

RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

MAY 14, 2001

Location: Court House, Arichat

Warden Cotton called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for the singing of O'Canada.

The Clerk took roll call of Councillors.

Warden Cotton indicated that Councillor Bourque could not attend tonight's meeting, due to illness.

Items Added to the Agenda

Warden Cotton indicated that Councillor Sampson wished to add delays in placement of people to long term care facilities and Strait physician recruitment and status of the E.R. Department at the Strait Richmond Hospital.

Warden Cotton indicated that the Clerk wished to add information from the Department of Transportation regarding capital and operation expenditures and the UNSM Executive Committee's report on the 90 day Equalization Review Project.

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

Review of Minutes: April 9, 2001

Warden Cotton indicated that on Page 6; Section (b) should read that "the only people involved will be the President of the U.N.S.M., along with the Table Officers and Mr. Ken Simpson", and that the last comment indicating that the President of the U.N.S.M. is a member of the Small Towns Caucus, should be omitted.

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the minutes of April 9, 2001 be adopted as amended. Motion carried.

Petitions and/or Delegations

(a) Richmond County Disabled Association re: Grant Request

Warden Cotton welcomed Mr. Ray Bonin and Mr. Bill Martin to the meeting.

Mr. Bonin and Mr. Martin presented their report on behalf of the Richmond County Disabled Association.

Mr. Martin indicated that the Richmond County Disabled Association was formed in 1986 and has been registered since 1991 and noted that their funds come directly from fundraising, corporate donations and grants.

Mr. Martin indicated that the Richmond County Disabled Association serves the needs of the disabled and elderly in all of Richmond County by improving access and mobility throughout the County. He also indicated that the organization's immediate goal is to raise funds to provide the disabled population of Richmond County with an access bus, noting that the cost of this bus would be in the range of \$90,000 to \$100,000.

Mr. Martin indicated that the Association has obtained a letter of support from Mr. Michel Samson, MLA.

In response to a question from Councillor MacPhee, Mr. Bonin indicated he is unsure how many Richmond County residents are disabled to the point that they are in a wheel chair, however surveys have indicated that in 1991, there were approximately 2,300 disabled persons in Richmond County.

In response to questions from Councillor McNamara, Mr. Martin indicated that the Inverness-Richmond Society for Persons with Disabilities had conducted a survey where it was determined that 75% of participants indicated that transportation was a problem for the disabled; however they have not conducted a separate needs assessment for Richmond County.

Councillor Beaton thanked Mr. Martin and Mr. Bonin for their presentation and initiative.

Councillor McNamara suggested that perhaps the cost feasibility for an access bus should be carried out before purchase is considered.

In response to a question from Deputy Warden Goyetche, Mr. Martin indicated that they have not yet applied for federal assistance.

In response to questions from Councillor Sampson, Mr. Martin indicated that they have just begun their fundraising efforts and noted that a recent dinner, dance and ticket sales has raised between \$5,000-6,000. He also indicated that they will be consulting with Yarmouth County, who currently operates an access bus, regarding operating costs.

The Clerk indicated that the Minister has indicated that the Province will be providing funding for projects that assist the transportation needs of the disabled, however particulars about this

funding are not yet known. The Clerk indicated that he will forward the details to Mr. Martin and Mr. Bonin, when the announcement is made.

Councillor McNamara suggested that perhaps the Municipality's Economic Development Department could assist the Richmond County Disabled Association in determining avenues for funding.

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Deputy Warden Goyetche that the report from the Richmond County Disabled Association be accepted as presented and that their grant request be tabled until budget deliberations. Motion carried.

Warden Cotton thanked Mr. Bonin and Mr. Martin for attending the meeting.

(b) La Cooperative Radio Richmond Ltee re: Land Request

Warden Cotton welcomed Mr. Billy Joyce to the meeting.

Mr. Billy Joyce, Coordinator for La Cooperative Radio Richmond Ltee, indicated that they are approaching the Municipality requesting that they be permitted to establish a transmitting tower at the former landfill site either through sale, leasing or turning over a portion of the land to La Cooperative Radio Richmond Ltee.

In response to a question from Deputy Warden Goyetche, Mr. Joyce indicated that they would require a parcel of land approximately 500 ft. by 500 ft., which would house the tower as well as guide lines and power equipment required for its operation.

