

RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

OCTOBER 9, 2001

Location: Camp Rankin, Cape George

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

Warden Cotton requested that everyone remain standing and observe one minute of silence in memory of the victims of the September 11th terrorist attacks in the United States.

Councillor MacNeil welcomed everyone to St. Peter's and to the beautiful Camp Rankin facility for tonight's Council Meeting.

The Clerk took roll call of Councillors.

Warden Cotton indicated Councillor Bourque had called and indicated he was unable to attend tonight's meeting due to illness.

Items Added to the Agenda

Warden Cotton indicated he added the EMS meeting held in Halifax regarding ambulance service cut in Port Hawkesbury.

Councillor MacNeil requested and received unanimous consent to receive a presentation from the Richmond County 4-H Leaders Council.

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

Review of Minutes: September 10, 2001

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Beaton that the minutes of September 10, 2001 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Nominations/Appointment – Deputy Warden (1 Year Term)

Councillor Boudreau nominated Councillor Johnson.

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that nominations cease.
Motion carried.

Councillor Johnson thus becomes Deputy Warden for a one year term.

Councillor Johnson thanked Councillors for their support and indicated she looks forward to a very successful year.

Warden Cotton thanked Councillor Goyetche for his commitment and service during the past year.

Presentation to Mrs. Eva Landry re: Appointment to the Order of Canada

Warden Cotton presented Mrs. Landry with a plaque expressing Council's sincere congratulations on her recent appointment to the Order of Canada noting this is an excellent and most deserving award.

Mrs. Landry thanked Council for the presentation.

Presentation from the Richmond County 4-H Leaders Council

Warden Cotton welcomed Mr. Doug Landry and Mr. Edward Touesnard.

Mr. Landry indicated that on behalf of Camp Rankin and the Richmond County 4-H Leaders Council, he indicated it was a pleasure to host the Council Meeting at the facility and invited Councillors to tour the facility after the meeting. Mr. Landry also indicated he wished to thank Council for all their support over the years and extended an invitation to Council to hold meetings at the facility whenever they wish.

Mr. Landry gave a brief history of the Richmond County 4-H Leaders Council.

Mr. Touesnard presented a certificate of appreciation to the Municipality for all their support to the Richmond County 4-H Leaders Council in the past years.

Warden Cotton thanked Mr. Landry and Mr. Touesnard for their presentation and congratulated all volunteers for their time and effort with the Richmond County 4-H Leaders Council.

Committee Reports

(a) Committee of the Whole

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

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Municipality issue a Quit Claim deed for the property of Mr. Robert Johnson, which was purchased in 1968. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, seconded by Councillor Beaton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that in accordance with Section 93(i) of the Education Act; that the Municipality utilize the option of not accepting conveyance of the surplus school, the former L'Ardoise School.

Councillor Sampson indicated a meeting took place last Friday with representatives of the Strait Regional School and indicated they have agreed to advertise for expressions of interest for the former L'Ardoise School.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that this item be tabled until the next Committee of the Whole Meeting. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and adopt the new Safety Policy, as recommended by the Occupational Health and Safety Committee (attached as Appendix "A") to replace the current policy because the new policy extends coverage to contractors and the general public in accordance to Standard Operating Procedures. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, seconded by Councillor Boudreau that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that CBCL Limited be awarded the contract to carry out a study of the Arichat sewage system, as per their proposal, at a cost of \$69,950, plus HST. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that a letter be written to the Hon. Angus MacIsaac, recommending that a five year transition period be established, during which municipal governments would fund the current cost of assessment services plus cost of living increases as measured by C.P.I.; and further expressing Council concern regarding current assessment employees' protection. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, seconded by Councillor Boudreau that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that a letter be written to Public Works Canada indicating that the Municipality is not interested in assuming ownership of the surplus property of the former range site in West Arichat, Richmond County. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Johnson gave notice that she will introduce a motion at the next regular Council Meeting to amend the policy on Meeting Fees/Travel Expense Policy in order to reflect the following:

- (a) Section 3 and 3(a) of Item “E” will be replaced with the following: Meals will be compensated for at the rate of \$60.00 per day and the Municipality will not require receipts. The Municipality will compensate for individual meals at a rate of \$15.00 for breakfast, \$20.00 for lunch and \$25.00 for dinner. If the travel on municipal business is out of country, then the meal rates will be paid in the currency of the country.
- (b) Meeting fees are no longer permitted and the various references to meeting fees should be deleted.
- (c) The sections of claims for mileage expenses should be amended to indicate that all claims are to be submitted by Councillors.

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the lease for the St. Peter’s Economic Development Office be renewed and that the C.A.O. be authorized to negotiate the lease. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Municipality replace the Economic Development Officer position for the Mainland of Richmond County, for a term of six months. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, seconded by Councillor MacPhee 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).

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor MacNeil 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 for an appropriate fee. Motion carried.

In response to a question from Councillor Sampson, the Clerk indicated the fire departments have been approached as a result of a Council motion adopted at the September Council Meeting and noted that a response from the Isle Madame Fire Department was on the agenda for tonight’s meeting.

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

Correspondence:

- (a) Municipalities of Pictou County and Annapolis County re: Increase in Rural Telephone Service Rates

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Deputy Warden Johnson that Richmond Municipal Council write a letter to the CRTC, with copies to the Municipalities of Pictou County and Annapolis County, expressing Council's opposition to the proposed increase of telephone service rates and further requesting that the CRTC reconsider their decision to increase rates for rural Nova Scotia. Motion carried.

- (b) F.C.M. re: Important Development in Federal Policy on Affordable Housing

- (c) White Ribbon Campaign re: Activities

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Municipal Council proclaim November 25 to December 6 as White Ribbon Days and further moved that the Municipality of Richmond participate in the White Ribbon Campaign activities. Motion carried.

- (d) Isle Madame Volunteer Fire Department re: 911 By-Law

Items Added to the Agenda

Warden Cotton indicated that Deputy Warden Johnson had been asked to be part of the delegation that recently attended a meeting in Halifax with the Minister of Health regarding the cutback of a nighttime ambulance and requested that she brief Council on the results of the meeting.

Deputy Warden Johnson briefed Council on the meeting held with the Minister of Health indicating the delegation was well prepared and were allotted 1 hour and 10 minutes to present their views. She noted the Department was asked to reconsider and give another month to allow the group to inform the public a bit better and also prepare the fire departments, who are having responsibility being placed on them as first responders, but unfortunately, she noted this fell on deaf ears. She noted it was very important to continue requesting the Minister of Health to re-instate the nighttime ambulance service in the Town of Port Hawkesbury to the previous service that was being provided, which included having two ambulances cover nighttime service.

Councillors expressed grave concerns indicating that the response time in some areas will go from 45 minutes to 1 hour and 20 minutes, which is not acceptable, and this continues to be very serious health issues for Richmond County and will put many lives in jeopardy.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that after participating in public meetings and public protest, this was total disregard for the health care in rural areas of Nova Scotia. He also noted that this leaves the area wide open for disaster should something happen at any of our industrial sites.

Councillor Sampson indicated he had participated in discussions that had taken place in Port Hawkesbury with the member for Guysborough- Port Hawkesbury present noting he was opposed to this and was to convey the message to the government. He noted that not allowing individuals to be consulted or given an opportunity to present their views and with the possibility of reducing the ambulance to one from five originally is not acceptable.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

There were no questions.

Warden Cotton thanked Councillor MacNeil and the Richmond County 4-H Leaders Council for hosting the Council Meeting in District #8, noting it is always good for Council to hold meetings in individual communities of the County.

Councillor MacNeil thanked Council for holding the meeting in District #8 and thanked the 4-H Leaders Council for providing a lunch.

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

There being no further business, Warden Cotton adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.