

RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

DECEMBER 9, 2002

Location: Court House, Arichat

Warden Johnson 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.

The Clerk indicated Councillor Beaton was unable to attend tonight's meeting due to illness.

Items Added to the Agenda

Warden Johnson indicated she wished to add a grant request from the Red Islands Property Owners; the Clerk wished to add Mike MacPhee Induction and Councillor Bourque wished to add a road name change.

Councillor Sampson requested and received unanimous consent to add Queen's Jubilee Medals.

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

Review of Minutes: (a) November 12, 2002 (Regular Meeting)
(b) November 12, 2002 (Public Hearing)

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Deputy Warden McNamara that the minutes of November 12, 2002 (Regular Meeting) and November 12, 2002 (Public Hearing) be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Petitions and/or Delegations

(a) Nova Scotia Power re: Service Delivery

The Clerk indicated representatives from Nova Scotia Power had called and indicated they were unable to attend tonight's meeting, but indicated they would attend the Council Meeting in January.

(b) Cape Breton Regional Hospital Foundation – Taking Care of Cape Breton Campaign
(John Coady) re: Request for Financial Assistance

Warden Johnson welcomed Mr. John Coady to the meeting.

Mr. Coady, Chair of the Municipality Campaign thanked Warden Johnson for the opportunity to address Council and indicated he is presenting on behalf of the Taking Care of Cape Breton Campaign, which is being led by Len MacNeil, Campaign Chair; and which is a \$1 million fund-raising campaign currently being conducted by the Cape Breton Regional Hospital Foundation, to bring MRI and Bone Densitometer technology to the Cape Breton Regional Hospital, and to the citizens of Cape Breton Island. He noted the total cost of the MRI and Bone Densitometer is \$3.2 million, and noted that the federal and provincial levels of government have already committed \$2.2 million toward this objective, with the Foundation committed to raise the remaining \$1 million.

Mr. Coady indicated that the Campaign will include activities such as:

- Fairways Fore Health Care Golf Tournament
- Vacation Home Lottery
- Dinner and Auction
- Community Service Groups Solicitation
- Payroll Deduction
- Special Interest Groups Solicitation
- Major Gift Solicitation

Mr. Coady indicated that the Foundation was approaching Cape Breton Municipalities to request that they consider a “fair share” campaign contribution. He indicated he was requesting that the Municipality of Richmond contribute .50¢ per resident, which was in line with the 2.5% usage of the facility from residents of Richmond County.

Mr. Coady indicated that a patient must wait a minimum of 65 days presently before obtaining an appointment for these types of tests outside of Cape Breton, and having these machines at the Cape Breton Regional Hospital would reduce this wait time to approximately 35 days, which would have a positive impact on a patient’s health. He also indicated that having equitable access to MRI and Bone Densitometer technology will help in attracting and retaining specialist physicians, medical technologists and other care givers to our Island.

Councillor MacNeil indicated he was a Board Member on the original Board of Directors of the Cape Breton Regional Hospital and had been honored as an Honorary at their official opening and indicated he felt it was extremely important for Council to provide funding to this fund-raising campaign because of the services being provided to our residents.

In response to a question from Councillor Goyetche, Mr. Coady indicated they hoped to have both machines installed and operational within one year.

Councillors commended the members of the Campaign Committee for their volunteer efforts for such a wonderful and worthy cause.

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Goyetche that the request for financial assistance from the Cape Breton Regional Hospital Foundation – Taking Care of Cape Breton Campaign be tabled and referred to the Committee on grant requests. Motion carried.

Warden Johnson thanked Mr. Coady for his very informative presentation.

(c) Regional Committee of Les Jeux de L'Acadie re: Request for Financial Assistance

Warden Johnson welcomed Mr. Robert Fougere to the meeting.

Mr. Fougere thanked Councillors for the opportunity to address Council and indicated that Richmond County will be hosting "Les Jeux de L'Acadie" on the long weekend in May, 2003. He noted that approximately 600 to 650 youths will attend this event, along with approximately 200 volunteers. He noted this involved a large amount of organizing, with a tremendous amount of fundraising to do.