Deputy Warden Goyetche indicated that staff should be consulted as to the future use of this land before any decisions can be made about its conveyance.

In response to a question from Councillor Beaton, the Clerk indicated that staff should be consulted regarding any environmental issues associated with the conveyance of this land.

In response to a question from Councillor McNamara, Mr. Joyce indicated that an engineer from Quebec had carried out the technical study because he had experience doing this for other french radio stations across Canada, further noting that the costs of the technical study was funded by Heritage Canada.

Mr. Joyce indicated that the technical study is at a standstill until they can obtain a parcel of land to house the tower.

Mr. Joyce indicated that in the technical study, the engineer explored the options of hooking to either the MTT tower in West Arichat or the CBC tower in Mulgrave, however operating costs would be 3-5 times greater than if they had their own tower.

In response to a question from Councillor Sampson, Mr. Joyce indicated that the land request would compensate for a portion of La Cooperative Radio Richmond Ltee's original request for funding of \$60,000 over three years.

Moved by Deputy Warden Goyetche, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that the report from La Cooperative Radio Richmond Ltee be accepted as presented and that staff be consulted as to the future use of the land housing the former landfill site, as well as investigating any environmental issues that may arise. Motion carried.

Notices of Motion

- (1) Councillor McNamara: to give First Reading Approval to the Civic Addressing By-Law, which is attached as Appendix "A" (copy attached).

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Boudreau that Council give approval of First Reading to adopt the Civic Addressing By-Law, which is attached as Appendix "A". Motion carried.

- (b) Councillor McNamara: to give First Reading Approval to amend 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" (copy attached).

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that Council give approval of First Reading to amend 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". Motion carried.

- (c) Deputy Warden Goyetche: to adopt a Purchasing Policy, which is attached as Appendix "C" (copy attached).

Moved by Deputy Warden Goyetche, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Council adopt the Purchasing Policy, which is attached as Appendix "C", as a Policy of the Municipality. Motion carried.

- (d) Deputy Warden Goyetche: to adopt the Policy for Disposal of Surplus Equipment, which is attached as Appendix "D" (copy attached).

Moved by Deputy Warden Goyetche, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council adopt the Policy for Disposal of Surplus Equipment, which is attached as Appendix "D", as a policy of the Municipality. Motion carried.

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 Boudreau that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that a staff person be hired to work on a pilot project with DIMA for a term of six months, and that this person begin employment as soon as possible;

AND FURTHER MOVED that this staff person be responsible to report to Council on an ongoing basis and that this staff person be employed conditional on the support of LaPicasse and members of the Strategic Planning Committee. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Goyetche, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Municipality support the efforts of the Johnstown Community Development Cooperative in their initiative with the sustainable development project on the Bras D'Or Lakes;

AND FURTHER MOVED that Economic Development Officers, Mr. Robert MacDonald and Mr. Andre LeBlanc be made available to assist the Johnstown Community Development Cooperative with this project. 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 Municipality authorize a quit claim deed with the Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Antigonish regarding the former school house lot located next to the glebe house of the Immaculate Conception Parish in West Arichat. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Goyetche, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the U.N.S.M. be advised that the Municipality will not agree to the action proposed by the Executive regarding U.N.S.M. Resolution 19(A), and revenue sharing, because the equalization proposal that is being supported by the Province and the U.N.S.M. essentially provides that the revenues from Richmond County will be shared with other municipalities in Nova Scotia, through the equalization formulas. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Goyetche, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that PR Bedding be permitted to lease the bay that they currently occupy at the Industrial Mall, conditional on their paying immediately all arrears to date;

AND FURTHER MOVED that they be advised that their lease will be terminated immediately if

they remit any further NSF cheques, or fall into arrears on this account. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Goyetche, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Municipality express support for the resolution proposed by the Strait Chamber of Commerce regarding the establishment of a common supply base in the greater Strait Area. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Goyetche, seconded by Councillor Beaton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Municipality forward a letter to the appropriate federal and provincial departments, noting that there has not been a representative on the Enterprise Cape Breton Board from Richmond County for many years, and requesting that an appointment of a Richmond County resident to the E.C.B.C. Board be made as soon as possible. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Goyetche, seconded by Councillor Boudreau that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the water treatment plant upgrade project in Arichat become the Richmond #1 priority for the Canada/Nova Scotia Infrastructure Program because a suitable groundwater supply could not be located. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Goyetche gave notice that he will introduce a motion at the next regular Council Meeting to amend the policy on grant requests by removing the deadline of March 31 from the policy, regarding the receipt of grant applications.

