

**RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**NOVEMBER 12, 2002**

Location: Court House, Arichat

Deputy Warden McNamara 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.

Deputy Warden McNamara indicated that Warden Johnson was unable to attend tonight's meeting because of illness.

Items Added to the Agenda

Deputy Warden McNamara indicated there were no items added.

Review of Minutes: (a) October 15, 2002 (Regular Meeting)  
(b) November 4, 2002 (Public Hearing)

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Goyetche that the minutes of October 15, 2002 (Regular Meeting), and November 4, 2002 (Public Hearing) be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Petitions and/or Delegations:

(a) Cape Breton Island Housing Authority re Housing Services

Deputy Warden McNamara welcomed Mr. Stewart Matheson, General Manager; Mr. Tim Reilly, Senior Property Manager; and Mrs. Isabelle Hudson to the meeting.

Mr. Matheson introduced Mrs. Isabelle Hudson, Clerk at the Cape Breton Regional Housing Authority's Port Hawkesbury Office, noting that she was a great asset to the office.

Mr. Matheson indicated there are approximately 12,000 housing unit, of which 7,700 are housed by seniors, 3700 are housed by families and 800 are supplemental units, throughout the Province. He noted there are 117 units in Richmond, of which 91 are housed by seniors and 26 are housed by families.

Mr. Matheson indicated that the Housing Authority places applicants on a chronological waiting list which replaces the point score system that was used in the past, noting that this system is based on a first come, first served basis with priority access under three circumstances: (1) Abusive Circumstances; (2) Health Reasons; and (3) Deplorable Housing.

Mr. Matheson noted that applications are presented to the Board of Directors for evaluation on a monthly basis, noting that there are representatives from each municipal unit on this Board, further noting that the tenant representative and the provincial representative are from Richmond County.

Mr. Matheson noted that the Housing Authority has been partnering with various community groups/organizations and the R.C.M.P. to establish special projects and events during the past 6-8 months.

Mr. Reilly indicated that when he began his position as Senior Property Manager in April of this year, he distributed a letter of introduction to all clients to inform them of contact information and office schedules as well as visited seniors complexes and family housing units, noting that he continues his visitations on an ongoing basis.

Mr. Reilly indicated that he has been in contact with some Councillors and has had the opportunity to work with a few.

Mr. Reilly noted that he has regular office hours in St. Peters, on Wednesdays from 9-12 and in the afternoon he conducts site visits, further noting that his schedule is quite flexible since administration has shifted from Sydney to Port Hawkesbury and that the public also has access to him at the Port Hawkesbury office.

Mr. Reilly indicated that he has seven maintenance workers on staff, of which two are bilingual and that he has access to staff from other counties, if required

Mr. Reilly noted that all seniors' complexes were running at full capacity except for River Bourgeois and L'Ardoise.

Mr. Reilly indicated that no qualified person is refused housing, noting that if a request for a particular location cannot be granted, then the applicant is offered accommodations in another area until there is availability in the area they indicated as preference.

Mr. Reilly indicated that as much business as possible is done locally, however there has been a problem with contractors not being properly safety certified.

Mr. Reilly noted that in reference to this problem, he has spoken with the Nova Scotia Construction Safety Association and they have agreed to conduct information sessions for employees of local contractors and he is working with Councillor Goyetche to determine if there would be enough people interested in hosting such sessions.

In response to a question from Councillor Goyetche, Mr. Matheson indicated that with the points system of evaluating applications, many people were being overlooked, noting that people who were in receipt of social assistance were given priority over the person who was working part time at minimum wage, even though the working individual was in more need and they would then be “bumped” down the list.

In response to a comment from Councillor Goyetche, Mr. Reilly indicated that applicants are often visited at home and if it is determined that their situation is serious enough and that he cannot wait until the monthly Board Meeting to review their application, he will poll the Board of Directors to get them into housing as quickly as possible, noting that the Housing Authority’s goal is that an applicant wait no longer than one month after their application is approved before they are placed in housing.

In response to a question from Councillor Sampson, Mr. Matheson indicated that if an applicant is placed in an alternative location other than what they have requested all factors, including other applications, are taken into consideration and decisions are made based on the current situations, when space becomes available in the area requested.

In response to a question from Councillor Sampson, Mr. Reilly indicated that the seven maintenance employees were not employed full time, with some being seasonal.

Councillor Cotton thanked Mr. Reilly for all of his cooperation thus far, also commending Mrs. Hudson for her assistance at the Port Hawkesbury office. He indicated that he agrees that the chronological system of evaluating applications is much fairer than the previously used points system.

In response to a question from Councillor MacNeil, Mr. Matheson indicated that the income cap for couples applying to assisted housing is \$1500 per month, noting that those that exceed the limit are only considered where there are chronic vacancies.

