

RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

MARCH 11, 2002

Location: Court House, Arichat

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

The Clerk took roll call of Councillors.

Warden Cotton indicated that Councillor MacNeil was away and Councillors MacPhee and Bourque were sick and unable to attend.

Items Added to the Agenda

Warden Cotton indicated the Clerk wished to add the appointment of two Councillors to the Emergency Planning Committee; he wished to add a nomination to the Order of Nova Scotia; Deputy Warden Johnson wished to add a wrongful assessment and billing and Councillor Sampson wished to add the public infrastructure meeting date.

Deputy Warden Johnson indicated she wished to remove the item she had added regarding a wrongful assessment and billing until further information is obtained.

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

Review of Minutes: February 18, 2002

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the minutes of February 18, 2002 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Presentations and/or Delegations

(a) R.C.M.P. re: Proposed Amalgamation

Warden Cotton welcomed Corporal John Warr to the meeting.

Corporal Warr highlighted the draft proposal for integration of Arichat and St. Peter's detachments (copy attached).

Corporal Warr summarized the key points in the draft proposal and indicated the concept was first identified in the Nova Scotia White Paper. He indicated he felt that if this proposal was adopted, it would significantly enhance the police service in Richmond County.

A question and answer period followed.

In response to a question from Councillor Sampson, Corporal Warr indicated that Constable Brian London will be the new constable stationed in St. Peter's.

Corporal Warr also noted that the R.C.M.P. is currently in negotiation with developers and Richmond County to have a residence constructed in Louisdale for which the R.C.M.P. will enter into a long term leasing agreement, with the total cost of the lease being paid by the R.C.M.P., with one of the Officers assigned to the St. Peter's office designated to reside in Louisdale. He also noted funding is being sought for one additional FTE, which will extend the territory currently being policed by the St. Peter's Detachment westward to the Richmond County line, excluding Point Tupper.

In response to a question, Warden Cotton noted that the Municipality is currently being charged by the Town of Port Hawkesbury for a one-half Officer position for the policing of the Point Tupper area.

Corporal Warr noted that the Port Hawkesbury office had responded to 400 calls for service in Richmond County in 2000 from the Louisdale overpass west to the County line.

In response to a question from Councillor Goyetche regarding amalgamation, Corporal Warr indicated nothing will change within the Arichat Detachment, with the Detachment remaining in Arichat and the three Officers being required to be bilingual.

Corporal Warr indicated the reporting system will change in that the reporting system will essentially be for Richmond County rather than the current practice of presenting year end summary reports from Arichat, St. Peter's and Port Hawkesbury.

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, seconded by Councillor Beaton that Richmond Municipal Council accept and support the following recommendations as proposed in the draft proposal for integration of Arichat and St. Peter's Detachments:

- That the detachments of St. Peter's and Arichat be integrated into Richmond County Detachment with St. Peter's being the host and Arichat becoming known as Arichat Office;

- That the new Richmond County Detachment will be commanded by an NCO at the Sgt. Rank. The Cpl. Rank will remain at the Arichat Office and will carry out the duties of both and Operations NCO and a Corporal Supervisor as defined by classification guidelines within the context of Richmond County Detachment. The two public servants will remain, one at St. Peter's and one at Arichat;
- That an Advisory Committee be established from R/M & PSE representatives of the host and community detachment to assist the NCO i/c with the operation of the detachment;
- That the new Richmond County Detachment be responsible for all the area within Richmond County with the exception of the Point Tupper Industrial Park;
- That new organizational charts be initiated;
- That Corporate Management restructure the current detachment budgets of St. Peter's and Arichat into one, similar to other reorganizations undertaken in "H" Division.

Motion carried.

Warden Cotton thanked Corporal Warr for attending the meeting.

(b) Bounty Bay Shellfish Inc. re: Request to Purchase Property in the Richmond County Industrial Park

Warden Cotton welcomed Mr. Scott Dockendorff to the meeting and indicated Municipal Council had extended an invitation to Mr. Dockendorff to attend a Council Meeting in order to explain their proposal in relation to the uses for the land and the number of jobs to be created.

