

RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

SEPTEMBER 10, 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 that Councillor Beaton was away on business and was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Items Added to the Agenda

Warden Cotton indicated Councillor McNamara wished to add a request for signs for road name changes and the Clerk wished to add an appointment to the Order of Canada, Eva Landry.

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

Review of Minutes: (a) June 18, 2001 (Public Hearing)
(b) June 18, 2001 (Annual Session)
(c) July 25, 2001 (Special Meeting)

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Johnson that the minutes of June 18, 2001 (Public Hearing); June 18, 2001 (Annual Session) and July 25, 2001 (Special Meeting) be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Petitions and/or Delegations

(a) Department of Environment (Laurie Suitor) re: Municipal and First Nations Sewage Strategy for the Bras D'Or Lake

Warden Cotton welcomed Ms. Laurie Sutor, Constable Brad Parks and Mr. Jim Crawford to the meeting.

Ms. Laurie Sutor addressed Council indicating it is very clear there are serious issues that exist along the Bras D'Or Lake and this has also become an economic problem for individuals with aquaculture leases. She indicated some individuals do not have the means to correct these problems and noted there are funded programs now available for sewage remediation along the Bras D'Or Lake.

Constable Parks, member of the Bras D'Or Lake Field Team, Sustainable Communities Initiative, presented a map to Council showing the watershed and lake area. He indicated their mission was to support individuals and organizations throughout the Bras D'Or Lake watershed in their efforts to make their communities more sustainable. He indicated membership is comprised of appointed representatives from federal, provincial, municipal and First Nations and meetings are held monthly. He noted he will make Council aware of the monthly meetings in the event they wish to attend.

Mr. Crawford addressed Council indicating he is an aquaculture farmer who has his own processing plant and expressed grave concerns regarding the 42 sites on the lake that is now closed to the shell fishery, noting this number is up from 15 sites in 1990 and indicated this is placing the valuable shell fishery at risk.

Ms. Sutor indicated discussion meetings have been held to address and identify issues and reviewed the ten point plan directed at Municipalities and First Nations and also the ten point plan directed at government agencies, that need to be developed (copies attached). Ms. Sutor indicated that the Department of Environment and Labour would provide resources to assist with the clean-up of the Bras D'Or Lakes, and she indicated they would also provide technical expertise and evaluation and technical solutions to property owners who had malfunctioning on-site sewage disposal systems.

Councillor MacPhee expressed concern, because the presentation refers to community consultations that have been held, and there has been no community consultation in Richmond County.

Ms. Sutor indicated that she felt Richmond Council should organize meetings, if community consultations are felt to be needed in Richmond County.

Warden Cotton indicated this matter has been discussed at the Mayors and Wardens Meeting and noted that the other four municipal units have passed and signed the agreement. He noted this matter will also be on the September 25th agenda. Warden Cotton noted that \$2,000,000 is available and noted that this will allow individuals who wish to be pro-active to obtain funding. He noted this agreement was not to enforce individuals to be pro-active but rather would give them an opportunity to participate if they wished. He noted this agreement was an opportunity for municipalities to be in control, while at the same time giving individuals an opportunity to access funds.

Warden Cotton noted that if Richmond is not part of the agreement, we will not be able to access funding and it will also weaken the application.

Deputy Warden Goyetche requested a copy of the study that had been prepared in 1991 and Ms. Suitor indicated she would make provide Council with a copy of that study.

A question and answer period followed.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that Richmond Municipal Council support the application and concept in principle of the Municipal and First Nations Sewage Strategy for the Bras D'Or Lake. Motion carried.

Warden Cotton indicated he would provide Council with a copy of the letter of support.

Warden Cotton thanked Ms. Suitor, Constable Parks and Mr. Crawford for attending the meeting.

Committee Reports:

(a) Committee of the Whole

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

Moved by Deputy Warden Goyetche, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that Richmond County agree to contribute \$16,000 towards the Supply Base Project, with a leeway to a maximum of 25% of the proposed budget.

