

**RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**  
**SECOND ANNUAL SESSION OF THE 46<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL**

**JUNE 19, 2006**

**Location:** Council Chambers, Municipal Office

Warden Cotton called the meeting to order and asked everyone to stand for the singing of O'Canada.

The Clerk took roll call of Councillors.

**Opening Remarks of the Warden**

Warden Cotton thanked everyone present, as well as the Telile audience for showing interest in Richmond Municipal Council.

Warden Cotton thanked Deputy Warden Martell for his assistance.

Warden Cotton thanked Council for their support and patience with him during his term as UNSM President.

Warden Cotton noted that the residential tax rate in the County will remain the same at 68¢ per \$100 of assessment, while the commercial tax rate will increase to \$1.48 from \$1.36 due to the phase out of Business Occupancy Tax.

Warden Cotton highlighted that one of Council's major endeavours this year was the development of a policy/fund for District Infrastructure (\$17,000), as well and the Councillors District Activity Fund (\$3,000) for smaller community projects.

Warden Cotton gave credit to Mr. Digout and Mr. MacDonald for the work they did in working out the Stora tax deal, noting that now all that remains is to keep Stora open.

Warden Cotton thanked office staff; Mrs. Doyle, Mrs. Randall and Mrs. LeBlanc, for all of their assistance over the past year.

Warden Cotton noted that with the new Waste Management Strategy and the additions to staff on an interim basis, Mr. Perry was able to explain to residents about composting noting that was not as difficult as anticipated, noting that waste diversion has decreased resulting in decreased tipping fees and in the end a decrease in costs to the tax payers.

Warden Cotton once again thanked Councillor's for a wonderful year and indicated that he looks forward to working with them over the next year.

#### Items Added to the Agenda

Warden Cotton indicated that Councillor Rankin wished to add a grant request from the Councillors District Activity Fund and Councillor C. Boudreau wished to add three requests from the Councillors District Activity Fund.

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

Review of Minutes: (a) May 8, 2006 (Regular Meeting)  
(b) May 24, 2006 (Special Meeting)

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor Rankin that the minutes of May 8, 2006 (Regular Meeting) and May 24, 2006 (Special Meeting) be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

#### Presentations and/or Delegations:

- (a) Richmond Arena Association/C.J. MacLellan & Associates re: Arena Study Presentation

Council welcomed Mr. Harry Daemen from C.J. MacLellan & Associates to the meeting.

Mr. Daemen indicated that study tasks included consulting with stakeholders, reviewing current board structure and alternative arena management models, analyse populations trends and extrapolate future trends and complete an impact analysis and analyse strengths and weaknesses of the facility in light of future goals, identify partnerships existing with private and public sectors, provide review of the current operations revenue and expenses, incorporate future capital programs from the Aging Building Audit and project a sustainable five year business plan.

Mr. Daemen reviewed the current organizations structure as well as the aging building audit that was completed in March 2006.

Mr. Daemen indicated that there is some rejuvenation required with the governance of the organization.

Mr. Daemen indicated that the twenty five year estimated costs total \$882,325, with \$322,535 required in just the next ten years.

Mr. Daemen reviewed data from 62 completed community surveys, noting that privatization was not overwhelmingly endorsed and that "summer concepts" will make the facility into more of a community centre

Mr. Daemen reviewed the demographics, noting that it is important to target the over 55 population, which seems to be rising.

Mr. Daemen noted that the school population change has contributed to the dramatic decrease in use, noting that population trends show decreasing family size.

Mr. Daemen indicated that impact of population change, other activities must be looked into such as fitness centred, social activities, curling bonspiels, summer dances/dinners/concerts.

Mr. Daemen reviewed the trend of Income and Expenses, noting that bingo revenue has decreased significantly and the costs of ice rentals seem quite low as compared to surrounding areas.

Mr. Daemen noted that the key to volunteerism is to not have activities that require a lot of volunteer effort, especially in the summer months.

Mr. Daemen suggested that alliances with other arenas may prove to be cost effective when scheduling events and sharing costs.

Mr. Daemen reviewed possible additional revenue impacts as well as factors for expense control.

Mr. Daemen reviewed his predicted five year financial plan, noting that figures are based on the 1/3 provincial assistance grants and he provides a range of predicted deficits.

Mr. Daemen noted that the Richmond Arena physical plant is in better shape than most arenas in the province, but will require continued attention and financial support.

Mr. Daemen summarized his requirements to the Municipality (minimum/maximum deficits) that are \$10,000 to \$14,000 in 2006, \$12,000 to \$18,000 in 2007, etc.; and he noted that these included the capital work that is in the plan that he presented to the Arena Board.