Deputy Warden McNamara thanked Mr. Matheson and Mr. Reilly for their presentation.

(b) Department of Environment and Labour re: Proposed Non-Discharge Designation for the Bras D’or Lakes

Deputy Warden McNamara welcomed Ms. Laurie Sutor and Ms. Karen Malcolm to the meeting.

Ms. Sutor indicated that the application process to have the Bras D’Or Lakes designated, as a non-discharge area under the Pleasure Craft Regulations of the Canadian Shipping Act requires extensive community consultation, education and awareness prior to designation.

Ms. Suitor noted that they are just shy of 100 letters of support for the project, noting that pamphlets have been printed and distributed over the summer months to educate the community about problems on the Bras D'Or Lakes.

Ms. Suitor noted that a Project Coordinator has been hired to prepare the application for submission, and she indicated that a youth team will be formed to prepare some GIS mapping and to educate the public.

Ms. Suitor indicated they will be requesting the Municipality to make space available in the local office where a member of the youth team can work from, and to also have a staff member act as a mentor to the youth.

Ms. Malcolm indicated that she is currently working out of the Port Hawkesbury office.

Ms. Malcolm indicated that there are four tasks at hand as part of the non-discharge designation: (1) Community Consultation; (2) Ensure Infrastructure is in Place; (3) Cost/Benefit; and (4) Compliance/Enforcement Plan.

Ms. Malcolm indicated that there is required community input that will be received through scheduled community meetings, noting that written submissions and phone calls will also be accepted. She noted that an information session, with Ms. Suitor as spokesperson, will also be hosted by CBC Radio.

Mrs. Malcolm indicated that she is requesting assistance from the Municipality in the following ways:

- Giving direction to where community forums should be held
- Co-ordinating and providing arrangements for community meetings
- Advertising community forums in local newspapers
- Appointing someone to chair the proceedings of the forum
- Appointing someone to take accurate and detailed minutes of the forum proceedings

Councillor Beaton noted that one of the meetings should take place on the Island.

Councillor Cotton indicated that he is very supportive of these initiatives, noting that people have taken the Bras D'Or Lake for granted for way too long, noting that he would be quite willing to assist with any of the public meetings.

Councillor MacNeil commended everyone involved in the work on the Bras D'or Lakes, noting that the communities will benefit greatly from their efforts.

Moved by Councillor Goyetche, seconded by Councillor Beaton that the public meetings take place in the communities of Dundee, St. Peter's, Johnstown and Isle Madame, and that the Councillors for those districts be the contact persons. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden McNamara thanked Ms. Suitor and Ms. Malcolm for their presentation.

(c) D.I.M.A re:

(i) N.S. Cooperative Council/DIMA

Deputy Warden McNamara welcomed Mrs. Brenda Martell and Mr. Silver Donald Cameron to the meeting.

Mrs. Brenda Martell presented the N.S. Cooperative Council/DIMA Report (copy attached).

Mrs. Martell indicated that DIMA signed two agreements on August 5, 2002; one being a one year agreement with the Nova Scotia Cooperative Council to market, promote and seek opportunities for viable co-operative business development and employment creation in Inverness and Richmond; and a second being a one year agreement with St. Joseph's Credit Union to pursue economic development initiatives on Isle Madame.

Mrs. Martell, Development Officer for the Nova Scotia Cooperative Council in Arichat, highlighted some of their current activities, including a Cooperative Seniors Housing Project in Cheticamp, a Call Centre in Cheticamp, CEDIF sessions, Co-operative Vacation Properties, a Cranberry Co-Operative, a Rag Making Cooperative, Bras D'or Lakes Inn, a Cooperative Youth Strategy and a Cooperative Innovation Council.

Mrs. Martell indicated that DIMA's involvement currently includes activities with the Cape Breton Growth Fund Tourism Task Force, the Lennox Passage Yacht Club, EnRoute Isle Madame, the Cape Auget Eco-Trail Project, the Arichat Waterfront Project, CED Administrator/Facilitator Project, among many others.

(ii) CED Administrator/Facilitator Proposal

Mr. Silver Donald Cameron presented the project proposal for the CED Administrator/Facilitator. (copy attached)

Mr. Cameron indicated that DIMA has been approved for funding by ECBC in the amount of \$94,230 and they are seeking support from the Municipality to fund the remainder of this project over three years.

Councillor Cotton indicated that he has spoken with Mr. Rick Beaton, ECBC, regarding this funding and that he was surprised at the support that Mr. Beaton expressed for DIMA, noting that he is in favour of continued funding for DIMA as well.