Warden Cotton indicated he wished to have the leeway amount changed from 25% to 33%.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the motion be amended and that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that Richmond County agree to contribute \$16,000 towards the Supply Base Project, with a leeway to a maximum of 33% of the proposed budget. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Goyetche, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that an Adhoc Committee be established of the Warden, CAO and one other Councillor to investigate alternatives and options available to the Municipality of Richmond for economic development services, to include rejoining an RDA; and further moved that the Adhoc Committee be given four months to provide a report to Council. Motion carried.

Warden Cotton reported that Councillor Johnson would be the third member of the Adhoc Committee.

Moved by Deputy Warden Goyetche, seconded by Councillor Bourque that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that approval be given to name a road in Poirierville (District #3) to “Old Gullet Road” and also that a road name in Poulamon (District #3) be changed from “Poulamon-D’Escousse Road” to “Old Wharf Road”, 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 MacNeil that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that a letter be written to the Department of Transportation requesting that a sign be erected in District #3 for “Bonaventure Lane”, noting that the name has been approved by Council, the District Planning Commission and the Department of Transportation. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Goyetche indicated the appointment of Council representation to a Youth Advisory Committee had been referred to Council.

Warden Cotton indicated that Councillor MacPhee and Councillor MacNeil had expressed their interest in serving on the Youth Advisory Committee.

Moved by Deputy Warden Goyetche, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Councillor MacPhee and Councillor MacNeil be appointed as the Council representatives to serve on the Youth Advisory Committee. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Goyetche indicated the matter of the reduction in ambulance service had been referred to Council.

Councillor MacNeil expressed grave concerns regarding the Emergency Medical Services’ plans to eliminate one of the two ambulances from night time coverage in Port Hawkesbury, leaving the eastern portion of Richmond County and the Isle Madame area at huge risk in emergency cases, because the ambulance covering Isle Madame and the one covering the St. Peter’s area could be called to Port Hawkesbury.

Councillors expressed concern regarding the lack of consultation taking place with fire departments, who are having responsibility being placed on them as first responders.

Councillor Boudreau noted that Richmond County has gone from five ambulances, prior to the takeover of this service by the Province, to one full time ambulance as proposed in the new structure.

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Richmond Municipal Council vigorously lobby the provincial government and write letters to Premier John Hamm and the Hon. Jamie Muir requesting that the night time ambulance service in the Town of Port Hawkesbury be re-instated to the previous service that was being provided, which included having two ambulances cover night time service, stressing that this change would place a huge risk to residents of eastern Richmond

County and Isle Madame, if one of the ambulance covering these areas had to be called to cover the Town of Port Hawkesbury. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Goyetche, seconded by Councillor Sampson 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 acknowledged that she had not attended the Planning Advisory Committee Meeting held in June, however, she understood that the motion passed at the meeting was different than that in the report.

The members who were present at the June Planning Advisory Committee Meeting indicated that the motion conformed with the discussions held at the meeting.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that the matter be referred back to the Planning Advisory Committee.

After considerable discussion, Councillor McNamara indicated she was prepared to make the motion as presented in the Planning Advisory Committee Report.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Deputy Warden Goyetche that Council accept the recommendation of the Planning Advisory Committee and that fire departments in Richmond County be asked if they would be willing to assume the responsibility for promoting the issuing/erecting of 911 signage. Motion carried.

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

Correspondence:

(a) Councillor Sampson re: Road Name Change from 5131(P) to “Ken’s Road” or “Ken’s Lane”

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that Municipal Council give approval to a road name change from 5131(P) in L’Ardoise, Richmond County (District #9) to “Ken’s Road” (1st choice) or “Ken’s Lane” (2nd choice), if it meets policy approval and receives the approval from the Department of Transportation and the District Planning Commission. Motion carried.