Mr. Daemen reviewed management alternatives, noting that not-for-profit association operation is diminishing in Nova Scotia., with an increase in municipal ownership.

Mr. Daemen indicating that they are recommending Municipal ownership with management agreement, indicating that this will maintain the historic advantage if independence and responsiveness to users, a volunteer board will manage an approved annual budget but also fund-raise for special requirements, noting that the municipality still controls financial structure and reporting and financial support is on a budgeted basis.

Mr. Daemen indicated that controlled and planned volunteerism is also required to avoid “burn-out”, with fixed and staggered terms to serve on the board.

Mr. Daemen noted that 31% of the individuals that filled out the survey indicated that they would be willing to volunteer and agreed that their name be provided.

Mr. Daemen also suggested the use of a sub-committee structure of the board so that people can volunteer for a specific task/program.

Mr. Daemen indicated that more feedback should be communicated to community stakeholders.

Mr. Daemen that programs coordinated through associations should also be looked into and may prove beneficial in planning and be cost effective.

In conclusion Mr. Daemen indicated that the decrease in numbers much be approached with the provision of new services.

In response to a question from Councillor Rankin, Mr. Daemen indicated that the costs of a new facility, similar to what is exiting, would be in the range of \$5million.

Councillor Sampson thanked Mr. Daemen for his presentation on behalf of Council and his representation on the Arena Board, noting that he was very disappointed with the survey participation, noting that in particular the surveys that were distributed at the Richmond Academy with very low responses received.

Councillor Sampson indicated that Mr. Daemen has outlined a number of areas that need reviving and that he hopes that Council takes this seriously and that perhaps a meeting with the executive of the Arena would be a logical next step.

The CAO thanked Mr. Daemen for his excellent summary noting that the five year plan showed operating deficits and assumes capital work as well, not unlike what has been seen in the past (assistance of approximately \$15,000 to \$20,000 per year, including capital).

Councillor J. Boudreau indicated that he supports the works of the Board/Arena and he believes that as a Council they are very much in favour of moving forward.

Deputy Warden Martell indicated that the job description of the “managers” will be dramatically changed with the changes in local communities and their needs.

Mr. Daemen indicated that his suggestions demands more of a manager, noting that it is no longer a task of being simply an “Arena Manager” but more of a “Community Centre Manager”, noting that other skills must be brought into the manager’s skill set.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by deputy Warden Martell that Council accept the report and recommendations provided by C.J. MacLellan & Associates and that staff and Council be instructed to meet with representatives of the Arena Board over the summer months to discuss the report. Motion carried.

(b) Janega Engineering re: Roadways for Cape George Estates

Council welcomed Mr. Joe Janega to the meeting.

Mr. Janega indicated that he has been dealing with a lot of municipal units trying to get some directions on the proper ways to go about long term development and establishment of standards in a given municipality

Mr. Janega indicated that he will be speaking about a particular subdivision however this pertains to five others that he is working on in Richmond County.

Mr. Janega indicated that the Municipality's By-Law seems to refer to serviced subdivision however most are un-serviced.

Mr. Janega indicated that in Cape George Estates the road that was initially constructed was not to standard, noting that construction was in progress and if the road was to standard it would get significantly damaged during this time and would have to be rebuilt after construction.

Mr. Janega indicated that he is now looking to Council for direction on how the road at Cape George Estates can be changed from "private" to "public" standards, noting that homeowners are facing issues with ambulance and fire service and home insurance, and some of these homes are quite significant in value.

In response to a question from Councillor Sampson, Mr. Janega indicated that in Inverness once there are five homes constructed and the road is to Department of Transportation Standards, the Municipality takes over the maintenance of the road, citing an example of Mountain View Subdivision in Troy.

In response to a question from the CAO Mr. Janega indicated that on the initial subdivision application the road was specified by the subdivision owner as a private road as being "Private".

Deputy Warden Martell indicated that Council should take a long hard look at changing this in order to further development and further the tax base of Richmond County.

In response to a question from Councillor McNamara, Mr. Janega indicated that a lot of the residents in this subdivision are summer residents that are semi-retires and plan to make this their home after they retire.

Councillor McNamara indicated that the costs of maintaining these roads to the Municipality would be significant and out weigh any benefit from tax revenue; and she asked for information regarding the response of the subdivider to purchasers, regarding the “private road”.

Mr. Janega indicated that if the Municipality wants the development then they will have to look at the provision of services in these subdivisions.

