

RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

APRIL 10, 2006

Location: Council Chambers, Municipal Office

Warden Cotton 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 Cotton indicated Councillor Rankin could not attend the meeting because he was away on a course in Halifax.

Items Added to the Agenda

Warden Cotton indicated there were no items added to the agenda.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Deputy Warden Martell that the agenda be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Review of Minutes: March 13, 2006

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Beaton that the minutes of March 13, 2006 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Presentations and/or Delegations:

(a) Public Health Services (Jean MacQueen) re: Pandemic Flu

Warden Cotton welcomed Ms. Jean MacQueen and Ms. Carolyn Spears to the meeting.

Ms. Spears presented a power point presentation (copy attached) regarding the pandemic planning that was taking place through Public Health Services.

Ms. Spears indicated that the pandemic flu is an acute, highly infectious, respiratory illness caused by the influenza virus, with the viruses being transmitted among humans by respiratory secretions through sneezing, coughing and contact with contaminated

articles. She indicated the virus contains two surface proteins, namely Haemagglutinin (H) and Neuraminidase (N).

Ms. Spears indicated there were three types of influenza virus strains as follows:

- Type A: moderate to severe illness
 all age groups
 humans and other animals
 cause pandemics

- Type B: milder epidemics
 humans only
 primarily affects children

- Type C: restricted to humans
 no epidemics

Ms. Spears indicated that adults are typically infectious the day before symptoms which start through 5 days after onset, and children can be infectious for more than 10 days, while young children can shed virus for less than six days before illness onset.

Ms. Spears indicated that the symptoms of a cold were stuffy or runny nose, sneezing, sore throat, cough, with fever being rare; while influenza comes with a fever, headache, fatigue, extreme exhaustion, weakness and a cough.

Ms. Spears noted the definitions of the disease outbreak as follows:

- Endemic: constant presence of a disease or infectious agent
- Epidemic: the occurrence of cases of an illness/health related behaviour or event clearly in excess or normal expectancy
- Pandemic: an epidemic that is worldwide in distribution such as AIDS or influenza

Ms. Spears indicated that the Avian flu was a contagious viral infection that can affect all species of birds, less commonly infects mammals; and domestic poultry flocks are vulnerable to infections that rapidly turn into epidemics. She noted that people have contracted Avian flu, and limited, inefficient human to human transmission has occurred. She also noted that Avian influenza viruses that have caused illness in people include the H5N1, H7N7, H7N3, H9N2 and the H5N1 associated with the most serious illness in humans. She indicated that since January, 2004, widespread outbreaks of H5N1 in birds in Asian countries have been associated with human cases/deaths in humans. She noted that to date, most cases have been linked to direct contact with infected poultry and the contact includes high risk exposure during the slaughter, de-feathering and preparation of poultry for cooking.

Ms. Spears reported that influenza viruses are constantly changing over time and it is possible that changes in the virus affecting Asian countries can result in a virus that is more efficiently transmissible to and among humans and she noted that seasonal flu shots do not protect against avian influenza.

Ms. Spears indicated that the pandemic flu is a new influenza virus arising from a major genetic change (antigenic shift or adaptive mutation) and the population will be very susceptible with little or no immunity. She indicated that the virus will transmit efficiently from person to person, and will be virulent with the capacity to cause serious illness and death.

Ms. Spears further noted the following, regarding the pandemic flu:

- Influenza A only
- Will occur every 10-40 years
- Worldwide spread
- 3 to 5 months or less to reach North America, due to less and greater travel time
- 2 or more waves, 1-9 months apart, second wave historically more severe
- Outbreaks will occur simultaneously in multiple locations, lasting 6-10 weeks in each area

Ms. Spears reported that the pandemic outbreak in 1918-1919 was a Spanish flu, H1N1, with 20-40 million deaths worldwide and 99% of the deaths among those less than 65 years old. She further reported that the Asian flu (H2N2) outbreak in 1957-1958 had a mortality rate of greater than 2 million with the incidence in 1957 being greatest in school age, young adults and pregnant women, while the second wave in 1958 impacted those over the age of 65, with most mortality being among those compromised. She noted that the Hong Kong flu (H3N2) in 1968-69 was the mildest of the three pandemics, with global excess deaths equaling 1 million people, mostly affecting 65 years of age or older.

