

RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

FEBRUARY 12, 2001

Location: Court House, Arichat

Deputy Warden Goyetche 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.

Deputy Warden Goyetche indicated that Councillor Bourque, Councillor Beaton and Councillor MacPhee were unable to attend the Council Meeting.

Items Added to the Agenda

Deputy Warden Goyetche indicated Councillor Sampson wished to add presentations to Councillor Johnson and Councillor MacPhee, Warden Cotton wished to add correspondence from Michel Samson, MLA, regarding Department of Transportation Mechanical Workers – Port Hawkesbury Highway Garage, Councillor Boudreau wished to add a press release, the confirmation of the Initial Chamber of Commerce Meeting and Councillor McNamara wished to add a snow removal problem in her District.

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

Review of Minutes: January 8, 2001

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that the minutes of January 8, 2001 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Petitions and/or Delegations:

- (a) Inverness-Richmond Society for Persons with Disabilities Re: Needs Assessment Project

Ms. Trina Samson presented her report on behalf of Inverness-Richmond Society for Persons with Disabilities (copy attached).

Ms. Samson indicated the Society was in the process of doing a needs assessment for persons with disabilities in both Richmond and Inverness Counties. She indicated a letter

had been sent to all Councillors in December requesting that they provide a list of people in their communities that may benefit from this program, and noted that some Councillors have provided this information.

Ms. Samson indicated that the issue of confidentiality was a concern, further noting that these persons would be included in a random phone survey and would not be approached any differently than random calls from the telephone directory. She noted that the deadline for these surveys was February 28, 2001.

In response to a question from Councillor Sampson, Ms. Samson indicated that the goal of the project was to create a database of the needs of the disabled, as well as to provide information/assistance to the disabled, which in most cases, they were not aware it existed.

Ms. Samson indicated that a report of their findings will be submitted by March 31, 2001.

In response to a question from Councillor Sampson, Ms. Samson indicated that even though the Inverness-Richmond Society for Persons with Disabilities only has a staff of three, they are very dedicated to this project, and will spend whatever time is necessary to meet their deadlines.

Councillor McNamara congratulated Ms. Samson for her dedication to this project.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that the report of the Inverness-Richmond Society for Persons with Disabilities be accepted as presented and that Richmond Municipal Council send a letter of support to the Inverness-Richmond Society for Persons with Disabilities supporting their Needs Assessment Project. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Goyetche acknowledged the attendance of Michel Samson, MLA.

(b) Cooperative Radio Richmond Limitee re: Funding Request

Mr. Billy Joyce, Project Coordinator, presented his report on behalf of the Cooperative Radio Richmond Limitee (copy attached).

Mr. Joyce indicated that the mandate of the Cooperative Radio Richmond Limitee was to promote Acadian culture in areas of assimilation.

Mr. Joyce indicated that the radio station had several successful trial broadcasts in which they promoted local culture, local artists (both French and English). He indicated they were unable to sell advertising because they did not have the proper licensing, however they did express "on air" greetings from organizations that supported the radio station.

Mr. Joyce reviewed the objectives outlined in his report to Council.

Mr. Joyce indicated they were requesting funding in the amount of \$60,000 from Municipal Council, to be funded over a three year period.

Mr. Joyce noted the construction of a transmitting tower was estimated at a cost of \$531,000 by an Engineer from Sogitec, and noted that half would be funded by Heritage Canada.

Mr. Joyce indicated that Cheticamp and Clare who have similar radio stations, received \$125,000 each from the federal government. He noted that the remaining funds would have to be raised by themselves and indicated they have raised approximately \$30,000 to date.

In response to a question from Warden Cotton, Mr. Joyce indicated that once the station is licensed, they would be able to operate on revenues from advertising and have a radio bingo, similar to that being done in Cheticamp.

In response to a question from Councillor McNamara, Mr. Joyce indicated that their goal is to have 12 hours of programming per day, and at which time, by the use of a “smartie” which is a device that allows the broadcasting of other stations on a network, they will transfer to one of the established 18 stations that are part of the National Alliance of Radio Stations.

Mr. Joyce indicated that, with the use of a 50-watt transmitter that they now rent, they will be travelling to other parts of the county so that everyone has a chance to hear their broadcast.