In response to a comment from Mr. Janega, Warden Cotton indicated that there are more costs than just the \$3,000 per kilometre for road maintenance, noting that the Municipality would have to contract out services.

In response to a question from Councillor MacPhee, Mr. Janega indicated that the tax base that these homes brings to Richmond should justify the costs of the road maintenance.

Warden Cotton indicated that the tax rates in Richmond are very low and with the recent issues of contaminated water perhaps the Municipality should consider raising the tax rates in order to offer more services.

Mr. Janega indicated that he is looking for direction so that he can adequately inform developers.

Councillor Rankin noted that the Municipality has not ignored private roads and provides them with services such as garbage collection and RCMP.

In response to a question from Councillor Rankin, Mr. Janega indicated that he believes that other municipalities budget for this type of maintenance.

Councillor Sampson indicated that many of the homes in these new subdivision are of great value, noting that Council must look at what is happening in the County in terms of future development, noting that this development would add much to the local economy, suggesting that the Municipality examine their exiting policy and also see what is happening in other counties.

The CAO indicated that the Municipality is being taken to UARB Assessment Appeals Court by a property owner in Cape George Estates because of problems they are having with their water supply in this subdivision.

The CAO noted that in addition to requiring some type of public water system, that the cost of taking over the private roads would be substantial, and he agreed with Councillor McNamara that the tax revenues being derived from the subdivision should be compared to the potential cost of provision of public services such as takeover of roads, and drinking water problems, etc.

The CAO again noted that the subdivision owner had indicated that he wanted approval for a private road, when he constructed his subdivision, and he again requested that Mr. Janega provide information regarding the information provided by the subdivision owner to purchasers, regarding the road (which the subdivider had requested be classified as a private road).

Mr. Janega indicated that he could not speak for the developer, and did not have knowledge of the information that was given by the subdivision owner to purchasers of lots, regarding the status of the private road that had been approved.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Beaton that Council accept Mr. Janega's report for consideration. Motion carried.

(c) Richmond County Literacy Network re: Program Update

Council welcomed Mrs. Millie Hatt to the meeting.

Mrs. Hatt indicated that she wished to extend her sincere appreciation for Council's generous support over the past 8 years.

Mrs. Hatt indicated that since the establishment of our Literacy Network in 1998, every resident and community of Richmond County has had the opportunity to benefit from their many endeavours, be it from our adult learning or employment programs, the written history of our beautiful county or the community resource directory, noting that the RCLN has opened lines of communication between various agencies to increase awareness and participation in literacy programs. Mrs. Hatt continued, indicating that many other community-based organizations have faltered in this time of limited resources and funding, our organization has overcome the challenges, noting that over the past eight years, the RCLN has grown, prospered and become a community leader in Richmond County.

Mrs. Hatt indicated that two of their most notable achievements are "Peer into the Past", their history book, noting that local schools have since adopted the text into their regular curriculum as well as the workbook created with it, and the recent Community Directory, noting that it has been made part of a package given to potential land developers in Richmond.

Mrs. Hatt indicated that a recent provincial showcase the Richmond County Literacy Network was the only community based organization invited to showcase.

Mrs. Hatt indicated that the greatest motivation of the Literacy Network in the learners, noting that she has a few of the learners present tonight to share their successes.

Mrs. Susan McGraw indicated that she is a former adult learner, noting that she quit school in grade 9 and after being out of school for 20 years she went back to school at the

Literacy Network for personal reasons, noting that in 2000 she received her high school diploma.

Mrs. McGraw indicated that she has since gone to Community College with the assistance of bursaries from the Literacy Network and graduated with honours and is now employed full time with Richmond County Home Support.

Mrs. McGraw indicated that she now sits on the board of the Literacy Network and she would like to thank all of the board members for their past and continued support.

Mrs. Brenda David indicated that she is a former learner, noting that she left high school in grade 10 and shortly after began a family, indicating that she went back to school and received her grade 12 diploma to set an example for her family and this past May has graduated from St. FX University.

Mrs. David thanked the Literacy Network for their moral and financial support.

Mrs. Hatt indicated that she wished to provide an update on Mrs. Janet Peter's, who appeared before Council a couple of years ago, noting that this lady would put her two children on the school bus and would hitch hike to school in St. Peter's from Grand River each day.

Mrs. Hatt indicated that Mrs. Peter's has since successfully completes a two year Culinary Arts Program at the NSCC and is now employed at the Dundee Resort.

Mrs. Hatt indicated that she would like to show her appreciation for Council's support and hopes that Council continues to support the efforts of the Literacy Network.