(b) Hon. Gordon Balsler re: Denial of Richmond County RDA

(c) Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations re: Natural Gas Related Development

Workshop

Warden Cotton indicated an introductory workshop was scheduled for the evening of September 26, followed by the workshop on September 27, at the Maritime Inn in Port Hawkesbury. He indicated he would be attending the workshop and asked if one other Councillor would be available to attend.

Councillor Johnson indicated she could attend the workshop.

Moved by Deputy Warden Goyetche, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Warden Cotton and Councillor Johnson be appointed as the representatives to attend the workshop scheduled for September 26 and 27. Motion carried.

(d) Eastern Counties Regional Library re: Funding Request for Rental Fees of the L'Ardoise Library Links Site

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Municipal Council authorize an expenditure of \$500 per year for the rental of space in the L'Ardoise Cap Site, to be used by the Eastern Counties Regional Library. Motion carried.

(e) U.N.S.M. re: (i) UNSM Roles & Responsibilities Proposal (2)
(ii) Report of the 2001/02 Nominating Committee
(iii) Sempra Atlantic Gas

(f) (i) Premier John Hamm re: ECBC Board Appointment
(ii) Hon. Robert Thibault re: ECBC Board Appointment
(iii) E.C.B.C. re: ECBC Board Appointment
(iv) Mr. Michel Samson re: ECBC Board Appointment

Moved by Deputy Warden Goyetche, seconded by Councillor Bourque that a letter be written to the Hon. Robert Thibault requesting that Municipal Council be provided with the terms of office for the Board of Directors of Enterprise Cape Breton and also that Richmond Municipal Council be made aware of any vacancies that may occur. Motion carried.

(g) L'Ardoise Economic Association for Development re:

(i) Status of L'Ardoise School

Warden Cotton indicated two scheduled meetings with the School Board had been cancelled, and no attempts have been made to reschedule another meeting.

Councillor Sampson indicated he was appalled at the incompetency and the lack of good judgment from the School Board. He noted correspondence addressed to the School Board dates back to January, 1999 and they have not responded to any of our requests. He noted they have also not responded to letters from community groups. He noted there

are serious concerns because of several incidences of vandalism at the former L'Ardoise School.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Bourque that a letter be written to the District Planning Commission and indicate that there have been incidents of vandalism which are both hazardous and unsightly, and request that they investigate the conditions that exist at the former L'Ardoise School, and report its findings and recommendations to the Strait Regional School Board. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson that the County of Richmond advertise for expressions of interest or proposals from the community or external regarding ownership of the former L'Ardoise School. Councillor Sampson withdrew his motion after an opinion was received from the solicitor.

Warden Cotton requested the solicitor to provide an opinion before accepting the motion, indicating the L'Ardoise School had not been conveyed to the Municipality as of yet.

Ms. Lindsay MacDonald provided an opinion indicating that the Municipality has not taken the position that they will accept the conveyance and it would be premature to make an implication that the Municipality is treating the property as their own and indicated if the Municipality want to do that type of canvassing, then they would first have to go on record that they are in a process of determining whether they want to exercise their option to accept the school. Ms. MacDonald indicated that the proper process would be to wait until the School Board advises the Municipality that they are offering to return the school, and then advise the School Board that it will take Municipal Council three to six months to make a decision on whether to accept the school, including the provision of an environmental assessment of the property.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Deputy Warden Goyetche that a letter be written to the Strait Regional School Board, with copies to School Board Members, George Kehoe and Pam Kavanaugh, indicating that municipal funding to the Strait Regional School Board will be withheld, because a response has not been received to many letters from the community and Council regarding the conveyance of school properties, and particularly the L'Ardoise School, and further reminding the School Board of previous correspondence to the effect that the Municipality will require three to six months, and a physical and environmental assessment of the property, to determine if the Municipality will accept the L'Ardoise School. Motion carried.

Councillors Boudreau, MacPhee and McNamara declared conflicts of interests indicated they are employees of the Strait Regional School Board and left their seats during voting and discussion of this item.

