

**RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**  
**THIRD ANNUAL SESSION OF THE 45<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL**

**JUNE 16, 2003**

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.

Warden Johnson indicated Deputy Warden McNamara was unable to attend, due to illness.

Opening Remarks of the Warden

Warden Johnson presented her opening remarks (copy attached) of the Annual Council Session, summarizing the activities and progress that have taken place during the past year. She thanked the CAO and Councillors for their commitment and dedication and thanked all staff for their cooperation, dedication and hard work over the past year.

Items Added to the Agenda

Warden Johnson indicated Councillor Cotton wished to add Nova Scotia Power Thank You and Summer Students.

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

Review of Minutes: May 12, 2003

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that the minutes of May 12, 2003 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Presentations:

- (a) Inverness/Richmond Island Community Justice Society (Madaline Libbus) re: Grant Request

Warden Johnson welcomed Mrs. Madaline Libbus to the meeting.

Mrs. Libbus presented her report (copy attached) and indicated the Island Community Justice Society was first initiated in 1986 as Island Alternative Measures Society. She indicated the Society is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, with an office in Sydney which staffs 5 full time and 1 part-time staff and which covers Cape Breton and Victoria Counties; and an office in Port Hawkesbury, which covers Inverness and Richmond Counties, and which staffs 1 full time and 1 part-time position. She indicated the Society has sixteen years of conflict resolution expertise; provides a community response, with approximately 100 volunteers and 250 placements; is under contract with the Nova Scotia Department of Justice; and is a member agency of the United Way of Cape Breton. She also noted that the Society is comprised of two main programs – Restorative Justice and Community Service Order.

Mrs. Libbus briefed Council on offence breakdown, legislative background, the Provincial Restorative Justice Program and the Community Service Order Program.

Mrs. Libbus indicated the Inverness/Richmond Island Community Justice Society were requesting a grant in the amount of \$1,000 to help purchase a small T.V., VCR and an overhead projector for the Agency to assist with presentations.

A question and answer period followed.

Moved by Councillor Goyetche, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that the report of the Inverness/Richmond Island Community Justice Society be accepted as presented.  
Motion carried.

Warden Johnson thanked Mrs. Libbus for her informative report and indicated that the Committee of the Whole was recommending to Council this evening to award \$1,000 to her organization.

Warden Johnson thanked Mrs. Libbus for attending the meeting.

(b) Department of Transportation (Bruce Fitzner and Don Morehouse) re: Road Repairs/Upgrades

Warden Johnson welcomed Mr. Bruce Fitzner and Mr. Don Morehouse to the meeting.

The CAO indicated the Department of Transportation representatives were in attendance as a result of a Council resolution requesting their attendance.

Mr. Fitzner updated Council on some of the work being done this year, and Mr. Morehouse updated Council on the work that is underway under the RIM program that is taking place in Richmond County.

A question and answer period followed.

Warden Johnson thanked Mr. Fitzner and Mr. Morehouse for attending the meeting.

Second Reading Approval: to adopt By-Law #17, Solid Waste Management By-Law, which is attached as Appendix "A"

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Municipal Council give Second Reading Approval to adopt By-Law #17, Solid Waste Management By-Law, which is attached as Appendix "A". Motion carried.

Notice of Motion – Deputy Warden McNamara: to give First Reading Approval to adopt By-Law #13, Dog By-Law, which is attached as Appendix "B"

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Cotton that Municipal Council give First Reading Approval to adopt By-Law #13, Dog By-Law, which is attached as Appendix "B". Motion carried.

Reports:

(a) Committee of the Whole re: Estimates/Tax Rates/Other

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

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and award the following grants to community groups:

- \$10,000 to Richmond County Literacy Society (Year 3 of 3 year commitment)
- 1,750 to Richmond County Tourism Association (Year 5 of 5 year commitment)
- 6,000 to Richmond County Literacy Network (Year 2 of 2 year commitment)
- 9,270 to D.I.M.A. (Year 2 of 3 year commitment)
- 2,500 to Nicholas Denys Museum (as per development agreement)
- 2,500 to LeNoir Forge Museum (as per development agreement)
- 750 each to MacAskill House Museum, the Oceanview Wildlife Association and the Point Tupper Heritage Association
- 1,200 to Stora Enso Hockey Tournament
- 0.50/resident to Cape Breton Regional Hospital Foundation (approximately \$5,100)
- 700 to Red Islands Property Owners
  
- 6,000 to L'Ardoise Economic Association for Development (Business Builders Program)
- 8,000 to Early Childhood Education Centre (2 year commitment - \$8,000 in current year; \$7,000 next year)
- 1,000 to Inverness/Richmond Island Community Justice Society

Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Cotton, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that the motion be amended, to reflect that the grant in the amount of \$1,750 listed for the Richmond County Tourism Association be given to the operators of the tourist information bureau in St. Peter's, because the Richmond County Tourism Association no longer exists. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Boudreau that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the requests by the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation and I.W.K. be removed from the list, for the reason that it is a cause that is collected for by canvassers in individual communities, and already receive significant financial support in our county. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Boudreau that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the request from the Island Association for Community Awareness be denied because they have not provided financial statements, as requested by Council. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Beaton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and not fund the grant request of the Chapel Cove Wharf Preservation Society. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the grant request from the East Richmond ATV Riders Society be denied. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Bourque that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that funding be provided in the amount of \$6,000 to the L'Ardoise Watershed Management Program, with the funding being utilized through our municipal infrastructure program, which is intended for community improvements such as wastewater management districts. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Cotton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and approve funding of \$40,000 per year for the next two years, for the projects outlined by the Richmond Arena Association, with the funding to be provided as a recreation project, because this facility serves the entire county, with the understanding that the two year commitment can be reviewed. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the following grant requests from halls/facilities, to pay for their taxes, totaling approximately \$17,000, be approved:

<u>Name of Facility</u>	<u>2003/2004 Assessment</u>
Rocky Bay Hall	\$112,400
D'Escousse Hall	499,200

Salmon River Hall	60,100
Framboise Hall	53,100
Lakeside Hall	76,500
MacAskill House Museum	30,500
Isle Madame Historical Society	84,300
Isle Madame Historical Society	25,500
Fourchu Hall	39,800
River Bourgeois Historical Society	48,600
South Mountain Arm of Gold	31,500
Nicholas Deny's Museum	27,000
Grand River Volunteer Fire Department	185,100
Grand River Volunteer Fire Department	5,500
Basin River War Memorial	900
LeNoir Forge Museum	41,300

Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the following properties be exempt from taxation, through the legislative authority provided:

<u>Facility:</u>	<u>Code:</u>	<u>2003/2004 Assessment:</u>
Arichat/PDG Water Utility (By-Law #33)	02	\$1,725,200
Louisdale Water System (By-Law #33)	02	674,800
Evanston Water Utility (By-Law #33)	02	763,800
Incubator Mall	02	16,600
Johnstown Development Co-Op	02	109,800
Isle Madame Seniors Club	02	144,400
Bonnie Brae Seniors Club	02	33,600
St. Peter's Lions Club	02	124,400
St. Anne's Community Nursing Care Centre	01	864,600
	02	118,600
Richmond Villa	01	1,086,100

AND FURTHER MOVED that the following properties that have a charitable tax number, and that are included in By-Law #36, be provided with a total tax exemption for the current year:

Oceanview Museum	02	71,900
Isle Madame Active Living Centre	02	100,400
Arichat Parish Hall	02	88,200
Petit De Grat Parish Hall	02	169,100
Knights of Columbus Hall	02	112,800
Janvrin's Harbour Hall	02	50,800
Riverdale Community Hall	02	166,400

Louisdale Parish Hall	02	193,400
River Bourgeois Funeral Home	02	89,000
River Bourgeois Hall	02	287,400
L'Ardoise Parish Hall	02	164,500
L'Ardoise Funeral Home	02	63,600
Loch Lomond Hall	02	88,800
Johnstown Parish Hall	02	66,700
Mowat's Environmental Institute	01	26,400
	02	17,600
St. Peter's United Church Hall	02	111,500
L'Ardoise Medical Centre	02	105,500
East Richmond Medical Centre	02	158,200
Motion carried.		

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Boudreau that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that Municipal Council proceed with the construction of the new municipal building and establish a capital budget for this project in the amount of \$2,524,660 plus HST. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Boudreau that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the existing municipal building be demolished after the new municipal building has been completed and occupied. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Goyetche that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and authorize a grant of a maximum of \$10,000 to the Petit De Grat Community Infrastructure Development Project, that must be substantiated through invoices prior to payment, with funding to be committed from the grant funds for the coming fiscal year; and further that the group be advised that any funds accessed from the Municipality will be considered as part of the total grant request made by them. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and approve the merit increases recommended by the CAO in his confidential employee evaluation report. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Bourque that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that Municipal Council establish the following area rates for the current fiscal year:

L'Ardoise Volunteer Fire Department	-	.16¢
Red Islands (District #10) Volunteer Fire Department	-	.12¢
Grand River Volunteer Fire Department	-	.15¢
Isle Madame Volunteer Fire Department	-	.09¢
Louisdale Volunteer Fire Department	-	.10¢

Framboise-Forchu Volunteer Fire Department	-	.15¢
Loch Lomond Volunteer Fire Department	-	.12¢
District #2 Area Rate	-	.04¢

