

RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

NOVEMBER 13, 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 and Councillor Sampson could not attend tonight's meeting because of meetings in their communities and Councillor Bourque and Councillor MacPhee could not attend because of medical reasons.

Items Added to the Agenda

Warden Cotton indicated that there were no items to be added to the agenda.

Review of Minutes: October 9, 2001

Moved by Councillor Goyetche, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that the minutes of October 9, 2001 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Presentations and/or Delegations:

- (a) Nova Scotia Housing Services re: Programs

Warden Cotton indicated that Mr. Cyril LeBlanc was unable to attend tonight's meeting due to weather conditions.

- (b) Le Conseil de development economique de la Nouvelle Ecosse re: Update on Projects

Warden Cotton welcomed Mr. Yvon Samson to the meeting.

Mr. Samson indicated that the Isle Madame Strategic Plan has been completed and he would like to share findings of this plan with Council at an informal meeting with the Steering Committee.

Mr. Samson indicated that they have received funding in the amount of \$272,000 for the Intelli-Centre@Richmond, from ECBC and a similar amount from Human Resources

Development Canada. Mr. Samson noted that this project should be up and running by December 1, 2001.

Mr. Samson indicated that the Petit De Grat Port Authority is now in operation noting that repairs have been done to the Petit De Grat wharf, further noting that \$10,000 was awarded by the Province and \$10,000 by Small Crafts and Harbors Canada to build floating docks in the service area.

Mr. Samson indicated that the divestiture of the Richmond Fisheries Wharf was completed in March 2001 and is now the property of Centre La Picasse and is slated to be modified to create a commercial marine centre for boat haul-out and repairs.

Mr. Samson noted that Chedabucto Bay Investment Fund is awaiting approval of the Nova Scotia Securities Commission, and if approved, will result in a “blind pool” investment fund amounting to \$2 million.

Mr. Samson noted that the Place Aux Jeunes project recently received approval in principal by ACOA – Moncton.

Mr. Samson reported that 75 people have been trained in crab processing over the last two years.

Mr. Samson noted that proposals have been submitted regarding the Medicinal Plants Interpretation Centre, to potential funding programs with ECBC, Spaces Canada, The Official Languages Community Initiatives Programs and Heritage Canada.

Mr. Samson indicated that the Learning Vacations Coordinator has met with Tourism Operators to assist them in developing learning vacation packages and a report on her progress will be available next month.

Mr. Samson briefed Council of the activities that will be taking place during the Congress Mondial Acadien 2004, which includes a sailing regatta, genealogy summit and more.

Mr. Samson noted that because of the lack of volunteers in the area more resources are required to initiate these projects and to leverage further funding, therefore the Municipality is being requested to assist by providing funding in the amount of \$25,000 per year for 2002, 2003 and 2004; for a total of \$75,000.

In response to a question from Deputy Warden Johnson, Mr. Samson indicated that the establishment of the Medicinal Plants Interpretation Centre has been very challenging, noting that costs have proven to be more than the expected \$600,000 and are closer to \$1.2 million.

In response to a question from Councillor Goyetche, Mr. Samson indicated that the Municipalities of Claire and Argyle have agreed to contribute \$125,000 and \$75,000 respectively.

Moved by Councillor Goyetche, seconded by Deputy Warden Johnson that the presentation by Le Conseil de development economique de la Nouvelle Ecosse be accepted as presented and that the funding request be tabled until budget deliberations. Motion carried.

(c) Strait-Richmond Community Health Board re: Single Entry Access, Long Term Care.

Warden Cotton welcomed Mrs. Vicki Jenssen to the meeting.

Mrs. Jenssen indicated that Mrs. Muriel Present was unable to attend tonight's meeting due to prior commitments.

Mrs. Jenssen indicated that she and Mrs. Present have been encouraged by the Strait Richmond Community Health Board and Mr. Michel Samson, MLA to present their concerns regarding the single entry system and long term care cost recovery in the Atlantic Provinces to the Romanow Commission on Health and other local Community Health Boards.

Mrs. Jenssen noted that single entry access has been successful where a province has fully integrated long term care and Home Care and where they subsidize long term care, which is not the case in Nova Scotia.

Mrs. Jenssen indicated that most politicians and residents in the Maritimes seem to be unaware of the discrepancies between here and the rest of Canada.

Mrs. Jenssen noted that the single entry system introduced to the Maritimes requires full disclosure of income and financial assets, whereby the rest of Canada only requires to disclose income.

Mrs. Jenssen noted that this has a negative impact on individuals who have pensions, savings or life insurance.

Mrs. Jenssen indicated that the cost of long term care is approximately \$47,500 per year and only residents from the Atlantic Provinces are expected to pay the full amount, as opposed to other areas whereby residents are only expected to pay half.

Mrs. Jenssen noted that in regards to taxes, these medical expenses can only be used against after tax income and these claims only return \$0.17 on the dollar.

Mrs. Jenssen reviewed the following four possible solutions to this problem:

- (1) Province to integrate long term care and Home Care into the health delivery, as are Public Health Services, Mental Health Services, etc.;
- (2) Province to make long term care a subsidized or insured health benefit;

- (3) Province to use only income, not assets, as a financial factor in assessing client responsibility for cost recovery;
- (4) Canada Customs and Revenue Agency to recognize that residents of the Atlantic Provinces constitute a separate tax group and may claim long term care expenses as deductions from pre-taxed income.

Mrs. Jenssen indicated that she had heard a similar presentation on CBC Radio regarding long term care, further noting that a study was carried out by Dalhousie University regarding long term care throughout Canada.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that he is aware of the drastic situation and agrees that something must be done.

