

RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

APRIL 9, 2001

Location: Court House, Arichat

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 took roll call of Councillors.

Warden Cotton indicated Councillor Bourque was sick and Councillor Boudreau would be a bit late because he was attending a school meeting.

Items Added to the Agenda

Warden Cotton indicated Councillor Sampson wished to add Physician Recruitment Efforts re: Strait Richmond Hospital and Tax Exemption for Low Income Families.

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

Review of Minutes: (a) March 12, 2001 (Regular Meeting)
(b) March 19, 2001 (Special Meeting)

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the minutes of March 12, 2001 (Regular Meeting) and March 19, 2001 (Special Meeting) be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Petitions and/or Delegations:

(a) Strait Richmond Hospital re: Update on Strait Richmond Caregiver's Committee

Warden Cotton welcomed Elizabeth Henri and Trika Burke to the meeting.

Ms. Henri briefed Council on the role of the Caregiver's Committee, which consists of 11 individuals, comprised of Palliative Care Nurses, the Social Services Coordinator, Trika Burke, a staff person from Home Care Nova Scotia and Caregivers.

Ms. Henri noted that with our aging population and economy, and whereby most of our children are away, the onus is left on spouses to look after each other.

Ms. Henri indicated they had received a SEED grant and also a small grant from PLURA whereby they were able to hire a Field Coordinator, but noted the funding runs out at the end of August and they are hoping to be able to sustain the programs and they are requesting Council's assistance to continue the services of the Field Coordinator. She also indicated the Committee had applied for funding under the Community Health Promotion Fund, but had been denied funding.

In response to a question from Councillor Beaton, Ms. Henri indicated approximately 5% of our 11,000 population had been identified as caregivers.

In response to questions from Deputy Warden Goyetche, Ms. Henri indicated the definition of a caregiver is a person who helps someone in order that they can receive a better quality of life and she noted there were approximately 65 caregivers in the Petit De Grat area.

Ms. Henri indicated she felt it was very important for caregivers to receive the St. John's Ambulance Course or a First Aid Course, in order to give proper care.

Ms. Henri indicated the Committee was requesting some respite beds at the new Richmond Villa facility where individuals can be brought in for a week-end, etc. in order to give their caregivers a rest.

In response to a question from Councillor McNamara, Ms. Henri indicated the Caregivers Program was run separately from the Home Care Respite Care Program. She indicated the Committee was hoping to be able to give extra respite care that Home Care can't provide and she also indicated that the Caregivers Program offer a little extra over and above what the Home Care Program provides.

Warden Cotton indicated the Home Care Program is being grandfathered, and the ones presently receiving the program will continue.

In response to a question from Councillor Johnson, Ms. Henri indicated that the program is available to everyone, with no set criteria.

Councillors commended Ms. Henri and Ms. Burke for their work on the Committee.

Moved by Deputy Warden Goyetche, seconded by Councillor Beaton that the presentation from the Strait Richmond Caregiver's Committee be accepted as presented and that their request be referred to the Committee on budget deliberations. Motion carried.

Warden Cotton thanked Ms. Henri and Ms. Burke for their presentation.

(b) Sable Offshore Energy Project re: Community Partnerships

Warden Cotton noted Representatives of Sable Offshore Energy were not present and indicated they would accept a presentation from them at a later date, if they so request.

(c) Rocky Bay Neighborhood Improvement Association re: Doyle Road/Grant Request

Warden Cotton welcomed Mr. Earl Doyle to the meeting.

Mr. Doyle indicated the Rocky Bay Neighborhood Improvement Association was a not-for-profit group which was incorporated in 1976, and consisted of approximately 25 members. He indicated this group was sponsoring a project to restore an historical trail between the communities of Rocky Bay and D'Escousse for the purpose of providing a safe and healthier place for all ages of our population to walk, bike, cross-country ski, snow-shoe, sleigh ride, etc.

Mr. Doyle indicated that the restoration of the Doyle's Road would include the construction of six new culverts, clean-up (removal of debris) and the design, development and implementation of signage.