Mr. Fougere indicated he had submitted a projected budget, but noted that as of yesterday, the figure for food had increased by approximately \$2,500 to \$3,000. He noted the cost of the beverages alone for that weekend would cost approximately \$2,000, and he noted the Fundraising Committee would be approaching businesses to donate milk and juice for the event.

In response to a question from Councillor Boudreau, Mr. Fougere indicated the track and field event will be held in Antigonish because Richmond does not have a large enough venue for this event, and also noted that Richmond will partner with Pomquet for Les Jeux and noted that Jacques Boucher, a professor, will be coordinating this event as a volunteer. He also noted that Les Jeux involves 10 different sports, and events will take place in Petit De Grat, Arichat, Louisdale, Evanston and possibly St. Peter's.

In response to a question from Councillor Cotton, Mr. Fougere indicated the Committee will be looking at schools other than P3, hoping the cost will not be as great.

Moved by Councillor Goyetche, seconded by Councillor Boudreau that the grant request from the Regional Committee of Les Jeux de L'Acadie be tabled and referred to the Committee on grant requests. Motion carried.

Warden Johnson thanked Mr. Fougere for his presentation.

Committee Reports

(a) Committee of the Whole

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

Moved by Deputy Warden McNamara, seconded by Councillor Goyetche that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the recommendation of the Tourism, Culture and Recreation staff be accepted and that Municipal Council not provide a grant to Tourism Cape Breton. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden McNamara, seconded by Councillor Bourque that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the grant request from Development Isle Madame be approved in the amount of \$9,270 per year, on an annual basis for three years, conditional on DIMA providing confirmation that they have obtained the core funding as outlined from the federal government, and also DIMA identifying the position that will be created, in addition to the three positions outlined in their presentation; and further noting that the partnership represents the Municipality's efforts at sustaining support on Isle Madame for business counseling and community economic development. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden McNamara gave notice that she will introduce a motion at the next regular Council Meeting that the Policy for Providing Booster Pumps to Residences in the Low Water Pressure Zone on the High Road in Arichat be adopted as a policy of the Municipality, as recommended by the Deputy Clerk Treasurer (attached as Appendix "A").

Moved by Deputy Warden McNamara, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that as a result of Council discussions and in order to maintain the current level of service in garbage collection in Richmond County, that the garbage collection contracts be awarded as follows:

Zone 1 - Richard Doiron - \$62,241.72 (regular collection)
- \$172.50 per tonne (heavy collection);

Zone 2 - Garry Burke - \$66,215.00 (regular collection)
- \$115.00 per tonne (heavy collection);

Zone 3 - Tommy Bona - \$68,981.04 (regular collection)
- \$100.00 per tonne (heavy collection)

Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden McNamara, seconded by Councillor Bourque that in keeping with the best interest of the taxpayers of Richmond County, that Council accept the

recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the tender deposit received from Joe Pottie be returned and, upon signing a waiver to absolve the Municipality from legal action, that the tender deposits from Tommy Bona for Zone 1 and Zones 2 also be returned. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden McNamara, seconded by Councillor Cotton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the policy regarding garbage collection tenders be re-examined before the next tender, to include criteria regarding equipment, that standard collection times be established, and specify that the Municipality has the right to retain deposits, if tenders are withdrawn. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden McNamara gave notice that she will introduce a motion at the next regular meeting to adopt the attached Policy on Councillors' Payment (attached as Appendix "B").

Moved by Deputy Warden McNamara, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the money received by the Municipality from the E-911 Cost Recovery Fund, in the amount of \$3,033.21 be given to the Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission, because they carried out the work for the Municipality. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden McNamara, seconded by Councillor Cotton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Municipality support Information Technology Week, which will be held in May, 2003, by developing a proposal in partnership with the Richmond County Capsites Association, which would promote I.T. Week. Motion carried.

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

(b) Planning Advisory Committee

Councillor MacPhee presented the monthly report of the Planning Advisory Committee (copy attached), which requests a report from District Planning Commission members, regarding staff departures.

The Clerk indicated he acts as an ex-officio on the District Planning Commission, with Councillor Bourque and Councillor Beaton being the Council representatives. He indicated that the most recent departure had left her employ with the Planning Commission to accept a senior position with another municipal unit and her reason for leaving was not because of the compensation package being offered by the Commission.

