

RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

FEBRUARY 10, 2003

Location: Court House, Arichat

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

The Clerk took roll call of Councillors.

The Clerk indicated that he received phone calls from both Councillor Bourque and Councillor MacNeil indicating that they would not be attending tonight's meeting.

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

The Clerk indicated that with only 5 Councillors present, there was no quorum and business could not proceed, however Councillors could receive the presentations.

Presentations:

- (a) R.C.M.P. (Sergeant Brian London) re: Detachment's Activities/Occurrence Report

Deputy Warden McNamara welcomed Sergeant London to the meeting.

Sergeant London indicated that the Richmond County District of the R.C.M.P. has reported increases in crimes in 2002, related to property, as well as other criminal code offences.

Sergeant London reviewed the Annual Occurrence Report for 2002.

Sergeant London noted that there were increases in assaults, property offences, theft, fraud, weapons offences as well as other criminal code offences such as property damage over \$5,000, disturbing the peace, breach of probation, breach of peace and uttering threats.

Sergeant London noted that in regards to Provincial Statutes, offences against the Child Welfare Act, Family Relations Act and the Mental Health Act have increased.

Sergeant London indicated that many of the increases were in investigative type offences that required significant time, noting that it is common that one staff person would have 50-60 files active at one time.

In response to a question from Councillor Sampson, Sergeant London indicated that increases in activities, particularly break and enters, could not be attributed to any one factor noting that many factors may influence increases such as increased traffic amongst a particular area, the type of area itself, noting that break and enters was not uncommon in rural areas, weather, employment/un-employment etc.

In response to a question from Councillor Sampson, Sergeant London indicated that some of the increases may be the result of the increase in area, noting that the new Richmond County Detachment combines the former detachments of Arichat, St. Peter's and Chapel Island.

In response to a question from Councillor Sampson, Sergeant London indicated that the number of staff for the area is appropriate, noting that the integration of the three policing units has enabled them to combine resources and free up some staff time.

Sergeant London noted that youth crime is very low in Richmond, and indicated that the detachment members are very involved in youth programs in Richmond, noting that community policing initiatives are as follows:

- a) School Liaison Program
- b) DARE Program
- c) Block Parent
- d) Beach Volleyball
- e) Crime Stoppers
- f) Community Justice Forum
- g) Sports Coaching
- h) Diversity Awareness Initiative
- i) Bullying Program

In response to a question from Councillor Sampson, Sergeant London indicated that the issue of cost sharing of residences is being re-visited, noting that the community of Louisdale now has two Officers residing in that area, further noting that Officers are spread throughout communities in Richmond.

In response to a question from Councillor Cotton, Sergeant London noted that the process of establishing cost sharing of residences has been delayed due to bureaucracy, noting that continuing with this project is a priority this year.

Sergeant London agreed to contact the Lions Club in Louisdale to update them on the issue.

Deputy Warden McNamara thanked Sergeant London for his presentation.

(b) Nova Scotia Power (Sandy MacIsaac) re: Service Delivery

The Clerk indicated that representatives for Nova Scotia Power were unable to attend due to weather conditions.

(c) Congres Mondial Acadien 2004 (Delores Boudreau) re: Update

Deputy Warden McNamara welcomed Delores Boudreau to the meeting.

Ms. Boudreau indicated that she is replacing Lisa Berthier as Regional Coordinator for the Congres Mondial Acadien.

Ms. Boudreau indicated that this event takes place every five years with Nova Scotia having been chosen as the host for 2004, noting that festivities will begin on July 31 and end on August 15, 2004. She also indicated that there are approximately 1,200 activities planned for the region, noting that 250,000 people are expected to participate, with approximately 100,000 visitors expected from out of the province.

Ms. Boudreau indicated that information on the Congres Mondial Acadien 2004 can be obtained via the website at www.cma2004.com, and she noted that by the end of 2002, this site had received over 4 million hits.

Ms. Boudreau indicated that a Sampson family reunion and a Boudreau family reunion are being planned, noting that over 1,000 Boudreau's are expected from Louisiana alone. She also indicated that activities are currently being planned for Petit De Grat and Arichat, noting that she would like to see participants from all communities, noting that the official program deadline is October 31, 2003.

Ms. Boudreau requested that Councillors spread the word and enthusiasm about the Congres Mondial Acadien activities, and encourage people from every community to get involved.

In response to a question from Councillor Cotton, Ms. Boudreau indicated that since the last presentation to Council, an Organizing Committee has been set up for each county, noting that the President for Richmond County's Organizing Committee is Mr. Yvon Samson and that he will be approaching Council to present the marketing plan, once it is finalized.

In response to a question from Councillor Boudreau, Ms. Boudreau indicated that a large number of volunteers are required to organize and carry out the activities, noting that Councillors could assist by encouraging individuals to come forward and contact her office and volunteer to organize activities in their communities.

Councillor Sampson thanked Ms. Boudreau for her active role and enthusiasm, indicating that is very appropriate to have a public presentation to spread the word about the upcoming activities.

Deputy Warden McNamara noted that there are samplings of acadians in every community in Richmond and she is looking forward to all of the events/commemorative activities that are being planned.

The Clerk indicated that, in Nova Scotia, Clare, Argyle, Cheticamp and Richmond are designated by the Federal Government as Acadien communities, noting that he would appreciate if Ms. Boudreau could provide Council with information on how Congres Mondiale funds have been allocated to these areas for the Congres Mondiale 2004.

Deputy Warden McNamara thanked Ms. Boudreau for her presentation.

The Clerk noted that regular business could not be conducted, due to a lack of a quorum.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.