Mr. Doyle indicated the group was requesting a grant of \$1,800 from the Municipality, which would cover the cost of purchasing and installing the six culverts that have to be replaced on the proposed trail. He also indicated that he has already received commitments for backhoe work if the money can be obtained for the culverts and also noted that Mr. Robert Carroll from the Department of Transportation has given him a verbal commitment that he would give his approval as soon as funding is received.

Mr. Doyle indicated a funding request has also been submitted to the Go for the Green Program.

A question and answer period followed.

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the presentation by the Rocky Bay Neighborhood Improvement Association be accepted as presented and that the grant request be referred to the Committee on budget deliberations. Motion carried.

Warden Cotton thanked Mr. Doyle for his presentation.

Second Reading Approval: 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 Councillor MacPhee that Municipal Council give Second Reading Approval 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. Motion carried.

Warden Cotton noted that no Councillors had indicated their interest in serving on this Committee yet and requested that Councillors let him know as soon as possible who would be interested.

Committee Reports

(a) Committee of the Whole

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

Deputy Warden Goyetche gave notice that he would introduce a motion at the next Council Meeting, that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and adopt a Purchasing Policy, which is attached as Schedule “A”.

Deputy Warden Goyetche gave notice that he would introduce a motion at the next Council Meeting, that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and adopt the Policy for Disposal of Surplus Equipment, which is attached as Schedule “B”.

Moved by Deputy Warden Goyetche, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that Council forward a letter of support for the Regional Rural Public Library to the Department of Finance, expressing the importance of Regional Rural Public Libraries in Richmond County and surrounding area. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Goyetche, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that Mr. Kenny Cooke be appointed Fire Chief; Mr. Wayne Marchand be appointed Deputy Fire Chief and Mr. Malcolm MacLeod be appointed Secretary/Treasurer of the Grand River Volunteer Fire Department. Motion carried.

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

(b) Planning Advisory Committee

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

Councillor McNamara gave notice that she would introduce a motion at the next Regular Council Meeting, to give First Reading Approval to the Civic Addressing By-Law, which is attached as Appendix “A”.

Councillor McNamara gave notice that she would introduce a motion at the next regular Council Meeting, to adopt the recommendation of the Planning Advisory Committee, by amending the Subdivision By-Law, by adding to Part D – Private Roads Right-of-Ways, Section 33, Sub-section (1): “(e) have the name of the private road right-of-ways as issued by the civic addressing system.”, which is attached as Appendix “B”.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that the monthly report of the Planning Advisory Committee be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

(a) U.N.S.M. re: Review of Roles & Responsibilities Review/Equalization

Warden Cotton noted he was the Representative for Inverness, Richmond and Victoria and indicated that the proposal proposed by the provincial government had been defeated by the Executive 12-3. He noted fifteen units had agreed with the equalization in principal. He noted there were split discussions regarding capping contributions and he felt there is a need to have a “cap” and would like to try to negotiate to form a “cap” to three years and look at another round of negotiations at that time. He noted there were talks about replacing education costs with roads. He indicated the Table Officers’ mandate was to meet with the Department of Municipal Affairs within the three month period in order to try to bring this matter to a final resolution.

Deputy Warden Goyetche indicated he felt that funding under the February 27th proposal should not be reviewed and felt that Council should be extremely cautious because this could end up having a more negative impact than what it is now.

Warden Cotton noted the proposal only addresses principles and not money.

The Clerk requested if there was a manner for the Municipality to participate in the new process before the report is released and Warden Cotton indicated there was no process and that it was strictly done through the Table Officers.

Councillor Boudreau indicated he remains opposed to equalization and strongly feels the Municipality should provide infrastructure within our county with our own funds and will not support this proposal.

Councillor McNamara indicated she felt the commitment must be made amongst Council to expend funds on our own infrastructure and it was time for Municipal Council to look at spending money in our own county.

The Clerk noted that the Richmond contribution to the Equalization Program was not based on our level of spending or low tax rates, but rather resulted from our large assessment base.