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

Correspondence:

(a) Town of Port Hawkesbury re: Fire Services

Warden Cotton indicated that the Town of Port Hawkesbury had initially requested an increase in the fire protection rate for the Point Tupper area, however they have contacted the Municipality with a renewal of the current agreement of \$25,000 per annum with the option of a one, two or three year term which he recommends.

In response to a question from Councillor McNamara, Warden Cotton indicated that the Municipality has not received a report indicating what service has been provided in the Point Tupper area over the past year.

Deputy Warden Goyetche indicated that the Strait Area Mutual Aid should investigate if the Port Hawkesbury Fire Department meets the requirements of training and equipment that would qualify them as a first responder for an industrial emergency in Point Tupper.

Councillor Johnson indicated that she would agree to the renewal of the current agreement if the Port Hawkesbury Fire Department is willing to become fully accountable to providing the residential and corporate residents of Point Tupper with the proper fire protection.

The Clerk indicated that the Municipality, who is now responsible for registering fire departments within the County, is accountable for registered fire departments that do not have the capabilities to provide emergency first response.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Deputy Warden Goyetche that a decision on this item be tabled until the Solicitor is consulted regarding the Municipality's liability once a fire department is registered with the Municipality and until the Port Hawkesbury Fire Department provides a report to Richmond Council regarding the services that have been provided in the Point Tupper area over the past year and conditional on the Port Hawkesbury Fire Department providing the information necessary for registration. Motion carried.

(b) St. Peter's Lions Club re: Thank You

For information purposes.

(c) Minister of Environment re: Sewage Management

Moved by Deputy Warden Goyetche, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Richmond Municipal Council forward correspondence to the Premier, with a copy to the Minister of Environment, the Minister of Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations, and Voluntary Planning; and indicate to the Premier the Municipality's dissatisfaction that provincial public hearings and consultations in the recent past are not being held in Richmond County, with recent examples being the Voluntary Planning Task Force on non-resident land ownership and the Department of Environment consultation on the sewage management review and further moved that the Premier's Office be requested to intervene to provide assurances that Richmond County residents will be given reasonable opportunity to participate in future provincial public consultations. Motion carried.

(d) D.I.M.A. re: Eco-Trail Maintenance

Warden Cotton suggested that perhaps the maintenance of the trail be dealt with by the Municipality's Tourism Department.

The Clerk indicated that he has recently reviewed this file and noted that Council had previously tabled this item.

Moved by Councillor Boudreau, seconded by Deputy Warden Goyetche that this item be reviewed to determine if the funding for trail maintenance can be provided to DIMA through a program, other than our municipal grants allocation. Motion carried.

(e) U.N.S.M. re: UNSM Commitment to Equalization

(f) U.N.S.M. re: Assessment Services

For information purposes.

(g) Municipality of the District of West Hants re: Proposed Equalization Program

(h) Department of Environment & Labour re: Aggregate Operation, Cap La Ronde

Councillor Beaton indicated that the community has expressed concern to the provincial Minister, regarding this beach, and the aggregate operation.

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that this item be tabled until more information is provided by the proponent, or the Minister, regarding this proposed aggregate operation at this beach. Motion carried.

(i) Mr. Michel Samson, MLA re: Airmac Flight Centre

Moved by Deputy Warden Goyetche, seconded by Councillor Beaton that a letter of support be sent to the Premier with copies to the Hon. Jane Purves, Hon. Rodney MacDonald and Mr. Michel Samson, MLA, requesting that the Province review this matter and provide training programs and student loans support for students who wish to take these programs at the Nova Scotia Community College, in accordance with the proposal of Mr. Allen MacDonald. Motion carried.

(j) Voluntary Planning re: Voluntary Planning Task Force (Land Title)

Councillor MacPhee indicated that Voluntary Planning will be accepting representation on the issue of non-resident land ownership until the end on May, via their Website.

