

**RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**DECEMBER 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 CAO took roll call of Councillors.

The CAO indicated that Councillor Cotton was unable to attend tonight's meeting due to a family commitment.

Items Added to the Agenda

Warden Johnson indicated that the CAO wished to add an update on 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events.

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

Review of Minutes: November 10, 2003

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Beaton that the minutes of November 10, 2003 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Presentations and/or Delegations:

(a) Cape Breton Crime Stoppers re: Program

Mr. Mike MacMullin, Board Member, and Mr. Ron Rowe, Coordinator, presented on behalf of Cape Breton Crime Stoppers.

Mr. MacMullin indicated that Mr. Gerry Campbell, Cape Breton Crime Stoppers Board Member for Richmond, and Sgt. Brian London were in the audience.

Mr. Rowe indicated that Crime Stoppers originated in Albuquerque, New Mexico after a Canadian born detective, out of desperation to solve a murder, attempted to re-enact the crime on a local TV station. 72 hours after the broadcast, the murder was solved due to a tip from a caller, noting that six other armed robberies were also solved because of the investigations.

Mr. Rowe noted that at first many citizens were reluctant to provide information for fear of retaliation and apathy, noting that Crime Stoppers was designed to overcome these two barriers, allowing callers to remain completely anonymous and a system of cash awards put in place for information leading to the solution of a crime.

Mr. Rowe indicated that three elements that are crucial to the success of crime stoppers are community involvement, the media and police.

Mr. Rowe indicated that when a person calls in they are given a tipster number so that they may call back to find out the status of the case.

Mr. Rowe noted that a tipster is paid a cash reward if their tip leads to charges or retrieval of stolen property, noting that the amount of the reward is decided by the board and often depends on the result of the tip, noting that since the tipster remains anonymous the tipster must call back to arrange payment, with drop off by an anonymous driver.

Mr. Rowe noted that provincially only 30% of tipsters claim the cash rewards as opposed to 60% internationally.

Mr. Rowe indicated that since the founding of Cape Breton Crime Stoppers in 1987, 623 cases have been solved, \$950,000 in stolen merchandise recovered and \$2.2 Million in drugs seized.

Mr. MacMullin indicated that the Municipality of Richmond is first of four Municipal units that they are approaching for financial support.

Mr. MacMullin noted that their present yearly funding consists of an annual grant of \$25,000 from CBRM in addition to providing office space, heat, lights and office equipment, a \$20,000 yearly telemarketing project (presently in the second year of a three-year contract) as well as approximately \$12,000 in fundraising annually.

Mr. MacMullin indicated that they are approaching each Municipal unit seeking an annual grant of \$5,000 to help form a strong financial base for Cape Breton Crime Stoppers.

Mr. MacMullin indicated that fundraising efforts of the board will still remain a priority, noting that telemarketing is becoming an unreliable source of revenue and bingo are declining in popularity.

In response to a question from Warden Johnson, Mr. Rowe indicated that the Crime Stoppers unit that pays for the tip, records the statistic in their monthly reports.

In response to a question from Councillor MacNeil, Mr. MacMullin indicated that the 3% of expenditures paid out in tips is average, however it does depend on crime statistics,

further noting that the negative financial status is mainly due to the loss on bingo's, which they are planning to quit.

Mr. Rowe indicated that provincial funding is divided up according to population, noting that Cape Breton gets approximately 20%.

Mr. Rowe noted that he is the only paid employee of Cape Breton Crime Stoppers, noting that a lot of pressure is placed on volunteers to carry out fundraising.

Councillor Sampson indicated that Cape Breton Crime Stoppers has a great impact on local policing, noting that Sgt. London, of the St. Peter's detachment, was here tonight to show his support for the program.

Mr. MacMullin noted that Crime Stoppers has become part of case management, noting that it has become a step in the investigation process.

Sgt. London indicated that Crime Stoppers plays an integral role in intelligence gathering and is an important part of crime solving, noting that the RCMP has an ongoing relationship with Crime Stoppers and allows them to cut down on investigational time, which is often costly.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Deputy Warden Bourque that Council accept the presentation made by Cape Breton Crime Stoppers and that their request for financial support be tabled until budget deliberations. Motion carried.