Ms. Spears noted the estimated impact of the pandemic flu will be as follows:

- 75% of people will be infected
- 15 - 38% will be clinically ill
- 6.8 - 17% will require outpatient care
- 0.1 - 0.3% will require hospitalization
- 0.03 - 0.1% will die

She noted the impact in Nova Scotia will be as follows:

- 681,005 will be infected
- 136,201 - 345,042 will be clinically ill
- 61,744 - 154,361 will require outpatient care
- 908 - 2,724 will require hospitalization
- 272 - 908 will die

She noted the impact on GASHA & CBDHA will be as follows:

- 132,000 will be infected
- 26,400 to 66,880 will be clinically ill
- 11,968 to 29,920 will require outpatient care
- 176,528 will require hospitalization
- 53 - 176 will die

Ms. Spears and Ms. MacQueen noted the importance of preparing for the Pandemic flu noting that widespread illness will impact essential services such as police, fire, transportation and public works. They noted that health care facilities are likely to be quickly overwhelmed, requiring non-traditional sites to be needed, with vaccines, antiviral agents and antibiotics to treat the secondary infections may be in short supply and noting that health care workers and other first responders at higher risk of exposure may impede the care of victims.

Ms. Spears and Ms. MacQueen noted the importance of the planning process as follows:

- Planning and preparedness are key to an effective response
- Planning must involve all essential service providers
- Clarify relationships and responsibilities and ensure communication lines between federal, provincial and local organizations
- Federal agencies will provide overall direction, guidance and coordination
- Provincial and local health authorities/health care system will form the front line (manage the ill, vaccines, antivirals, isolation, quarantine)
- Provincial Department of Health has a draft plan
- CBDHA and GASHA Steering Committee will have draft plan completed by end of March (they noted this draft plan was complete, but not available for distribution yet)
- Components of plans:
 - Surveillance
 - Vaccines
 - Antivirals
 - Public health measures
 - Health services
 - Emergency planning
 - Communications

Ms. Spears and Ms. MacQueen noted the issues for emergency planning should be as follows:

- Review and confirm population numbers
- Need to be working with the DHA's on how to maintain community essential services and supports to residents

- Municipal E.M.O. Coordinators and Committees should have “all hazards” plans that should provide guidance

Ms. Spears and Ms. MacQueen noted the required municipal government role should be as follows:

- In consultation with the DHA, activate contingency plans and set priorities for continuing of local government, maintaining essential public works and municipal services and closure of public buildings where it is deemed to be in the best interest of the public safety
- Working with the DHA to establish non-traditional sites and immunization sites
- Activating a Committee to facilitate mutual aid agreements to assist with maintaining services e.g. pharmacies, food, banking, fuel and any other commerce deemed necessary

Ms. Spears and Ms. MacQueen noted some of the following planning resources and tools:

- Canadian Pandemic Influenza Plan
- <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pphb-dgsp/cpip-pclcpi/index.html>
- Nova Scotia Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan
- DHA Emergency Response Plans
- DHA SARS plans
- Expertise in the Districts and the Province

A question and answer period followed.

Warden Cotton thanked Ms. MacQueen and Ms. Spears for their informative presentation.

(b) Richmond County Early Childhood Education Association (LeeAnne Marchand) re: Request for Funding

Warden Cotton welcomed Mrs. LeeAnne Marchand and Mr. Shaun Bond to the meeting.

Mrs. Marchand introduced Mr. Shaun Bond, Director, Ms. Tina Boudreau, Chairperson and Mrs Vicky Bonin-MacKenzie, Secretary of their Board of Directors and Mrs. Ruth Landry, Administrative Assistant.