Mr. Dockendorff indicated he had written a letter to Don Marchand and Stewart MacDonald on October 5, 2001 requesting to purchase waterfront property in the Richmond County Industrial Park for the construction of a 6,000 square foot processing plant which would create jobs for 3 full time seasonal and 10-14 short term seasonal employees, which would be equivalent to 4-5 full time employees plus spin-offs. He apologized for the confusion this correspondence caused, which resulted in his second correspondence to them dated January 7, 2002 in which he explained Bounty Bay's immediate need of a land base for current operations in Eastern Lennox Passage. He indicated he had outlined the potential for further development of the property, namely a mussel processing facility. He noted this potential development would be contingent on the acquisition of more culture sites in the area and indicated that Bounty Bay has submitted applications to significantly expand its operation in southern Cape Breton.

Mr. Dockendorff also indicated that with a view to clarifying this matter, he wished to amend his proposal to reflect only the immediate needs of Bounty Bay, which were included in his correspondence of October 5th, which are as follows:

- a land base for current operations;
- a spat processing and sock filling plant;
- wharf facilities, which could be made available to other users in the community.

Mr. Dockendorff indicated that as it stands at the present time, lacking the first two of these facilities, means that work that should be carried out in Richmond County must be carried out elsewhere.

A question and answer period followed.

Councillors Beaton and McNamara indicated that residents in their districts had expressed grave concerns with regards to what's happening with the waterways.

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

Warden Cotton thanked Mr. Dockendorff for attending the meeting.

Second Reading Approval:

- (i) to amend the Building By-Law, By-Law #27, with the amendment being attached as Attachment #1, as recommended by the District Planning Commission

Moved by Councillor Goyette, seconded by Councillor Beaton that Richmond Municipal Council give Second Reading Approval to the amendment of the Building By-Law, By-Law #27, with the amendment being attached as Attachment #1 and as recommended by the District Planning Commission. Motion carried.

- (ii) to adopt the Shannon Lake Wellhead Protection Area Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-Law, attached as Attachment #2

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Boudreau that Richmond Municipal Council give Second Reading Approval to adopt the Shannon Lake Wellhead Protection Area Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-Law, attached as Attachment #2, and further moved that it be referred to the Minister of Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations for his consideration. Motion carried.

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 Beaton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and authorize a one year lease for Bay #4 at the Industrial Mall to 3028034 Nova Scotia Ltd. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Johnson gave notice that she would introduce a motion at the next regular Council Meeting to establish a policy regarding tax collections that includes that the Municipality is only required to take tax sale action on properties that are at least three years in arrears, with arrears outstanding of at least \$1,000 per account; and further that Council acknowledge that tax collection may take place, at the discretion of the Municipality, on properties with less than three years arrears and a \$1,000 arrears balance; and further that the policy be effective with the date of acceptance by Council.

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, seconded by Councillor Goyetche that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that authorization be given to staff to reduce the valuation allowance required, effective the year ending March 31, 2002, to an amount determined by staff to be sufficient to fully cover doubtful tax receivables; and further moved that the amount required to reduce the valuation allowance, which is due to a change in the provincial accounting regulations, be transferred to the municipal general reserve, in order to minimize impacts on financial results for the current year. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Johnson gave notice that she would introduce a motion at the next regular Council Meeting that the policy and regulations of the Richmond County Water Utility be amended to provide that the water utility will charge interest on water account arrears at the same rate of interest as calculated on our property tax arrears, to be effective April 1, 2002.

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, seconded by Councillor Beaton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the outstanding taxes prior to Year 2000 for Accounts #00658723; #04018265; #03392007; #02577607; #08815739 and #02257424 be written off. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, seconded by Councillor Goyetche that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that approval be given to the road name change from "Orchid Lane" to "Babin's Lane" in District #4, if it meets policy approval and receives the approval from the Department of Transportation and the District Planning Commission. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that our Solicitors be instructed to make application to a Court to have the issue of ownership of the L'Ardoise School clarified; and further moved that the Solicitors be advised to provide notification

to the Board of our action and our position, to include reference to the implications of the Dangerous and Unsightly Premises Act, should the Board fail to continue to properly secure and maintain the L'Ardoise School building and property. Motion carried.

Councillors Boudreau and McNamara declared conflicts of interest indicating they are both employees of the Strait Regional School Board and they left their seats during voting and discussion of this item.

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

Correspondence:

- (a) Emergency Medical Care Inc. re: Request to Attend Council Meeting/Ambulance Service

The Clerk indicated Mr. Rovers had been invited to attend this evening's meeting but was unable to attend because he is out of the province, but has indicated he would attend a future Council Meeting. The Clerk indicated an invitation would be extended to him to attend a future Council Meeting

The Clerk noted he had heard a press release had been issued to improve the Arichat base.