(ii) Business Builders Program

For information purposes.

(h) Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations re: Non-Resident Land Ownership Public Consultation Process

(i) Hon. David Morse re: Sewage Management Public Consultation Process

Moved by Deputy Warden Goyetche, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that a letter be written to the Hon. David Morse, with copies to Premier John Hamm and Mr. Michel Samson, MLA, indicating that it is not appropriate to hold consultation meetings in Port Hawkesbury for Richmond County residents, and request that future consultation meetings be held in Richmond County. Motion carried.

(j) Hon. Gordon Balser re: Nova Scotia Business Incorporated

(k) Municipality of the County of Cumberland re: Formation of a Rural Municipalities' Association (2)

Warden Cotton indicated the matter was redundant now and would not support a motion, and indicated he would be voting on the motion. He indicated he had spoken to the Warden of Cumberland County who had indicated to him that there was not enough support to hold a meeting.

Moved by Deputy Warden Goyetche, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Richmond Municipal Council indicate to the Municipality of the County of Cumberland that Richmond Municipal Council is interested in attending an initial meeting to determine if there is significant interest by the rural and regional municipalities in forming an association. Motion carried. (Nays – Warden Cotton, Councillor Johnson and Councillor Bourque).

Moved by Councillor Bourque that this matter be tabled until after the annual meeting of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities. There being no seconder, the motion was lost.

(l) Bras D'Or Lakers Senior's Club re: Home Care Funding

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Sampson that a letter be written to Premier John Hamm with a copy to the Hon. Jamie Muir, indicating that Richmond Municipal Council fully support the work being done by family caregivers and requesting that the provincial government provide additional funding for In-Home and Home Care programs, additional respite beds, new adult day programs, residential care facilities for individuals under 65 and enhanced home care services. Motion carried.

(m) Hon. Ronald Russell re: Condition of Roads in Richmond County

Councillor MacPhee indicated he felt there was a greater issue at hand than the problems with highway construction.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Deputy Warden Goyetche that Richmond Municipal Council support the initiatives of the Nova Scotia Government with respect to seeking full financial benefits from our offshore natural gas and oil reserves. Motion carried.

(n) Mr. Michel Samson re: Babin's Hill Picnic Area

Councillor Boudreau indicated that a community group had tried to maintain the picnic area at Babin's Hill, but vandalism had forced the group to withdraw their picnic tables, garbage cans, etc.

Moved by Councillor Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Bourque that a letter be written to the Minister of Natural Resources, requesting that his Department restore the picnic area at Babin's Hill by removing trees, brush, etc., and cleaning the site. Motion carried.

(o) Alzheimer Society re: Coffee Break Events

Moved by Deputy Warden Goyetche, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Municipal Council declare the week of September 17-23, 2001 as "Alzheimer Week" and that September 20, 2001 be declared as "Coffee Break Day". Motion carried.

Items Added to the Agenda

(i) Councillor McNamara re: Request for Signs for Road Name Changes

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Johnson that a letter be written to the Department of Transportation, with a copy to Mr. Michel Samson, requesting that they install signs at Cooper Road in Kempt Road and Anchor Road in Evanston, which are public roads. Motion carried.

(ii) Clerk re: Appointment to Order of Canada, Eva Landry

The Clerk indicated Mrs. Eva Landry had recently been appointed to the Order of Canada, and Council may wish to have her recognized for her achievements. He noted she has been a long time volunteer for many organizations, including the MacAskill House Museum, the Village on the Canal Association, the Richmond County 4-H Leaders Council and she was also the first lady to hold the position of Inspector of Schools in our province.

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor McNamara that appropriate recognition be made to Mrs. Eva Landry for her recent appointment to the Order of Canada. Motion carried.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that he would attempt to arrange a meeting facility in the local district.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

There were no questions.

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

There being no further business, Warden Cotton adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.