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Municipality collect the area rate for the St. Peter's Village Commission; in the amount established by the Village Commissioners. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and give approval to the municipal estimates of revenues and expenditures for the year ending March 31, 2004 in the amount of \$10,060,838 (copy of budget attached as Appendix "A");

AND FURTHER MOVED THAT WHEREAS pursuant to the Municipal Act, the Municipal Council of the Municipality of Richmond estimates that sums amounting to \$7,543,859 are required for the lawful purpose of the said Municipality for the year ending March 31, 2004, after crediting the probable revenue from all sources other than rates for the said year and making due allowance for the abatement and losses which may occur in the collection of the taxes and for taxes for the said year which may not be collectible or collected;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that Richmond Council hereby authorizes the levying and collection of a residential rate of .69¢ on each \$100 of the assessed value of residential property assessed on the assessment roll and a commercial rate of \$1.36 which rates said Council deems sufficient to raise the sums required to defray the expenditures of the said Municipality for this year, and any deficit from the preceding years;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Richmond Council hereby imposes an additional percentage charge of 18 percent per annum on all rates and taxes remaining unpaid from the final billing after the 31<sup>st</sup> day of October, 2003;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Richmond Council hereby fixes the 30<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2003 as the day on which the Tax Collector or Treasurer may proceed to issue warrants for the collection of all rates and taxes then unpaid. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Cotton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that Councillor Boudreau be re-appointed as the municipal representative on the St. Anne Board of Directors. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that Mr. MacDonald be re-appointed to the Strait Superport Board of Directors to serve a further three year term. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Development Agreement be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Bourque that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and of the Evaluation Committee to develop and enter into a contract with HJS Consultants Ltd. for the construction of a subdivision, and a mobile home park, in Evanston, in accordance with the proposals submitted by them. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Beaton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and staff, and that Council authorize the lease of Bay 4 at the Industrial Mall to Isle Madame Community Venture Centre Association. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Cotton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that staff be directed to draft a policy relating to a formal approval process for the consideration and adoption of municipal by-laws; with this policy being provided to Committee of the Whole/Council for consideration. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Cotton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and of the Vested Property Clerk and that the high bid of \$10,250 submitted by Mr. Marc Marchand for the sale of a municipal property in Louisdale be accepted. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Municipality authorize a temporary borrowing resolution in the amount of \$35,000 for the Grand River Volunteer Fire Department, for the purpose of purchasing new equipment; and further moved that the appropriate signing officers be authorized to execute the necessary provincial borrowing resolution and loan agreements. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the attached seven resolutions from Strait Area Mutual Aid be supported by Richmond Municipal Council, and further moved that staff and municipal representatives be authorized to submit these resolutions to the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities for consideration of provincial support, with the understanding that the resolutions will be reworded to properly reflect the request for support from the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that the Committee of the Whole report be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

(b) Clerk re: Annual Report



The CAO presented his annual report (copy attached) and reviewed the Municipality's Statement of Operations for the year ending March 31, 2003, noting that the Municipality had a small surplus of approximately \$5,000 for the fiscal year.

The CAO expressed his opinion to Council, that political advocacy by Council was required, to combat the enormous decline in rural Nova Scotia.

Warden Johnson thanked the CAO for his report.

Annual Appointments:

(a) Municipal Solicitors

Moved by Councillor Cotton, seconded by Councillor Goyetche that the firm of Pickup and MacDowell be retained as the Municipal Solicitors for the current fiscal year. Motion carried.

(b) Municipal Auditors

Moved by Councillor Bourque, seconded by Councillor Cotton that Mr. Dave Smith be retained as Municipal Auditor for the current fiscal year. Motion carried.

(c) Signing Officers

Moved by Councillor Goyetche, seconded by Councillor Beaton that the Clerk, the Deputy Clerk and the Warden be appointed as Signing Officers, with the Deputy Warden being appointed as an Alternate to the Warden. Motion carried.

(d) Representative – Eastern Counties Regional Library Board

Moved by Councillor Goyetche, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that Councillor Beaton be re-appointed as the municipal representative on the Eastern Counties Regional Library Board. Motion carried.

(e) Heritage Advisory Committee (3 Councillors)

Moved by Councillor Goyetche, seconded by Councillor Bourque that Councillor MacPhee, Councillor Beaton and Councillor MacNeil be re-appointed to the Heritage Advisory Committee. Motion carried.

(f) Inverness/Richmond District Planning Commission (2 Councillors)

Moved by Councillor Goyetche, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that Councillor Bourque and Councillor Beaton be re-appointed as the municipal representatives on the Inverness/Richmond District Planning Commission. Motion carried.

(g) Representative – Strait Regional Airport Committee

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Councillor Bourque be re-appointed as the municipal representative on the Strait Regional Airport Committee. Motion carried.

