

RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

SEPTEMBER 8, 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 Councillor Bourque was unable to attend the meeting due to a previous commitment.

Items Added to the Agenda

Warden Johnson indicated the Municipal Clerk wished to add street closures.

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

Review of Minutes: June 16, 2003

Councillor MacNeil noted there was an error on Page 10, indicating that Councillor MacPhee is listed twice on the Planning Advisory Committee, and he should be listed as a Council Member.

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that the minutes of June 16, 2003 be adopted as amended. Motion carried.

Petitions and/or Delegations

(a) GASHA re: Thank You/Acknowledgement for Non-Smoking By-Law
Warden Johnson welcomed Ms. Andrea Donovan to the meeting.

Ms. Donovan presented Richmond Municipal Council with a plaque congratulating Municipal Council for their initiatives in implementing a Smoking By-Law which totally bans smoking and indicated the Guysborough Antigonish Strait Health Authority Board of Directors recognizes the efforts of the Warden, Council and staff for their contributions to a healthier Cape Breton. She indicated the Board commends the work of the Municipality in developing and implementing healthy public policy through the Municipal Smoking By-Law.

The CAO noted that correspondence had been received from the Canadian Medical Association indicating that the Municipality of Richmond was a recipient of the inaugural CMA Award for Excellence in Health Promotion, and had requested to appear before Council to officially present the certificate.

Warden Johnson thanked Ms. Donovan for her presentation.

(b) Department of Fisheries & Oceans re: Shellfish Closures

Warden Johnson welcomed Mr. Dave Sinclair, Acting Supervisor and Mr. Jason Knor, Inspector to the meeting.

Mr. Sinclair indicated the shellfish closures were a joint effort between Environment Canada, the Canadian Fish Inspection Agency and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

Mr. Sinclair distributed maps showing the areas affected by shellfish closures (copies attached) and he indicated that these closures were based on bacteriological contamination only and may be superseded by Department of Fisheries and Oceans prohibition orders.

Mr. Sinclair also distributed a copy of the Fisheries Act and a list of the Department's responsibilities regarding shellfish harvesting (copies attached).

Mr. Sinclair read an e-mail that had been sent to Councillor Bourque from Mr. Chris Craig from Environment Canada, which explained the fisheries protocol on how shellfish closures came about.

Mr. Sinclair indicated that ongoing testing is taking place for fetal chloroform and other contaminants, and he noted that signs are posted in areas affected by shellfish closures.

A question and answer period followed.

Warden Johnson thanked Mr. Sinclair and Mr. Knor for attending the meeting.

(c) Civic Centre Steering Committee re: Civic Centre

Warden Johnson welcomed Mr. Bob MacEachern, Mr. Larry MacKeigan and Mr. John Ouelette to the meeting.

Mr. MacEachern indicated many meetings had been held in order to determine the needs of the community with regards to the civic centre, with other needs having been identified as well.

Mr. MacEachern indicated that construction began in late June, with completion to be in the Fall, 2004.

Mr. MacEachern indicated the rationale and vision of the centre is to contribute to the enrichment of the recreational, cultural, heritage and economic needs of our community and the Strait Region, which consists of approximately 32,000 people; and to contribute to sustaining and growing our community. He indicated the civic centre would consist of a new 1000 seat arena, a 500 person convention centre, a dance studio, a 100 seat performance centre, a fitness centre and racquetball courts, a walking track and town administration offices.

Mr. MacEachern and Mr. MacKeigan presented the building design to Council.

Mr. MacEachern indicated the price tag on the completed structure stands at \$14.5 million and noted that approximately \$10 million has been secured through government and private contributions. He also indicated that \$2 million has been raised from industry and business to date, with \$2.5 million remaining to be raised. He indicated the Committee was hopeful to have the neighboring municipal units contribute a total of \$500,000, and they were attempting to rationalize this contribution dependant on potential usage by municipal units and residents. He indicated the Committee is requesting that Richmond Municipal Council contribute \$200,000 towards this project, over a period of time to be determined.

Mr. MacEachern indicated it was not the intent of the Committee to return to municipal units to request money for operating expenses.

Mr. MacEachern indicated that funding received from neighboring municipal units will not be used to help finance the town administration offices portion. He also noted that there will be a separate corporation entity to report to the Town, with regional representation on the Board of Directors. He also indicated that many centers of this magnitude houses two ice surfaces, but this centre will only house one ice surface, simply because Richmond Arena is only 15 minutes away, and noted this will place more demand on Richmond Arena for ice time.

Mr. MacEachern indicated that KPMG had completed a revenue analysis of the project, and he indicated he would provide a copy of this report to Council.

Councillor Sampson commended and congratulated the Committee Members on their efforts and hard work, noting this project is state of the art and will benefit the entire Strait Area.

A question and answer period followed.

In response to a question from Mr. MacKeigan, the C.A.O. indicated Municipal Council will probably be discussing the funding request next month, and he felt that Richmond's response time would be at least as prompt as neighboring municipal units.