Mr. Joyce indicated that the group had been incorporated, however, the Steering Group were small and from the local area, but no representation from Mainland Richmond County.

In response to a question from the Clerk, Mr. Joyce indicated that he has spoken with Mr. Neil LeBlanc, Minister of Acadian Affairs, who seemed very optimistic that federal funding for this project will be received.

The Clerk suggested that this project be reviewed by the Director of Tourism Recreation and Culture to explore options of funding under that Department.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Warden Cotton that the report of the Cooperative Radio Richmond Limitee be accepted as presented and further moved that their funding request be referred to the Committee on budget deliberations. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

(a) Committee of the Whole Report

Councillor Sampson presented the monthly report of the Committee of the Whole (copy attached).

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and maintain the present schedule of Council and Committee of the Whole Meetings, and that the meeting schedule be advertised in the local newspaper and on the local cable station, stressing the fact that these meetings are public meetings. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and establish an Adhoc Committee for oil and gas with the purpose to establish a protocol to attend relevant meetings/conferences and further moved that this Committee be comprised of the Warden and two other members. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and establish an Adhoc Committee for Community Economic Development with the purpose to establish a protocol to attend relevant meetings/conferences and further moved that this Committee be comprised of the Warden and two other members. Motion carried.

Councillor Sampson gave notice that he would introduce a motion at the next regular Council Meeting to amend By-Law #49, Heritage Property By-Law, by deleting the "Members at Large" on the Heritage Advisory Committee and appoint one additional Councillor to serve on the Committee.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Warden Cotton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that staff salaries be increased by .8 of 1%, which is the amount that the C.P.I. exceeded 3% in 2000, as part of the Salary Negotiating Committee recommendations that were approved by Council last year. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and accept the recommendation of the Deputy Clerk and write-off tax accounts totaling \$29,188.49, which are not collectible, and which are listed as Schedule "A" attached. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and give approval to a road name change from "McNab's Road" to "Loch Lomond West" in District #10, if this road name change meets policy approval and receives the approval of the Department of Transportation and the District Planning Commission. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that the Committee of the Whole Report be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

- (a) Department of Environment and Labour re: Disposal of Household Syringes and Needles

The Clerk indicated that through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Environment and Labour, the Pharmacy Association of Nova Scotia and the Canadian Diabetes Association have agreed to provide sharp containers, free of charge, to customers who use syringes and needles in their homes.

- (b) Village on the Canal Association re: “Comfort Station” Facilities in Battery Park

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Sampson that a letter be written to the Minister of Natural Resources, with a copy to the Manager of Park Design, expressing Council’s support in the Village-on-the-Canal Association’s efforts to install “comfort station” facilities in Battery Park, St. Peter’s. Motion carried.

- (c) Municipality of the County of Victoria re: Stewardship for the Environmental Protection of the Bras D’Or Lakes

The Clerk indicated that both Warden Cotton and Warden Sampson of Victoria County had indicated to him that there are organizations in existence that are attempting to carry out a stewardship for the environmental protection of the Bras D’Or Lakes.

Warden Cotton indicated that he does support this effort, however it seems rather redundant.

- (d) Hon. Gordon Balser re: Amendments to the regulations under the Gas Distribution and Pipeline Acts.

The Clerk indicated that he has requested the Solicitor to investigate the impact of the four users that were exempted in the recent amendments.

- (e) Cape Breton Regional Municipality re: Reinstatement of Via Rail Passenger Service

- (f) Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission re: Request for Road Name Change from “6051(P)” to “Island View Drive”

Warden Cotton indicated that there is presently an “Island View Drive” in Louisdale and notes that this may cause conflict with the 911 system.

Moved by Warden Cotton, seconded by Councillor McNamara that this item be tabled until further investigation is carried out, in order to avoid road name duplication. Motion carried.

- (g) Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations re: Uniform Assessment for Use in 2001/02

The Clerk indicated that there does not appear to be any errors in the uniform assessment, however it should be appealed to keep avenues open regarding the Sable Assessment Appeals.

- (h) Municipal-Provincial Roles & Responsibilities Review re: Uniform Assessment for Use in 2001/02

- (i) Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission re: Alternate Development Officer Appointment

Moved by Warden Cotton, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Municipal Council appoint Mr. Kemp MacDonald as an Alternate Development Officer for the Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission, effective March 1, 2001. Motion carried.

