

**RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**MARCH 13, 2006**

Location: Council Chambers, Municipal Office

Deputy Warden Martell 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 that Councillor Sampson was unable to attend tonight's meeting because he is ill and Councillor C. Boudreau is away on March break.

Items Added to the Agenda

Deputy Warden Martell indicated that there is only one item to be added to tonight's agenda from Councillor Rankin, regarding private land at the North end of the St. Peter's Canal.

Deputy Warden Martell indicated that the CAO has since removed the item that he previously added to tonight's agenda.

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

Review of Minutes: February 13, 2006

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Rankin that the minutes of February 13, 2006 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Petitions and/or Delegations:

- (a) CGI (John Redden) re: Evaluation/Readiness of Fire Protection

Mr. Redden indicated that the division of CGI he works for is the former IAO and former Fire Underwriters.

Mr. Redden indicated that he completes "Fire Underwriters Surveys" (FUS) which develops fire protection classifications based on a grading schedule, conducts surveys of fire suppression capabilities of municipalities and provides advice to insurers on the level of fire protection in a municipality.

Mr. Redden explained that based on the FUS surveys commercial and residential insurance premiums are determined.

Mr. Redden indicated that commercial classifications range from 1 to 10, with 10 being the worst, and residential classification range from 1 to 5, with 5 being the worst, noting that grades vary depending on hydrant protection, proximity to fire hall, etc...

Mr. Redden reviewed examples of the effects of classifications on insurance premiums.

Mr. Redden indicated that in a grading, water supply accounts for 30%, fire department accounts for 40%, fire prevention accounts for 20% and fire service communications accounts for 10%.

Mr. Redden indicated that residential and commercial risks evaluation of fire flow requirements set the rest of the survey and grading requirements.

Mr. Redden indicated that communication evaluation would involve 911 call transfer, the dispatch centre, dispatcher training, radio and support structure, documentation and communication with fire departments.

Mr. Redden indicated that fire prevention evaluation takes into consideration By-laws and enforcement, emergency planning, community inspection program, community fire prevention program and documentation and records management.

Mr. Redden indicated that in assessing a fire station, location and adequacy are considered as well as station construction, compliance with NBC, NFC and NFPA requirements as well as capability of use as emergency shelter.

Mr. Redden noted that the fire department is evaluated on design, compliance with standards, whether pumping capacity meets required fire flows, staffing and equipment based on appropriate standards, maintenance program and records documentation, further noting that equipment must be in compliance with standards as well as cleaned, maintained, tested and certified on a regular basis and that records be kept of this work.

Mr. Redden indicated that fire department personnel must have required training, attend regular training and meetings and also be in compliance with NFPA standards.

Mr. Redden indicated that water supply has a great effect on a grading, noting that aspects such as supply, storage, distribution, flow, maintenance, construction, compliance with standards and recordkeeping along with the use of a Superior Water Shuttle for non-hydrant protected areas are examined.

Mr. Redden indicated that as a result of a survey or assessment, a written report would be provided with each aspect of review, along with the projection of attainable grades,

guidelines for 5 and 10 year plans, as well as a re-evaluation of present grades and benchmarks for improvements.

In response to a question from Councillor Rankin, Mr. Redden indicated that in doing a survey he will come into communities and into fire halls himself, noting that an evaluation of a department would probably take 6 hours.

Mr. Redden indicated that most small departments could probably move to a 9 or an 8 without a lot of documentation.

In response to a question from Councillor Rankin, Mr. Redden indicated that if a fire department were to upgrade they should provide this information to his organization.

In response to a question from Councillor Rankin, Mr. Redden indicated that he cannot comment on how water supply alone would affect insurance rates, noting that there are many other factors to consider.

In response to a question from Warden Cotton, Mr. Redden indicated that the old system of rating by postal code is “dying out”.

The CAO indicated that Mr. Redden has done some work with the Isle Madame Fire Department.