Councillor McNamara indicated that every person around the table values the work of the Literacy Network and will continue to provide support for the work that they do.

Councillor C. Boudreau indicated that he is very fascinated with the work of the Literacy Network, noting that the testimonials go a long way and that in addition to the efforts of the funding partners and the board, it is Mrs. Hatt's motivation and work that assists the overall benefit and accomplishments of the organization.

Deputy Warden Martell thanked Mrs. Hatt for the work that she does, vouching personally for the work/assistance that she provides.

Councillor Rankin thanked Mrs. Hatt for the wonderful programs that are offered, noting that five of the individuals that were taking the upgrading course in St. Peter's have jobs.

Mrs. Hatt indicated that with Councillor C. Boudreau tanking over the role of Principle in St. Peters she hopes to continue with a favourable working relationship with the schools.

Councillor Beaton thanked Mrs. Hatt and the learners for their presentations.



(d) Isle Madame Lobster Project re: Grant Request

Mrs. Theriault indicated that she is a Lobster Biologist and the Coordinator of the Lobster Project for the Universite Sainte Anne.

Mrs. Theriault indicated that the goal of the project is to help preserve and protect the local lobster populations through research, education, innovation and conservation, noting that the project will utilize the University's facilities, research capacity and the traditional knowledge of the local fishermen.

Mrs. Theriault indicated that the first phase is to set up a lobster hatchery that will yield 10,000-20,000 stage IV larvae, noting that this process will be modeled after a facility in Maine.

Mrs. Theriault reviewed the lifecycle of a lobster.

Mrs. Theriault indicated that most hatcheries release stage IV larvae, where in this project they will be releasing a juvenile lobster, which is more likely to survive, and possible to tag, however they are expensive to grow.

Mrs. Theriault indicated that there has been an increase in the interest in lobster hatcheries over the last five years and a corresponding increase in research.

Mrs. Theriault indicated that the second phase of the project involves setting up an ocean nursery.

Mrs. Theriault indicated that they will be utilizing the method of a Dr. Beals from the University of Maine, noting that this is a low cost low technology method where a cage system is used to house the lobster in the ocean for a period of ten months, noting that the lobsters will grow large enough in these nurseries to be tagged and will have a higher rate of survival.

Mrs. Theriault indicated that Dr. Beals agreed to participate in an advisory capacity, noting that his work is the first to show that juvenile lobsters can survive.

Mrs. Theriault indicated that the importance of the lobster project is that it develops local tools and technology for the future, addresses the lack of data on local lobster populations, including reproductive, movement, growth and environmental information.

Mrs. Theriault indicated that the project will help develop tools that will help manage/develop the industry.

Mrs. Theriault indicated that there would also be definite tourism benefits.

In response to a question from Councillor McNamara, Mrs. Theriault indicated that there would be approximately 10-15 cages containing 1,00 larvae lobster, noting that they would start the project as a pilot and then carry forward.

Councillor J. Boudreau indicated that he is very excited about this project, noting that it has the support of the community.

Councillor J. Boudreau indicated that the industry is doing well right now, noting that it is a good time to get started because all too quickly times can become lean again.

Councillor J. Boudreau indicated that this is an opportunity to have a centre for scientific excellence in Richmond County.

In response to a question from Councillor Rankin, Mrs. Theriault indicated that in the process on carrying out this project they will also be examining the issue of water conditions.

Councillor Rankin indicated that this sounds like a very good project that is made for Richmond County.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Deputy Warden Martell that Council accept Mrs. Theriault's presentation. Motion carried.

Notice of Motion – Councillor Beaton: to amend the Awards of Recognition Policy, to recognize 35 years of service, attached as Appendix “A”

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor C. Boudreau that the Awards of Recognition Policy be amended to recognize 35 years of service, attached as Appendix “A”. Motion carried.

Reports:

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

Deputy Warden Martell declared a conflict of interest and removed himself from discussions.

Warden Cotton indicated that Councillor J. Boudreau will present the Committee of the Whole Report.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the following grant requests be awarded to community groups:

- \$10,000 to Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre (Year 4 of 10 year commitment)
- 25,000 to Richmond County Literacy Network (Year 3 of 3 year commitment)

- 5,000 to Leaside Transition House
  - 750 to MacAskill House Museum
  - 2,000 to River Bourgeois Seniors 50+ Club
  - 750 to St. Peter's Community Club
  - 4,000 to Wallace MacAskill Yacht Club
  - 750 to Oceanview Wildlife Association
  - 1,500 to Fourchu Development Association
  - 25,000 to St. Martha's Hospital Foundation
  - 2,025 to Lakeside 4-H Club
  - 5,500 to Richmond Community Access Society
  - 7,725 to Development Isle Madame Association
- \$90,000

Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Rankin that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the grant request from the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #47 be denied based on legal advice provided by the Solicitor that the Municipality is not able to fund legions. Motion carried.