Councillor Bourque indicated that prior situations involved young and single employees who decided to move to an urban area as opposed to continue living in a rural area.

Councillor Goyetche expressed concern over the affect of the planning process in the County when a Planner leaves while the Committee is developing a Plan, and a new Planner arrives and does not know the work that has been done to date, and also this new individual brings in his or her own style and techniques, which could be very different from the previous Planner.

Councillor Cotton suggested that perhaps the Commission could look at offering a defined benefit pension plan for employees.

Deputy Warden McNamara suggested that the Commission address these concerns and make recommendations to Council.

Warden Johnson asked if there were any other Committee Reports.

Councillor Sampson indicated he wished to give a verbal report from the Strait Richmond Physician Recruitment Committee.

Councillor Sampson indicated he was extremely pleased to report that the Strait Richmond Hospital operates a Physician full time. He indicated Dr. Sammeh Hanna began his practice on Monday, December 2, 2002 and indicated that he and his family are extremely happy to be here.

Councillor Sampson indicated the Physician Recruitment Committee is continuing to work with Department of Health and provincial recruiters to attempt to recruit additional doctors to the area. He indicated he was hopeful that the good news can be shared for many years to come and is hoping that other doctors will want to come and settle in this area.

Correspondence:

(a) Hon. Ron Russell re: Highway 104

The Clerk indicated that upgrading of the National Highway System (Route 4 from River Tillard to Sydney River) on Cape Breton Island with the exception of Highway 125 will be to a two lane 100 series controlled access highway, however the highway will be designated for four lanes for when additional capacity is required.

(b) Eastern Counties Regional Library re: Regional Library Funding

Moved by Deputy Warden McNamara, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that a letter be written to the Minister of Education indicating that it is imperative that funding be provided to maintain library services for the Eastern Counties Regional Library, which is

the only service that Richmond County has and certainly a population that is in need of that kind of service and access to library services. Motion carried.

(c) Veterans Affairs re: Acknowledgement

(d) Department of Health re: Replacement of Richmond Villa

The Clerk indicated the correspondence confirms the Department of Health's continued commitment to replacing the existing Richmond Villa facility.

Councillor Sampson indicated Mr. Barry Lampiere will be meeting with the Richmond Villa Board of Directors at tomorrow night's meeting to further discuss the next phase and process of selection of architects and site purchase.

Items Added to the Agenda

(1) Warden Johnson re: Grant Request – Red Islands Property Owners

Warden Johnson indicated further information will be provided when discussed at the Committee of the Whole Meeting when discussing grant requests.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Deputy Warden McNamara that the grant request from the Red Islands Property Owners be tabled and referred to the Committee on grant requests. Motion carried.

2) Clerk re: Mike MacPhee Induction

The Clerk indicated he became aware of Mr. MacPhee's induction when a group had approached the Municipality for advertisement regarding his induction into the Kinsmen Hockey Heritage Hall of Fame, along with Alan MacInnis and Fabian Joseph.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that a letter be sent to Mr. Mike MacPhee congratulating him on his recent induction into the Cape Breton Hockey Heritage Hall of Fame. Motion carried.

3) Councillor Bourque re: Road Name Change

Councillor Bourque indicated that residents from "Cove Road" wished to change the road name to "Rue Meunier's Lane".

Moved by Councillor Bourque, seconded by Councillor Goyetche that approval be given to the road name change from "Cove Road" to "Rue Meunier'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.

4) Councillor Sampson re: Queen's Jubilee Medals

Councillor Sampson indicated that several Richmond County residents had been awarded Queen's Jubilee Medals in recognition of their volunteer efforts in our county, the province and the country.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Deputy Warden McNamara that letters of congratulations be sent to Mr. John Boudreau, Ms. Esther McDonnell; Ms. Jean Penny; Mr. Wilbur Urquhart; Ms. Sally Mombourquette, Ms. Barbara Malcolm and also to the family of the late Joe MacMullin, in recognition of their receiving Queen's Jubilee Medals for their volunteer efforts in our county, the province and the country. Motion carried.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

There were no questions.

Warden Johnson wished everyone a safe and happy holiday.

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

There being no further business, Warden Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.