In response to a question from the CAO, Mr. Redden that once the weather gets warmer he will be conducting some water supply tests in Arichat.

Deputy Warden Martell thanked Mr. Redden for his presentation.

(b) Louisbourg-Gabarus Link Committee re: Completing the Fleur de Lis Trail

Mrs. Germaine LaMoine presented on behalf of the Louisbourg-Gabarus Link Committee.

Also present were Rick McCreedy, Planner for CBRM, Ellen Cross, Committee Member and Brian Lahey, Councillor for CBRM.

Mrs. LaMoine indicated that she is the owner of the Cranberry Cove Inn in Louisbourg.

Mrs. LaMoine indicated that the original concept of the Fleur de Lis Trail was to provide a direct connection between Richmond County and Louisbourg along the Atlantic coast.

Mrs. LaMoine gave a little bit of history indicating that prior to 1966 there was a road linking Gabarus to Louisbourg but was closed with the development of the Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site, however prior to this strong social and economic links existed between these two communities.

Mrs. LaMoine indicated that between 1966 and 1994 community group, business organizations and municipalities actively pursued the restoration of the missing road link between these two communities.

Mrs. LaMoine indicated that in 1990 the Richmond Industrial Commission joined the Town of Louisbourg in calling for the restoration of the link and in 1994 Hon. Dave Dingwall and his provincial counterpart, the Hon. Richie Mann, announced that funding had been secured to complete the Fleur de Lis Trail between St. Peter's and Louisbourg, however after much controversy the federal funding was returned to the Wentworth Valley by-pass project.

Mrs. LaMoine indicated that in 1995 Premier Savage announced that the Province would complete the Fleur de Lis Trail despite the lack of Federal funds; however this has not been done.

Mrs. LaMoine indicated that the completion of the trail was endorsed in CBCEDA's strategic plan in 2003 and by CBRM's 2004 Municipal Planning Strategy, however as of yet no funds have been committed to completing the Trail.

Mrs. LaMoine showed a map displaying the proposed trail.

Mrs. LaMoine indicated that reasons to complete the trail include that the Fortress of Louisbourg is declining as a tourist attraction, because of its location at the end of a dead end road and the "dead end" location is a problem for bus operators.

Mrs. LaMoine indicated that the trail would provide access to a spectacular but undeveloped coast, indicating that there 120 km of coastline of which 56% is of public ownership, noting that the completion of the trail would justify development of hiking trails, beach access points and parks.

Mrs. LaMoine indicated that the costs of completing the trail would be approximately \$10 million, noting that the next step would be to complete a detailed study to evaluate the potential social and economic benefits of the project.

Mrs. LaMoine indicated that they held a public meeting in Louisbourg on January 16, where more than 60 people attended, noting that they have already received many letters of support from community organizations.

Mrs. LaMoine indicated that they are approaching CBRM and Richmond County Councils for support, participation on the Steering Committee and funding of the study.

Councillor Rankin indicated that he served on the board of the Industrial Commission in 1990 when an attempt was made to get this project going, noting that there is inherent gaps in the common sense that was used to make the decision to not complete the last 10 km portion of the Trail.

Councillor Rankin noted that tourists hate backtracking; noting the historical nature of the road suggesting that perhaps the historical interpretation could focus on, noting this new route with proper signage and marketing would prove a great destination.

Mrs. LaMoine noted that the tourists come for the coastline and the history, noting that the completion of the trail will allow tourist to do the full “figure 8” when touring the Island.

Councillor Johnson thanked Mrs. LaMoine for her presentation, indicating that this trail would go through three communities in her district who have been dwindling to nothing and this has a lot to do with the gap in the Trail, noting that it will be very important to tap into the historical significance of the Trail.

Councillor J. Boudreau commended Mrs. LaMoine for her excellent presentation, indicating that he also served on the Industrial Commission in 1990 when an attempt was made to complete the Trail, noting that he would love to have the opportunity to work on this project again.