In response to a question from Councillor Bourque, Mrs. Martell indicated that the Nova Scotia Cooperative Council funds her position three days per week (\$2085 per month) and that St. Joseph's Credit Union funds two days per week (\$1250 per month).

Councillor Bourque indicated his support of the proposal for the CED Administrator/Facilitator proposal.

Councillor Boudreau expressed his support for DIMA, noting that the work DIMA has done is very visible throughout the community, however to see their accomplishments outlined in a report is overwhelming.

Moved by Councillor Boudreau, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that DIMA's request for funding be referred to the next Committee of the Whole Meeting. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden McNamara thanked Mrs. Martell and Mr. Cameron for their informative reports.

(d) Isle Madame Day Care Association re: Municipal Support

Deputy Warden McNamara welcomed Mrs. Mary Beth Buchanan and Mrs. Leanne Marchand to the meeting.

Mrs. Buchanan and Mrs. Marchand presented the report highlighting the activities of the Isle Madame Day Care Association (copy attached).

Mrs. Marchand indicated that the Association is exploring a new venture, which would transform surplus clothing from the consignment boutique that is unsuitable for sale into a new business of fabricating rags, which can be sold to local businesses.

Mrs. Marchand indicated that she has met with Mr. Louis Doucet, of Louis Good Used Clothing, who operates a similar business with great success. She also noted that she is currently in discussions with Mr. Robert Fraser, ECBC, who expressed very sincere interest in this project. She also noted that preliminary discussions were held with HRDC and they are currently working with Mrs. Brenda Martell, Nova Scotia Cooperative Council, towards development of a feasibility study and business plan.

Mrs. Marchand also indicated that they will be meeting with representatives of the Recycling Board to explore the possibilities of developing a recycling program for clothing as a means of acquiring stock.

Mrs. Marchand indicated that the Association is approaching Council, requesting acquisition of a serviced lot in the area of the Industrial Mall based on a purchase price of \$1.00, with a covenant of job creation attached, as well as the consideration of a five-year financial commitment of \$15,000 to assist in the implementation and continuance of this project.

In response to a question from Councillor MacNeil, Mrs. Marchand indicated that she has spoken with local businesses and was surprised with the amount spent on rags each year, noting that supplying to local businesses will be taken into account in developing their business plan.

In response to a question from the Clerk, Mrs. Marchand indicated that she expects to see development of a preliminary business plan before Christmas.

Moved by Councillor Cotton, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that Council accept the presentation on behalf of the Isle Madame Day Care Association and refer the request for assistance until the next Committee of the Whole Meeting. Motion carried.

Second Reading Approval: to adopt By-Law #55, The Non-Smoking By-Law, which is attached as Appendix "A"

The Solicitor indicated that the Municipality does not have the authority to regulate smoking in nursing homes, noting that this is a provincial issue and noted that Bill 125, "The Smoke Free Places Act" that will come into effect in January, will address this issue.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Bourque that Council give Second Reading Approval to adopt By-Law #55, The Non-Smoking By-Law, which is attached as Appendix "A". Motion carried.

It was the consensus of Council that By-Law #55 become effective January 1, 2003, with advertising to take place at that time.

Notice of Motion – Warden Johnson: to Amend the Recorded Resolution – Payment of Councillors to the effect that the stipend for Warden be increased to \$30,000; the stipend for Deputy Warden be increased to \$20,000 and the stipend for Councillors be increased to \$16,000 (attached as Appendix "B")

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Cotton to amend the Recorded Resolution – Payment of Councillors to the effect that the stipend for Warden be increased to \$30,000; the stipend for Deputy Warden be increased to \$20,000 and the stipend for Councillors be increased to \$16,000 (attached as Appendix "B"). Motion carried. (5 in Favour – Councillor Cotton, Councillor Sampson, Councillor MacNeil, Deputy Warden McNamara and Councillor Boudreau; 4 Nays – Councillor Bourque, Councillor Goyetche, Councillor MacPhee and Councillor Beaton.)

Councillor Bourque indicated that he will not be supporting this resolution, noting that such an increase combined with the Municipality's contribution to the Councillors' pension plan is just too much.

Councillor Goyetche indicated that he is opposed to the large increases, noting that compared with similar municipalities across the province, these numbers seem too extravagant.

Moved by Councillor Goyetche, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that the motion be amended to reflect that the stipend for Warden would increase to \$25,000 per year, the

stipend for Deputy Warden would increase to \$18,000 per year and the stipend for Councillor would increase to \$16,000 per year.

Councillor Cotton indicated that Councillor Goyetche's amendment would change the intent of the motion, noting that the amendment is out of order.

Deputy Warden McNamara ruled that the proposed amendment was "out of order", because it would change the intent of the motion.

Councillor MacPhee indicated that he will not be supporting this motion.