(b) Premier Hamm re: Extension, Review of Roles/Equalization

Warden Cotton noted that Premier Hamm's comments were wrong and that the only one involved will be the President of the U.N.S.M., who is a member of the Small Towns Caucus.

(c) Mayor Peter Kelly re: Review of Roles/Equalization

The Clerk indicated the correspondence outlines H.R.M.'s position and their ideas and they have demanded to have a new proposal drawn up.

(d) Premier John Hamm re: Nova Scotia's Campaign for Fairness

Moved by Deputy Warden Goyetche, seconded by Councillor Johnson that a letter be written to Premier Hamm indicating that Richmond Municipal Council supports the Nova Scotia's "Campaign for Fairness". Motion carried.

(e) Stora Enso re: Establishment of a Forest Advisory Committee

(f) Dr. Jeff Scott re: Athletes and Water Bottles/Meningococcal Disease

The Clerk indicated he has requested the Recreation Department to forward the correspondence to sports groups and he also recommended that Councillors share this information with individuals in their communities.

(g) L'Ardoise Economic Association for Development re: Letter of Support re: Chapel Cove Wharf Preservation Society

(h) U.N.S.M. re: Provincial Budget/Highlights of the Major Impact on Municipalities

(i) Nicholas Denys Museum re: Grant Request

(j) Richmond County Disabled Association re: Grant Request

(k) St. Peter's and District Fire Department re: Tax Exemption

(l) Oceanview Wildlife Museum Society re: Grant Request

(m) Oceanview Wildlife Museum Society re: Request for Tax Exemption

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that the grant request from the Nicholas Denys Museum; the Richmond County Disabled Association and the

Oceanview Wildlife Museum Society be referred to the Committee on budget deliberations. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that the request for a tax exemption from the St. Peter's and District Fire Department and the Oceanview Wildlife Museum Society be referred to the Committee on budget deliberations. Motion carried.

(n) Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission re: Request for Road Name Change from "MacDonald Road" to "Peter F. Campbell Lane"

Councillor Johnson indicated she had not been approached by residents on this road to have this road name changed and that she was not aware of any petition signed by the residents requesting this change.

Councillor Beaton indicated the sign had already been posted with the road name change "Peter F. Campbell Lane".

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Deputy Warden Goyetche that a letter be written to the Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission requesting that they explain how the request for the road name change from "MacDonald Road" to "Peter F. Campbell Lane" was received and whom requested this change. Motion carried.

Councillor Johnson indicated that Mr. Hebert from the District Planning Commission had indicated to her that the road name change to "Passage Road" had not been accepted by the Commission and she noted that this road name change had already been accepted by Council.

(o) Quincy Yu, Special Affairs Coordinator re: "Falun Dafa Week – Embracing Truthfulness-Compassion-Tolerance"

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor McNamara that this item be tabled until the next Council Meeting in order to obtain information from our Member of Parliament regarding this event. Motion carried.

Items Added to the Agenda

Councillor Sampson re:

(i) Physician Recruitment Efforts re: Strait Richmond Hospital

Councillor Sampson reported on the efforts of the Strait Richmond Hospital Recruiting Committee in an effort to find a full time doctor for the emergency department. He noted it has been three months since Dr. Thomas left and they still haven't been able to recruit a doctor, but efforts are continuing. He reported that a very positive meeting had taken place this evening with all seven doctors serving the Strait Area and indicated a proposal

will be sent to the Department of Health, in the hopes that positive news will be received shortly.

(ii) Tax Exemption for Low Income Families

Councillor Sampson indicated that residents in his community had gone through a very difficult season and would like to see the Municipality participate in some form of tax exemption for low income families. He indicated he wished to bring the matter to Council in order to find out what the reaction of other Councillors would be and form a basis for future discussions as Council go into budget deliberations.

Moved by Deputy Warden Goyetche, seconded by Councillor McNamara that this matter be tabled until budget deliberations. Motion carried.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

There were no questions.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Deputy Warden Goyetche that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

There being no further business, Warden Cotton adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.