### Committee Reports

Deputy Warden Bourque presented the Committee of the Whole Report for the month of December 2003.

Moved by Deputy Warden Bourque, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Municipality purchase a lighted Christmas tree at a cost of \$1,000, with proceeds to go to the Strait Richmond Health Care Foundation. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Bourque, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Council accept the Committee of the Whole Report for the month of December 2003. Motion carried.

Warden Johnson requested that Deputy Warden Bourque assume Chairmanship of the meeting, and she proceeded to provide a report from the Adhoc Committee, that negotiated compensation with staff.

Warden Johnson reported that the two year compensation agreement was expiring at the end of December, 2003, and that an Adhoc Committee consisting of herself, Councillor

McNamara and Councillor Beaton; had negotiated with a representative committee of staff.

Moved by Warden Johnson, seconded by Councillor Beaton that Council accept the recommendation of the Adhoc Committee on salary negotiations and amend the compensation paid to staff by increasing the staff salaries in the amount of 4% for 2004 and 2005, effective January 1, 2004 (total increase of 8% for a two year period); and further moved that the existing computer purchase program be extended during the two year period of this agreement. Motion carried.

Warden Johnson resumed Chairmanship of the meeting.

Correspondence:

- (a) Department of Tourism and Culture re: Scope and Implications of Municipal Heritage Registration

Councillor Boudreau indicated that Page 2 of this correspondence was missing.

The CAO noted that he would have the complete correspondence faxed to Councillors.

- (b) Nova Scotia Power re: Hurricane Juan

For information.

- (c) Department of Community Services re: St. Peter's Playschool

For information.

- (d) U.N.S.M. re: (i) Bill 40 – Assessment Act

Deputy Warden Bourque declared a conflict of interest and left his seat during discussions.

The CAO indicated that Bill 40 allows for a cap to be placed on certain residential and resource properties for municipal taxation purposes.

- (e) Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources re: CCGC Research Vessel Navicula

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Deputy Warden Bourque that a letter be written to the Minister in charge of Fisheries requesting to have the department review the decision to decommission the Navicula and extend the life of the program. Motion carried.

- (f) Blois, Nickerson & Bryson re: Interpretation of NSPI's Regulations

For information

(g) Richard Cotton, Rural Caucus Chair re: Rural Caucus By-Laws/Meetings/Priorities

The CAO indicated that Councillor Cotton is seeking input from rural Municipal Councils as to the priorities they feel are most significant so that he can make representation at the December 12, 2003 meeting of the U.N.S.M. Executive.

It was the consensus of Council that Councillor Cotton list the following three priorities as those most important to the Municipality of Richmond:

- 1) Municipal taxation of NSPI based on value and location of assets
- 2) Elimination of Business Occupancy Tax
- 3) Sunday Shopping Plebiscite

(h) Department of Transportation & Public Works re: Cost Shared Paving of J Class Subdivision Streets 2004-05

Moved by Deputy Warden Bourque, seconded by Councillor Boudreau that Municipal Council authorize the CAO to submit requests for paving of "J" Class streets to the Department of Transportation, if he becomes aware of any property owners that are willing to pay the municipal portion of 50%, in accordance with our By-Laws. Motion carried.

#### Items Added to the Agenda

The CAO indicated that the Recreation Department has been working on two projects as part of the Municipality's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events.

The CAO indicated that staff has prepared a calendar commemorating the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary which contains aerial photos of each district, as well as pictures of past Councils, noting that this calendar will be circulated in the mail to all residents of Richmond County before the new year.

The CAO indicated that a New Year's Levee has been scheduled for January 1, 2004 from 2-4 p.m. at the Court House.

#### Fifteen Minute Question Period

Mr. Lorenzo Boudreau suggested that Council have a moment of silence in memory of Mr. George Samson, former Councillor, and Mrs. Audrey Boudreau, former Councillor and employee, who passed away this year.

All those present stood for a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Samson and Mrs Boudreau.

The CAO noted that the local media did a very nice job of honouring the memory of both Mr. Samson and Mrs. Boudreau, in recent articles in the Reporter.

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

There being no further business, the Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.