Mrs. Marchand indicated they were in the process of purchasing the old Active Living Centre, which would help them achieve their mandate of creating opportunities to strengthen social, cultural and economic development opportunities for Richmond County. She indicated they would reopen Gulliver’s Café and the building would house the Family Treasures Clothing shop, and would also assist non-profit organizations with meeting space. She indicated they are experiencing delays in the registration of the building with the Nova Scotia Joint Stocks under the name “677 Building Society”, and therefore would probably purchase the building under the Isle Madame Community

Venture Centre Association, in order to speed up the process, and are requesting a tax exemption on that building.

Mrs. Marchand indicated that they are proposing to work with local community groups to provide a gathering place which will help to support their invaluable efforts within the communities, and is requesting financial assistance of several thousand dollars which will help cover some of the costs associated with providing this service.

Councillor C. Boudreau indicated it is important to confirm ownership first and confirm that it is in fact a non-profit organization.

Mrs. Marchand indicated they were also requesting a tax exemption on the day care building in D'Escousse.

The CAO indicated that the matter is before the solicitor at the present time, indicating that Municipal Council is proposing consolidating all methods of exempting facilities under one by-law.

Ms. Marchand indicated the provincial government is phasing out the business occupancy tax and is requesting Council to look at this as well for the Café business.

The CAO noted that the business occupancy tax is being phased out over a five year period, noting we are presently in Year 1.

Mrs. Marchand indicated the day care building in D'Escousse has been experiencing water problems for many years, and they have been purchasing bottled water for their use. She noted that Councillor Beaton had advised them of a treatment system that would cost in the vicinity of \$5,000 that would purifier the water. Mrs. Marchand indicated she was requesting assistance from Municipal Council through the infrastructure grant fund for help in rectifying the water problems that currently exist at their facility.

In response to a question from Councillor J. Boudreau, Councillor Beaton indicated that two water specialists had tested the water at the Civic Improvement Centre in D'Escousse, noting costs of approximately \$5,000 from one company and approximately \$5,500 from the other company, for a system which would consist of two water purifiers, and for which they guarantee the water will be 99% pure.

Mrs. Marchand indicated that since they submitted their request for financial assistance of \$10,000 per year for a three year period to assist with the operational costs associated with the building, the provincial government announced disappointing news whereby the child care funding was being cut from \$137 million to \$37 million. She indicated that the province is now looking at taking some infrastructure dollars and partnering with other agencies and other levels of government to assist centres that already exist in helping them to make buildings more energy efficient (i.e. new roof insulation, ventilation system, etc.).

Mrs. Marchand indicated it may be possible to access funds from other levels of government (i.e. E.C.B.C) under the new proposed funding formula the province is looking at, and noted that if funding is done on a year by year basis, there may be no need to come to Council for additional funding.

Mrs. Marchand indicating they are in the process of revamping their plan to put before Cabinet, and they have been requested to write their own story.

Mr. Bond indicated their first approach was to start a business, which would be operated by a non-profit group, which would put the money back into the organization.

In response to a question from Councillor J. Boudreau noting that the \$10,000/year assistance is not possible under the present legislation, Warden Cotton indicated that the opinion received from the Solicitor indicated it would have to be done on a year by year basis.

Mrs. Marchand indicated she would be submitting an application under the District \$17,000 Fund, for funding, rather than operational funding.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor McNamara that their requests for tax exemptions be referred to the Committee on budget deliberations. Motion carried.

Warden Cotton thanked Mrs. Marchand and Mr. Bond for their presentation.

Committee Reports

(a) Committee of the Whole

Deputy Warden Martell presented the monthly report of the Committee of the Whole (copy attached).

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor J. Boudreau that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that a letter be written to the District #10 Volunteer Fire Department indicating that their request for a grant has been denied, and recommending that expenses relating to the fire department such as renovations, etc. be collected through their fire levy rather than the grant fund. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor Beaton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that CGI Information Systems and Management Consultants Inc. be engaged to conduct a fire services study, at a cost of \$18,780 plus HST. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that a letter be written to the Minister of Natural Resources requesting information on the particulars of the Crown

land sold by the Department of Natural Resources in St. Peter's of the railway line without prior notice and also requesting the criteria for selling Crown lands. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Municipality authorize staff to request written confirmation from the federal and provincial commitments to matching funds for the proposed Cape Breton Marketing Levy before any further action is taken. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Martell gave notice that he will introduce a motion at the next regular Council Meeting to adopt the Policy for Private Road Curbside Collection Requests, as attached in Appendix "A".