(h) Planning Advisory Committee (5 Councillors)

Moved by Councillor Bourque, seconded by Councillor Cotton that Councillor McNamara, Councillor MacPhee, Councillor Goyetche, Councillor Boudreau and Councillor MacPhee be re-appointed to the Planning Advisory Committee. Motion carried.

(i) Richmond/Port Hawkesbury Joint Development Commission

Moved by Councillor Cotton, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that Warden Johnson, Councillor McNamara and Councillor Bourque be re-appointed as the municipal representatives on the Richmond/Port Hawkesbury Joint Development Commission. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

(a) Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations re:

- (i) Debenture Guarantee – Village of St. Peter’s Sewage Treatment Plant
- (ii) NSPI Grant in Lieu of Taxes
- (iii) Change in Uniform Assessment

For information.

(b) Richmond County Literacy Network re: Letter of Support

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor Cotton that a letter of support be written to the Richmond County Literacy Network expressing Council’s support for their proposed “Labour Market Employability in Richmond County” project. Motion carried.

(c) River Bourgeois Community Services Society Youth Development Committee  
re: Grant Request

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Bourque that Richmond Municipal Council approve of the \$2,500 grant to the River Bourgeois Community Services Society Youth Development Committee, with the funding being provided through the youth budget. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Cotton that the motion be amended to reflect that the funding request be referred to the Recreation Director, with a

recommendation to fund \$2,500 to this group to the youth budget, if it is deemed worthwhile of the youth budget criteria. Amendment carried.

Councillor Cotton noted that this request was being reviewed for the first time by Council, because it had only been received in the last few days, and he felt that while the request was very worthwhile, that Council should continue to avoid making immediate decisions on grant requests.

Councillor MacPhee inquired if this project had been funded through the youth budget last year, and the CAO indicated that it had been funded as a grant.

(d) Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation re: ACOA Business Development Program

Moved by Councillor Goyetche, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that a letter be written to Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation, requesting the status and progress of the project described in their correspondence of May 5, 2003, which indicated that E.C.B.C. intended to carry out a broadband strategy to cover all of Cape Breton. Motion carried.

(e) U.N.S.M. re: Twelve Month Notice Clause, Municipal Government Act

The CAO indicated the U.N.S.M. has provided a copy of the twelve notice from the Minister of Service of Nova Scotia, indicating that the equalization/NSPI agreement was a two year commitment, and this may not be extended beyond the current fiscal year.

(f) F.C.M. re: Agreement Between FCM and Railways

(g) Senior Citizens Secretariat re: Senior Citizens' Week

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Municipal Council declare the week of June 15-21, 2003 as "Senior Citizens' Week". Motion carried.

(h) Rick Hansen Foundation re: June 14<sup>th</sup> Event

For information.

#### Items Added to the Agenda

(a) Councillor Cotton re:

(i) Nova Scotia Power Thank You

Councillor Cotton indicated Nova Scotia Power has reacted immediately to a request from Richmond Municipal Council regarding a property in Petit De Grat, and wished to send a letter to both Ms. Sandy MacIsaac and Mr. Peter Doig for their assistance with this matter.

Moved by Councillor Cotton, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that letters be sent to Ms. Sandy MacIsaac and Mr. Peter Doig of Nova Scotia Power thanking them for their quick reaction to a situation involving the property of Jacintha Sullivan in Petit De Grat. Motion carried.

In response to a question from Councillor Sampson, Councillor Cotton indicated that he had spoken to the UARB and they have indicated that a formal process needs to be followed, and noted that the Nova Scotia Power has sent a recommendation to the UARB to get formal approval, but is still awaiting approval from them. He also indicated that Nova Scotia Power has recommended that the interpretation is the correct one.

(ii) Summer Students

Councillor Cotton indicated the Municipality had only received approval for one student as opposed to nine students in the past. He noted other municipal units have received more than one student, with some units receiving up to 10 students.

Moved by Councillor Cotton, seconded by Councillor Goyetche that a letter be written to Mr. Rodger Cuzner requesting that he intervene and approach HRDC on our behalf in order to attempt to obtain approval for additional summer students, which are required in order to carry out our summer programs as in past years. Motion carried.

Warden Johnson acknowledged Mr. Michel Samson's attendance and requested that he address Council.

Mr. Samson addressed Council and commended Councillors for their initiative and hard work during the past year. He congratulated Council on their broadband proposal and indicated Aliant has agreed to bring high speed internet to St. Peter's and Isle Madame areas, which is a very important aspect in our community economic development. He commended Council on their continued work regarding roads.

Mr. Samson wished Councillors a good summer and indicated he looked forward to Point Tupper Day.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

There were no questions.

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 8:50 p.m.