on the gas pipeline. The Clerk noted that the correspondence specifically mentioned the pipeline, and did not include the fractionation plant in Richmond or the gas plant in Guysborough.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Deputy Warden Goyetche that Municipal Council authorize the municipal signing officers to sign the letter circulated regarding the gas pipeline and further moved that Council authorize the Warden and staff to investigate and discuss the assessment and tax structure of the fractionation plant in Point Tupper, with both the Province of Nova Scotia and the plant owners. Motion carried.

##### (2) Warden Cotton re: Growth Fund Seminar

Warden Cotton indicated a seminar was being held on Wednesday, December 13, 2000 from 9:00 a.m to 3:00 p.m., at the Maritime Inn, Port Hawkesbury and this seminar was open to all Councillors who wished to attend.

Warden Cotton indicated he had received a request from Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation to attend a presentation regarding E.C.B.C.'s strategic priorities, on December 14, 2000 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., but was unable to attend because he will be attending a meeting in Halifax, and he requested that Deputy Warden Goyetche attend and that he approach Councillors to determine if anyone was interested in attending.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

Mr. Kirk Stone requested information on the amount paid to the Town of Port Hawkesbury for fire protection for the past two years.

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

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