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor C. Boudreau that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the request from Mrs. Betty David for permission to use the Municipal Office parking lot for the "Relay for Life" event to be held on June 9-10, 2006 be approved. Motion carried.

Councillor C. Boudreau indicated he had forwarded an e-mail to Councillors and staff requesting if there was an interest in entering a municipal team in the "Relay for Life".

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor C. Boudreau that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and accept the resignation of Councillor MacPhee and that Warden Cotton be authorized to appoint a new representative to the Board of the DRTC. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor J. Boudreau that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the balance of \$2,027 from Prior Year District Infrastructure Funding for District 2 be allocated to the District 2 Sewer Treatment Plant Upgrade. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Director of Public Works be authorized to submit an application for PCAP funding for the West Arichat Pollution Control Study. Motion carried.

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

Correspondence:

- (a) Minister of Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations re:
 - (i) Appointment as Minister/Meeting with Individual Councils

(ii) Petit De Grat Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrade

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Deputy Warden Martell that a letter be written to the Hon. Richard Hurlburt thanking him for providing funding of 50% of the cost of the Petit De Grat Sewage Treatment Plant upgrade, under the Provincial Capital Assistance Program. Motion carried.

(b) Department of Justice re: 2006/07 RCMP Budget Request

For information purposes.

(c) St. Peter's & District Volunteer Fire Department re: Area Rate

Moved by Councillor MacPhee that an area rate of .11¢ per \$100 of assessment be established for the St. Peter's & District Volunteer Fire Department. Councillor MacPhee withdrew his motion.

Warden Cotton indicated that these requests are normally referred to the Committee on budget deliberations to be approved at the annual session of Council.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the request from the St. Peter's & District Volunteer Fire Department for an area rate of .11¢ per \$100 of assessment be referred to the Committee on budget deliberations. Motion carried.

(d) Canada Post re: Community Outreach Program

The CAO indicated this matter will require continued scrutiny.

(e) Canadian Union of Postal Workers re: Plant and Post Office Closures

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Deputy Warden Martell that a letter be written to Minister Lawrence Cannon, the new Minister responsible for Transport, Infrastructure and Communities indicating Municipal Council's support to the Canadian Union of Postal Workers' campaign requesting a stop to the plans to close postal facilities and outlining the necessity of transparent and democratic procedures, including the release of all strategic planning documents relating to the Corporation's national network review and its overall plans for Canada Post. Motion carried.

Councillor J. Boudreau requested that the attached letter not be used, but rather generate our own correspondence, because he did not feel it was professionally written.

(f) Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia re: Marketing Levies

McNamara indicated she felt that TIANS should be contacted and indicate to them the direction taken by our Council.

(g) Richmond Academy re: Scholarships

The CAO indicated that Municipal Council have in the past given two \$750 scholarships to Richmond Academy and one \$750 scholarship to Ecole Beauport.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Deputy Warden Martell that the request for scholarships from Richmond Academy, and also the scholarship for Ecole Beauport be referred to the Committee on budget deliberations. Motion carried.

(h) South Mountain Arm of Gold Community Club re: Request for Tax Exemption

The CAO indicated this organization will be included in the by-law presently being drafted by our solicitor.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor J. Boudreau that the request for a tax exemption from the South Mountain Arm of Gold Community Club be referred to the Committee on budget deliberations. Motion carried.

(i) West Richmond Education Centre re: Youth Funding

The CAO indicated the correspondence expressed thanks to Municipal Council acknowledging the work and support of the Youth Advisory Group to the student activities through the school.

Councillor C. Boudreau indicated that a similar project is taking place at his school through the Antigonish County Recreation Department.

Items Added to the Agenda

There were no items added to the agenda.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

There were no questions.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Deputy Warden Martell that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

There being no further business, Warden Cotton adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.