Councillor Beaton indicated that he agrees with Councillor Goyetche's suggestion for stipend, noting that he will not be supporting the resolution.

### Committee Reports

#### (a) Committee of the Whole

Councillor Boudreau presented the monthly report of the Committee of the Whole (copy attached).

Moved by Councillor Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Cotton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Richmond County Literacy Network be granted \$6,000 from this year's grant fund with a commitment of an additional \$6,000 next year to assist with their project, "Peer into the Past"; and further moved that a letter be written to the NLS requesting how they determined the funding amount of \$30,000 for the Richmond County Literacy Network's Project, given that the request was for \$49,950. Motion carried, as amended.

Councillor Beaton indicated that the Committee report did not reflect the motion adopted at the Committee Meeting.

The CAO indicated the Committee report reflected the Committee Minutes, which have been approved.

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor Bourque that the Committee recommendation be amended by deleting the words "and further moved that a letter be written to the NLS requesting how they determined the funding amount of \$30,000 for the Richmond County Literacy Network's Project, given that the request was for \$49,950. Amendment carried.

Deputy Warden McNamara indicated that the MLA and the MP had both written letters to the National Literacy Secretariat, to request reasons for the reduced funding for this project.

Moved by Councillor Boudreau, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Municipality not approve grant requests from UCCB/North Atlantic Forum and the Isle Madame Boat Club. Motion carried.

Councillor Boudreau provided Council with copies of the banking proposals received, indicating that staff have recommended awarding this service to the Royal Bank, because of their superior proposal; however the Committee has referred the matter to Council, because of issues regarding the closure of the Royal Bank in Arichat.

Councillor MacPhee indicated that other issues, not strictly financial, should be considered when determining where the Municipality conducts their banking, noting that Credit Unions have contributed to their communities across Richmond County, where other financial institutions have not and profits are taken out of the area, and he requested advice from the Solicitor.

The Solicitor indicated that detailed discussion regarding legal opinions on this issue should take place in an "In-Camera" session, not in a public forum.

Moved by Councillor Cotton, seconded by Councillor Bourque that Council not accept any tenders submitted for banking services and that Council re-examine the criteria used to evaluate these tenders and that these services be re-tendered. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Beaton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the parcel of land located adjacent to Mr. George Sampson's property in Poirierville, Richmond County, be sold to him at the appraised value, conditional on staff indicating that the property is no longer required for municipal purposes. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Goyetche that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that a letter of support be written to the CSAP regarding the construction of a new soccer field in Arichat. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Boudreau, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that Adhoc Water Supply Protection Committees be established, for each of the two municipal water supply areas (Louisdale/Evanston and Arichat/Petit De Grat), and that each Committee be comprised of the Councillors representing those communities, the Director of Public Works, the Executive Director of the Regional Planning Commission, and representation from appropriate provincial departments. Motion carried

Councillor Boudreau advised that the School Board does not have insurance on the former L'Ardoise School, and municipal insurance cannot be concluded until the property ownership issue is resolved. Staff have tendered the demolition of the school, because of the dangerous and/or unsightly nature of the property, following significant vandalism.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Cotton that the Committee of the Whole be authorized by Council to award the tenders for the demolition of the L'Ardoise School, because of the urgency relating to weather and dangerous and/or unsightly conditions. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Bourque that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that a letter be written to C.S.A.P. indicating that the Municipality does not require the 2.2 acre lot owned by the Nova Scotia Department of Housing. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Boudreau, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that the Committee of the Whole Report for the month of November 2002 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

- (a) Department of Community Services Housing Services re: Cape Breton Island Housing Authority
- (b) Hon. Robert Thibault re: Acknowledgement
- (c) Department of Environment and Labour re:
  - (i) Closure of USG Corporation Plant, Point Tupper
  - (ii) Testing of Municipal and Private Water Supplies

The Clerk indicated that the Department of Environment and Labour has indicated that there is no provincial funding available for testing private water supplies and that it is the responsibility of the owner.

- (d) Municipality of Pictou County re: Increasing Cost of Banking Machine Fees

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Bourque that Richmond Municipal Council support the efforts of the Municipality of Pictou County in their request for the enactment of legislation that would limit the transaction fees that can be charged by owners and operators of banking machines/automated teller machines/etc. Motion carried.

- (e) Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations re: Building Code Act
- (f) Halifax Regional Municipality re: Export of Solid Waste from Halifax Regional Municipality

The Clerk indicated that he will have staff prepare a report for Council regarding the financial impact of commercial haulers exporting waste to outside facilities, as well as any option that the Municipality may have to address this problem.

Items Added to the Agenda

There were no items added.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

There were no questions.

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

There being no further business, Deputy Warden McNamara the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.