Warden Johnson thanked Mr. MacEachern, Mr. MacKeigan and Mr. Ouelette for attending the meeting.

Warden Johnson called a five minute recess at 8:35 p.m.

Warden Johnson reconvened the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

(d) Unama'ki Institute re: Bras D'Or Symposium

Warden Johnson welcomed Mr. Charlie Dennis and Ms. Karen Malcolm to the meeting.

Mr. Dennis indicated a symposium is planned for October 8-10, which aims to bring all levels of government and First Nations together to begin discussion on how to better work together to address the many complex environmental, social and economic issues present in the Bras D'Or Lakes and watershed.

Mr. Dennis noted the following:

Activities/uses of the Bras D'Or Lakes:

- Cultural importance
- Traditional & recreational fisheries
- Tourism and recreation (boating, swimming, cottage development)
- Aquaculture
- Forestry
- Mining
- Marine transportation
- Agriculture

Environmental, social and economic issues:

- Land and marine-based sewage
- Destruction of wildlife habitats
- Invasive species
- Workforce education and skill needs
- Declining fish stocks
- Vulnerable tourism industry
- Human health risks

- Economic declines and out-migration of youth

Benefits of collaborative planning:

- To stretch existing financial resources through sharing of expertise, responsibilities, research, communications, etc.;
- To strengthen existing initiatives and address gaps that exist within or between them;
- Strengthen partnerships between government, First Nations, community and industry;
- Collaborative planning will work with existing legislative authority and responsibilities

A question and answer period followed.

Ms. Malcolm indicated that she would be sending a complete package to Councillors regarding the application with regards to the non-discharge designation for the Bras D'Or Lakes.

Warden Johnson thanked Mr. Dennis & Ms. Malcolm for their presentation.

Second Reading Approval: to adopt By-Law #13, Dog Control By-Law, which is attached as Appendix "A"

Moved by Deputy Warden McNamara, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Municipal Council give Second Reading Approval to adopt By-Law #13, Dog Control By-Law, which is attached as Appendix "A". Motion carried.

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 Boudreau that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the contract for the construction of the new municipal building be awarded to Joneljim Concrete Construction (1994) Limited at their tender bid of \$2,507,674; and further moved that municipal signing officers be authorized to execute the necessary documents. Motion carried.

The CAO requested that the Solicitor read the Clause of the tender documents, regarding security.

The Solicitor read Clause 1.4 of the Instructions to Bidders regarding completion of the tender form which stated "Place accepted security deposit in envelope and attach to

tender”. He noted that someone had raised the issue that the security deposit should have been separately placed in an envelope and then placed in a second envelope.

The Clerk indicated that if this is deemed an informality, then Municipal Council has the right to waive this issue.

Moved by Deputy Warden McNamara, seconded by Councillor Boudreau that the motion be amended to reflect that the requirement for the additional envelope be waived, if it is deemed an informality. Amendment carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden McNamara, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that Council acknowledge and applaud the efforts of all three candidates who ran in the Provincial Election, and especially congratulate the successful candidate, Mr. Michel Samson, on his re-election. Motion carried.

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

Councillor Sampson excused himself from the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Correspondence:

- (a) Richmond County Literacy Network re: Thank you
- (b) Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations re: Water System Assessment Report
- (c) Industry Canada re: Radiocommunication
- (d) Mr. Michel Samson, MLA re: Framboise Fire Department

Moved by Councillor Goyetche, seconded by Deputy Warden McNamara that this item be referred to the Committee of the Whole for consideration. Motion carried.

- (e) Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation re: ACOA Business Development Program
- (f) Department of Community Services re: Cape Breton Island Housing Authority Board Appointment
- (g) Richmond Academy re: Bursary/Scholarship Program
- (h) Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission re: 2002-03 Annual Report and Financial Statements
- (i) South Mountain Arm of Gold Community Association re: Request for Funding

Moved by Councillor Goyetche, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that the funding request be referred to the Committee of the Whole. Motion carried.

(j) Martina Babin re: Bursary Thank You

(k) Cape Breton Regional Hospital Foundation re: Thank you

Item Added to the Agenda

(a) Municipal Clerk re: Street Closures

The Clerk indicated that the Municipal Government Act provides that Councils may have a policy if they so choose that would stipulate how Councils would go about closing municipal streets, if they want to and indicated he felt the Municipality should have such a policy that would apply mainly to subdivisions. He noted the Municipality requires a policy not to deal with streets but rather with the process to close streets, as issues arise. He indicated Council could give notice of motion to start the process if they wish to proceed with establishing a policy.

Moved by Deputy Warden McNamara, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that notice be given to proceed with the process and request the Solicitor to draft a policy, for Council consideration, that would allow the Municipality to close certain municipal streets. Motion carried.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

Alena MacDonald indicated that Cindy Britten will now be reporting for the Reporter and she will be reporting for C.J.F.X. in other areas, and will no longer cover Richmond Municipal Council Meetings.

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

There being no further business, Warden Johnson adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m.