Warden Cotton indicated the correspondence had been discussed at the last U.N.S.M. meeting, and had received support.

- (b) Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations re: Firehalls – Taxable to Exempt

The Clerk indicated he has requested the Deputy Clerk to provide information if any of the fire halls have not been exempted, and is awaiting a response from him on this matter.

- (c) Department of Justice re: 2002/03 RCMP Service Costs

The Clerk indicated the Municipality is being invoiced for 10.4 Officers and the RCMP cost estimates have equated to an increase in the per capita rate from \$83,979 to \$90,543. He indicated this is not the approved rate, and is confident the Municipality will receive a rebate again this year.

- (d) Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission re: E-911 Services

- (e) MTT Aliant Telecom re: Rate Adjustments

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, seconded by Councillor Goyetche that a letter be written to the CRTC expressing Council's opposition to MTT Aliant Telecom rate

increases until such time as the service is improved in Richmond County. Motion carried.

(f) Town of Port Hawkesbury re: Airport Budget 2002/03

Moved by Councillor Goyetche, seconded by Councillor Boudreau that this item be tabled until budget deliberations. Motion carried.

(g) Town of Kentville re: UNSM and Towns Caucus

(h) Municipality of the County of Cumberland re: Towns Caucus

(i) R.R.F.B. re: Paint Program

(j) F.C.M. re: World Trade Negotiations

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Goyetche that a letter be written to Mr. Rodger Cuzner, MP requesting that he support Council's request to ensure that the Government of Canada protect the rights and powers of municipal governments in negotiating international trade agreements. Motion carried.

(k) Strait Area District Labour Council re: Support for "No Sweat Procurement Policy"

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Boudreau that a letter be written to Judy Castle, President of the Strait Area District Labour Council inviting her to attend a Council Meeting to discuss and answer questions regarding the adoption of a resolution for a "No Sweat Procurement Policy". Motion carried.

(l) Canadian Liver Foundation re: Dinner and Silent Auction

(m) Point Tupper Heritage Association re: Grant Request

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Deputy Warden Johnson that the requests from the Canadian Liver Foundation and the Point Tupper Heritage Association be referred to the Committee on budget deliberations. Motion carried.

Items Added to the Agenda

1) Clerk re: Emergency Planning Committee (2 Councillors)

Warden Cotton indicated Councillor McNamara was interested in serving on the Emergency Planning Committee.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Boudreau that Municipal Council appoint Councillor McNamara as a Council appointee to serve on the Emergency Planning Committee. Motion carried.

Councillor Boudreau indicated he was also interested in serving on the Committee, however he would not be able to attend day meetings due to work commitments.

Moved by Councillor Goyette, seconded by Deputy Warden Johnson that Municipal Council appoint Councillor Boudreau as a Council appointee to serve on the Emergency Planning Committee. Motion carried.

2) Warden Cotton re: Order of Nova Scotia (letter attached)

Warden Cotton noted that Silver Donald Cameron, Vice-Chair of Telile was requesting Council to support and endorse the nomination of John Boudreau for the Order of Nova Scotia and were requesting. He indicated Telile will be making the nomination and the Board of Development Isle Madame will be endorsing it.

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Richmond Municipal Council support and endorse the nomination of John Boudreau for the Order of Nova Scotia. Motion carried.

Warden Cotton congratulated Mr. Boudreau and commended Telile for this nomination.

3) Councillor Sampson re: Public Infrastructure Meeting Date

Councillor Sampson indicated there had been two deaths in his community during the past 24 hours and both individuals had been actively involved in the community. He indicated he has received many calls from residents and wished to have Thursday's infrastructure meeting postponed to a later date

Warden Cotton indicated he would not be able to attend if scheduled for March 26th because he was chairing the Tourism Advisory Committee and also on April 2nd because he would be in Halifax for the opening of the Legislature.

It was the consensus of the Committee members that the community information meeting on infrastructure be rescheduled for 7:00 p.m. on April 2, 2002 at the L'Ardoise Fire Hall.

The Clerk indicated that he would place ads on the radio, newspaper and on the St. Peter's Cable Station canceling Thursday's meeting and rescheduling it to April 2nd.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

There were no questions.

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

There being no further business, Warden Cotton adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.