Councillor J. Boudreau suggested that perhaps a resource to work on the terms of reference would be the SHRDA together with CBCEDA.

Moved by Warden Cotton, seconded by Councillor J. Boudreau that Council accept the presentation of the Louisbourg-Gabarus Link Committee and that it be referred to Committee of the Whole for further discussions. Motion carried.

Councillor Brian Lahey from CBRM joined the presentation.

Councillor Lahey indicated that Mrs. LaMoine made the same presentation to CBRM on February 21, 2006, noting that the mayor and all 16 councillors were in support of the project and a motion was passed at that meeting to support the committee’s request and they have committed to 1/3 of the costs of the study as well as staff support.

Councillor Lahey indicated that he hopes that Richmond County Council will also support the completion of the Fleur de Lis Trail.

Notices of Motion:

- (i) to adopt the Municipal District Fund - \$17,000 Policy, as attached in Appendix “A”

Moved by Warden Cotton, seconded by Councillor Rankin that Council adopt the Municipal District Fund - \$17,000 Policy, as attached in Appendix “A”. Motion carried.

- (ii) to adopt the proposed policy regarding solid waste collection services on private roads, as attached in Appendix “B”

The CAO indicated that at the last Committee of the Whole meeting discussions determined that there were areas where the proposed policy could require improvements, in particular with regards to the ability of removing roads from the list, noting that further work is required in order to incorporate this into the policy.

Moved by Warden Cotton, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Council table the adoption of the proposed policy regarding solid waste collection services on private roads, as attached in Appendix “B”, pending further review. Motion carried.

#### Committee Reports:

- (a) Committee of the Whole

Councillor Johnson presented the Committee of the Whole Report for the month of March 2006.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor J. Boudreau that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Committee to review the municipal district boundaries be the Committee of the Whole. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Deputy Clerk and the Committee of the Whole and that MacCoy Insurance be appointed as the municipal insurance providers for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2007, at their low tender bid of \$75,795. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Warden Cotton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that staff be authorized to begin the process of consolidating the various By-laws and Acts that provide for municipal property tax exemptions. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor J. Boudreau that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that staff be authorized to apply to the Municipal Finance Corporation for a temporary borrowing resolution for the Solid Waste Disposal Site Improvements, in the amount of \$1.8 Million, as attached in Appendix “C”. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Rankin that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the request from the District #10 Fire Department for a ten year loan in the amount of \$80,000 for the purchase of a fire truck be approved, conditional on the approval of the Province for the temporary borrowing resolution, attached as Appendix “D”. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the request by the Lions Club to have the street going into the Lions Hall formally named "Lion's Avenue", for 9-11 purposes, be approved and that this request be referred to the Planning Commission and Department of Transportation for processing. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the report of the Committee of the Whole for the month of March 2006. Motion carried.

(b) Richmond Villa Board of Directors

Councillor Rankin presented the report from the Richmond Villa Board of Directors.

Moved by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor J. Boudreau that Council accept the recommendation of the Richmond Housing Corporation Board of Directors, and that Richmond Municipal Council hereby give its approval for the sale of the existing "older" Richmond Villa facility and property, in accordance with the Council approval required pursuant to the Municipal Housing Corporation's Act. Motion carried

Moved by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the report of the Richmond Villa Board of Directors for March 13, 2006. Motion carried.

(c) Planning Advisory Committee

Councillor McNamara presented the Planning Advisory Committee Report for the month of March 2006.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Rankin that Council be advised that the Planning Advisory Committee fully support the contents of the letter received from the Bras D'Or Stewardship Society. Motion carried.

Warden Cotton objected to the portion of the next motion pertaining to a reduction in quorum.

The CAO suggested that perhaps legal advice be sought on whether or not it is legal to reduce a quorum.