Councillor McNamara commended Mrs. Jenssen on the work that she and Mrs. Present have carried out, noting that it is rather unfortunate that the system punishes those people who have worked all their lives and are in the end forced to live at a level similar to welfare.

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor McNamara that a letter be written to the U.N.S.M. with copies to the Hon. Jamie Muir and the Hon. David Dingwall, expressing Council's concerns regarding the single entry system and long term care in Nova Scotia. Motion carried.

Notice of Motion – Deputy Warden Johnson: that the existing “Meeting Fees/Travel Expense: Policy be replaced, by the “Travel Expense” Policy attached as Appendix “A”, in order to delete references to meeting fees, and amend payment for meals.

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that the existing “Meeting Fees/Travel Expense” Policy be replaced, by the “Travel Expense” Policy attached as Appendix “A”, in order to delete references to meeting fees, and amend payment for meals. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

(a) Planning Advisory Committee Report

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

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Boudreau that Council accept the recommendation of the Planning Advisory Committee and that the following names be approved in accordance with the Municipality's Civic Addressing By-Law, to be used as a road name bank for temporary purposes until a permanent road name is assigned:

Black Lane
Brown Lane

Orange Drive
Yellow Drive

Violet Road
Blue Road

Green Court
Red Court

Mahogany Lane	Magenta Drive	Brick Red Road	Tan Court
Blue Violet Lane	Olive Green Drive	Gold Road	Maize Court
Orchid Lane	Maroon Drive	Spring Green Road	Apricot Court

Motion carried.

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

(b) Committee of the Whole Report

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

Deputy Warden Johnson gave notice that she will introduce a motion at the next regular Council Meeting to adopt an Awards of Recognition Policy, as a policy of the Municipality.

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and engage Dillon Consulting to investigate the problems with the two private water systems in Sampsonville and propose remedies for a central water supply. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, seconded by Councillor Goyetche that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that a defined contribution pension plan for Councillors be initiated with similar contribution rates to that of municipal staff. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and engage Trifos Design Consultants to carry out the municipal office evaluation at their proposed price of \$30,000, including taxes. Motion carried.

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

Correspondence:

- (a) Councillor Sampson re: Road Name Change from “5130(P)” to “McGrath Lane”

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that Municipal Council give approval to the road name change from “5130(P)” to “McGrath Lane” in

District #9 if it meets policy approval and receives the approval from the Department of Transportation and the District Planning Commission. Motion carried.

(b) Hon. Ernest Fage re: Babin's Hill Picnic Area

Moved by Councillor Goyetche, seconded by Councillor Boudreau that this item be referred to the Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation so that inquiry can be made of local development agencies and the Arichat Community Development Association, to inquire if they wish to manage and operate a picnic viewpoint at this site. Motion carried.

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

For information purposes.

(d) Hon. Jamie Muir re: Ambulance Services

The Clerk indicated that the Department of Health has taken another look at ambulance services in the Strait Area, noting that they are currently collecting call-out data.

Warden Cotton indicated that it is not being realized that when an ambulance is called out from Port Hawkesbury, Richmond County suffers because their ambulance is made responsible for Port Hawkesbury.

Deputy Warden Johnson indicated that service is being monitored in several areas by local volunteer fire departments.

Councillor Boudreau indicated that the government is grouping Isle Madame under the Port Hawkesbury area, and indicated that the Department of Health indicates that other ambulances replace those from Richmond that are moved to Port Hawkesbury, however this is not the case.

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Boudreau that a letter be written to the U.N.S.M. requesting that this item be discussed at their next Executive Session; and further moved that the Mayors and Wardens Committee be approached to encourage their expression of support for this issue. Motion carried.

(e) Hon. Robert Thibault re: Appointments to the Board of Directors of the Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation

The Clerk noted that Hon. Robert Thibault has provided a list of the Board of Directors of ECBC, noting that the terms of four of the Directors have expired and only two of the four are eligible for renewal.

Moved by Councillor Goyetche, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that a letter be written to Hon. Robert Thibault inquiring about the process of notifying the public of a vacancy on the Board of Directors of ECBC and how Directors are appointed. Motion carried.

(f) Mr. Michel Samson, MLA re:

- (i) ECBC Board of Directors
- (ii) Strategic Community Investment Fund

For information purposes.

(g) Mr. Rodger Cuzner, MP re: Strategic Community Investment Fund Program

For information purposes.

(h) Grand River Volunteer Fire Department re: 911 Signage

Warden Cotton indicated that there has been a positive response from Fire Departments with regards to the provision of 911 signage.

The Clerk indicated that, at the request of the Grand River Volunteer Fire Department, the Municipality has placed additional advertisements in local newspapers to make residents aware that they require 911 signs and that they can purchase them through their local fire departments.

(i) Municipality of the District of Shelburne re: Wrongly Accused Youth Institution Workers

For information purposes.

(j) Bounty Bay Shellfish Inc. re: Council Meeting

The Clerk indicated that representatives from Bounty Bay Shellfish have been invited to appear before Council to address Council's concerns regarding their request for land, however they have declined to appear in November or December.

Warden Cotton indicated that he has spoken with Mr. Scott Dockendorff, Bounty Bay Shellfish Inc., regarding the deepwater sites that Council was opposed to, noting that Mr. Dockendorff indicated that they still have applications pending in these areas.

Items Added to the Agenda

There were no items added.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

In response to a question from Yvon Samson, Warden Cotton indicated that he was unaware of a meeting being held in Port Hawkesbury to establish terms of reference for electoral boundaries, however he is willing to attend this meeting on behalf of Council.

In response to a question from Mrs. Jenssen, Warden Cotton indicated that Bounty Bay Shellfish Inc. requested that the Municipality identify the development sites that they are opposed to, which includes the deep-water sites and two others.

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

There being no further business, Warden Cotton adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.