- (j) St. Peter's United Church Hall re: Request for Tax Exemption

- (k) East Richmond Education Center re: Grant Request

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that the request by the St. Peter's United Church Hall and the East Richmond Education Centre be referred to the Committee of the Whole Meetings on grant deliberations and further moved that the Recreation Department be requested to provide advice on the request from the East Richmond Education Centre for a playground. Motion carried.

Items Added to the Agenda

- (1) Councillor Sampson re: Presentation to Councillor Johnson and Councillor MacPhee.

Councillor Sampson presented Councillor Johnson with a plaque on behalf of the Richmond Villa Board of Directors in appreciation of nine years of service to the Richmond Housing Corporation, and to the guests and staff of the Richmond Villa, with three of those years having served as Chairperson of the Board.

Councillor MacPhee was not presented with a plaque at this time, due to his absence.

- (2) Warden Cotton re: Correspondence from Michel Samson, MLA, regarding Department of Transportation Mechanical Workers – Port Hawkesbury Highway Garage

Warden Cotton indicated the decision to close the highway garage in Port Hawkesbury would be detrimental to service in Richmond County and surrounding areas adding to additional delays and decreased safety on the highways.

Moved by Warden Cotton, seconded by Councillor Sampson that a letter be written to the Minister of Transportation expressing opposition to the relocation of the Department of Transportation Mechanical Workers to the Antigonish Area, noting that delays in service could be detrimental to highway safety. Motion carried.

(3) Councillor Boudreau re: Press Release

Councillor Boudreau indicated that a recent CBC interview carried out by Phonse Jessome with members of the Strait Area Physician Recruitment Committee indicated a prominent falsehood that must not be overlooked. He indicated that it had been stated that emergency services were now only available in Sydney and Antigonish and there was no mention of St. Anne's Community and Nursing Care Centre, demeaning the efforts of staff and volunteers of St. Anne's.

Councillor Sampson indicated that he was present at the interview by CBC, as a member of the Physician Recruitment Committee, noting that they had been asked three questions at the interview, and indicated the clip shown on CBC did not cover all the discussion and stressed that there was never any intention to slight St. Anne's Centre.

Councillor Sampson urged Councillor Boudreau, who is the Municipal Council Representative on the Board of Directors of St. Anne Community and Nursing Care Centre, to attend a meeting of the Physician Recruitment Committee.

Councillor McNamara indicated that she listened to the tape of the interview and that no comments were indicated to slight St. Anne's Centre, but rather were intended with the focus to indicate and reinforce the shortage of health care services in Richmond County.

Warden Cotton indicated that he has experienced cases first hand where the Reporter sums up the discussions of the interview sometimes misinterpreting or leaving out valuable information.

Councillor Boudreau indicated that he supports the work of the volunteers on the Physician Recruitment Committee, however there is an exception with the CBC interview.

(4) Confirmation of Initial Chamber of Commerce Meeting

The Clerk indicated that the initial Chamber of Commerce Meeting will be held on February 27, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. in the boardroom at the Richmond Arena.

(5) Councillor McNamara re: Snow Removal

Councillor McNamara indicated that there are two residents in the Walkerville area that were unable to attend work for two days because the road on which they reside was not cleared.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Johnson that a letter be written to the Department of Transportation Area Manager expressing strong concern that snow removal is not being effectively carried out, noting the area in Walkerville where residents were unable to attend work for two days due to road conditions. Motion carried.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

Mr. Michel Samson, MLA, thanked Municipal Council for addressing the issue of highway workers in Port Hawkesbury.

Mr. Samson indicated that the press release by Councillor Boudreau was ill-advised when indicating that the CBC report was supported by Councillor Sampson, Susan Butts and himself, further noting that he takes great personal offence because of his family's involvement with the St. Anne's Centre.

Mr. Samson requested that Councillor Boudreau publicly withdraw his press release.

Councillor Boudreau indicated that he did not believe that his press release was ill-advised noting that he spoke with CBC Reporter, Phonse Jessome.

In response to a question from Mr. Michel Samson, MLA, Councillor Boudreau indicated he did not request the support of Dr. MacNeil for his press release, however he did have the support of the Administrator and the Chairman of the Board of St. Anne's Community and Nursing Care Centre.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Sampson that the meeting be adjourned.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.