It was agreed that the section regarding quorum be removed from the motion, pending legal advice.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Warden Cotton that Council accept the recommendation of the Planning Advisory Committee and that the Planning Advisory Committee meetings continue to be held once a month and the Committee/Council evaluate the attendance and that the Secretary be authorized to consult with the Chairperson, in order to make a decision to cancel a meeting, if it is determined that there is not enough business to hold a meeting. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Johnson that the monthly report of the Planning Advisory Committee be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

- (a) Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations re: Uniform Assessment for use in Year Ending march 31, 2007

The CAO indicated that the uniform assessment total was decreased again this year, due to an appeal filed regarding the Sable assessment, with the reduction being approximately \$60 million last year, and approximately \$30 million this year; with the uniform assessment returning to full value next year.

- (b) Competition Bureau of Canada re: Gasoline and Fuel Oil Prices

The CAO indicated that it is stated in this letter that the practice of price gouging is not illegal.

Warden Cotton indicated that he did not believe that price increases were individual to the retailer, noting that he believed there is some collaboration.

- (c) Nova Scotia Power re: Planned Tree Trimming – February/March 2006

Councillor Rankin indicated that this letter is copied to Mr. Tim Allen, who is a new employee from River Bourgeois, whose job it is to travel and assess where maintenance is required.

Councillor McNamara indicated that the tree trimming has begun in her area, noting that several times phone lines were cut by the tree trimmers.

- (d) Destination Cape Breton Association re: Response to Council Request for Information

The CAO indicated that Destination Cape Breton has attempted to justify their actions by providing a copy of their correspondence to the Canadian Federation of Independent Business in reaction to a letter Sandy Hudson, Victoria County.

Councillor Rankin pointed out that the letter to the Canadian Federation of Independent Business is from their solicitor.

Warden Cotton indicated that the bill has not yet been proclaimed by Cabinet, noting that he is concerned about the way the vote was conducted on a “one room, one vote” basis.

- (e) Regional Occupational Centre re: Thank You



For information.

- (f) Ecole Beau Port Students/Mrs. Betty Anne David re: Thank You

For information.

- (g) Richmond County Early Childhood Education Association re: Request for Tax Exemption/Municipal Grant for Active Living Centre Building

The CAO indicated that he received several letters from Mrs. Leanne Marchand requesting tax exemption for the Active Living Centre, which they recently acquired.

The CAO indicated that Mrs. Marchand wished to make a presentation to Council.

Moved by Warden Cotton, seconded by Councillor Beaton that the request by the R.C.E.C.E.A for tax exemption for the Active Living Centre in Arichat be tabled until budget deliberations. Motion carried.

- (h) Oceanview Wildlife Museum Society re: Request for Tax Exemption
- (i) Janvrin's Island Community Centre re: Request for tax Exemption
- (j) Lakeside Community Association re: Request for Tax Exemption
- (k) Richmond Masonic Lodge re: Request for Tax Exemption

The CAO indicated that the proposed consolidated by-law exempting community organizations would probably cover these four organizations and will prevent these organizations from applying for tax exemptions each year.

Moved by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Johnson that the request for tax exemption from the Oceanview Wildlife Museum Society, Janvrin's Island Community Centre, Lakeside Community Association and Richmond Masonic Lodge be tabled until budget deliberations. Motion carried

#### Items Added to the Agenda:

- (1) Councillor Rankin re: Private Land at the North End of the St. Peter's Canal

Councillor Rankin indicated that a private land at the north end of the St. Peter's canal is about to be put up for sale, noting that this is a pivotal piece of land for the proposed boardwalk to the Marina, noting that it would be advantageous to secure this piece of land for public use, and also has significant historical value.

Moved by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor McNamara that a letter be written to Parks Canada informing them about the sale of this parcel of land at the north end of

the St. Peter's Canal outlining the importance of the land and asking them to secure it for the people of Canada. Motion carried.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

There were no questions.

Adjournment:

Moved by Warden Cotton, seconded by Councillor Rankin that the meeting be adjourned.  
Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.