(k) Public Works & Government Services re: Surplus Federal Land - River Bourgeois

Councillor MacPhee indicated that the River Bourgeois Community Services Society was serious about obtaining this parcel of land in River Bourgeois, with the goal of restoring the former light station and he would like the Municipality to reply to Public Works and Government Services Canada to indicate that the Municipality is not interested in assuming administration and control of this property.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the Municipality reply to Public Works and Government Services Canada to indicate that the Municipality is not interested in assuming administration and control of the former light station located in River

Bourgeois and indicate support for the River Bourgeois Community Services Society in obtaining the surplus federal land in question. Motion carried.

(l) District #10 Volunteer Fire Department re: New Executive/Financial Statement

For information purposes.

(m) L'Ardoise Volunteer Fire Department re: Projected Budget/Financial Statement

For information purposes.

(n) Richmond County Literacy Network re: Grant Request

Councillor McNamara indicated that, earlier tonight, she distributed copies of financial statements as well as an update on the activities of the Richmond County Literacy Network.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Beaton that the information from the Richmond County Literacy Network be referred to budget deliberations. Motion carried.

(o) Statistics Canada re: Census Week

Moved by Deputy Warden Goyetche, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that Municipal Council proclaim the week of May 13-19, 2001 as "Census Week". Motion carried

(p) Indian and Northern Affairs Canada re: National Aboriginal Day

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Municipal Council proclaim June 21, 2001 as "National Aboriginal Day", and further moved that this information be circulated to all Richmond County schools. Motion carried.

Items Added to the Agenda

(1) Councillor Sampson re:

- (i) Single Entry System - Letter of Concern re: Delays in Placement of People to Long Term Care Facilities.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that a letter be written to the Hon. Jamie Muir, with copies to Mr. Dean Hirtle, Mr. Keith Menze and Mr. Michel Samson, MLA, indicating Council's frustration and concern with the delays in having residents placed in long term care facilities. Motion carried.

- (ii) Strait Physician Recruitment and Status of E.R. Department at Strait Richmond

Councillor Sampson indicated that it is now approaching the five month period since there has been an emergency room physician at the Strait Richmond Hospital further noting that representation has been made to the Province, who indicated that they are working on the problem but have not yet found anyone to fill the position.

Councillor Sampson indicated that stronger efforts are required on behalf of the Province to attract someone to this position

Warden Cotton indicated that more pressure on the Province is needed, noting that he does not believe that the Province has been making an honest effort.

(2) Clerk re:

- (i) Information from Department of Transportation Regarding Capital and Operational Expenditures

The Clerk indicated that he has received information from the Department of Transportation and Public Works where they have indicated that they will not be upholding their commitment for major re-paving of the Trunk 4 highway because funding is not available this year.

Councillor MacPhee indicated that more funds must be allocated towards highway construction and maintenance.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Johnson that a letter be written to Mr. Bruce Fitzner and Mr. Robert Carroll from the Department of Transportation, inviting them to attend another Council Meeting, in order to discuss the shift of focus from repaving the Trunk 4 highway and to have them review capital and operating expenditures for the past few years. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Sampson that a meeting be requested with the Minister of Transportation to discuss the conditions of roads in Richmond County and that Municipal Council be prepared to make strong representation that road conditions must be improved and further requesting that consideration be given to municipal priorities. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Goyetche suggested this meeting be held in Richmond County in order that the Minister can see for himself the poor conditions of our roads.

Councillor MacPhee noted that Council would get a meeting a lot sooner if they went to the Minister in Halifax rather than waiting for his schedule to permit him to travel to Richmond County.

(ii) Roles and Responsibilities Review - UNSM Executive Committee's Report on the 90 Day Equalization Review Project

Warden Cotton suggested that Council endorse the Committee's Report on the 90 Day Equalization Review Project.

Councillor Boudreau expressed his support for this project indicating that it provides Council with a three-year window.

Moved by Deputy Warden Goyette, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Council respond to the Committee's Report on the 90 Day Equalization Review Project, indicating Richmond Council's support for this proposal. Motion carried.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

In response to a question from Mr. Jamus Dorey, Warden Cotton noted that it cannot be indicated at this time what amount may be granted to the Richmond County Disabled Association, and that this would be determined during budget deliberations.

Councillor Boudreau noted that organizations that submit grant requests must realize that the Municipality only allots a fixed amount towards grants in any given fiscal year.

In response to a question from Mr. Jamus Dorey regarding the opportunity cost to his organization, Warden Cotton indicated that budget deliberations are held during Committee of the Whole Meetings, and they are open to the public.

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Boudreau that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

There being no further business, Warden Cotton adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.