Councillor MacPhee indicated that there was hesitation from Council to second this motion because Council recognizes and supports Legions and will be looking into and searching for ways around the Municipal Government Act and search for other avenues of support for Legions.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Deputy Warden Martell that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that a grant in the amount of \$3,500 be given to Centre Prescolaire, to be taken from the Municipal District Fund - \$17,000 for District #2. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Deputy Warden Martell that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that funding be approved to a maximum of \$1,000 from the District \$3,000 Fund to the Janvrin's Island Community Centre, to be used to offset the cost of Canada Day celebrations to be held in District #4. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the following District Grant applications from the Municipal District Fund - \$17,000 for District #7 be approved:

- |  |   |          |
|--|---|----------|
| • River Bourgeois Community Services Society | - | \$11,000 |
| • St. John the Baptist Church                | - | 5,000    |
| • South Mountain Arm of Gold                 | - | 1,000    |

Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Deputy Warden Martell that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the following District Grant applications from the Municipal District Fund - \$17,000 for District #4 be approved:

- West Arichat Village Circle Society - \$2,000
- Janvrin's Island Sport and Recreation - 2,000

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor Rankin that the grant request from Janvrin's Island Sport and Recreation be removed, noting that they have withdrawn their application. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Deputy Warden Martell that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the following District Grant application from the Municipal District Fund - \$17,000 for District #4 be approved:

- West Arichat Village Circle Society - \$2,000

Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor McNamara that that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that \$1,000 be given to the South Mountain Arm of Gold Association from the District #5 Municipal District Fund \$17,000; and further moved that \$1,000 be given to the South Mountain Arm of Gold Association from the District #8 Municipal District Fund - \$17,000. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that grants be given to the following organizations, to be taken from the Municipal District Fund - \$17,000 for District #10 as follows:

Framboise Community Centre Association	-	\$4,800
Grand River Volunteer Fire Department	-	\$4,000
Loch Lommond Heritage Association	-	\$2,200
Sacred Heart Ladies Group	-	\$2,350

Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that funding in the amount of \$1,000 be given to the Point Tupper Heritage Association from the Councillors' District Activity Fund - \$3,000 for District #5. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Beaton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Municipality continue to

provide scholarships to Richmond Academy and Ecole Beauport, as in past practice. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the following area rates be established for the current fiscal year:

L'Ardoise & District Volunteer Fire Department	-	.16¢
West Bay Road & District Volunteer Fire Department	-	.10¢
St. Peter's & District Volunteer Fire Department	-	.11¢
Isle Madame Volunteer Fire Department	-	.11¢
Louisdale & District Volunteer Fire Department	-	.10¢
Grand River Volunteer Fire Department	-	.15¢
Loch Lomond Volunteer Fire Department	-	.12¢
Framboise-Forchu Volunteer Fire Department	-	.15¢
Red Islands (District #10) Volunteer Fire Department	-	.15¢

AND FURTHER MOVED that the conveyance to fire departments of funds that are collected through these area rates be conditional on the fire departments fulfilling the requirements of their registration (i.e. community meeting/budget/financial statements, etc.). Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Deputy Warden Martell that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that an area rate of .04¢ per \$100 of assessment be established in District #2 for the Petit De Grat Beautification Society; and further moved that an area rate of .05¢ per \$100 of assessment be levied in District #4, for the purposes of community support and enhancement outlined by the West Arichat & District Village Circle Society. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that an area rate of .10¢ per \$100 of assessment be implemented to the community of Louisdale to provide for capital and maintenance costs of sidewalks. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Rankin 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.

AND FURTHER MOVED that the Village Commission be advised that the Municipality requires notification of their rate prior to August 1, 2006, in order to provide sufficient time to be included in the tax bills prepared in August. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Rankin that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that Municipal Council proceed with Option #1 as outlined in the Solicitor's correspondence and make application to the

Court through Quieting of Titles, to solve the title issue on the former Framboise School property. Motion carried.

Councillor J. Boudreau gave notice that he will introduce a motion at the next regular Council Meeting to adopt the “Violence in the Workplace” policy.

Councillor J. Boudreau gave notice that he will introduce a motion at the next regular Council Meeting to amend the District \$3,000 policy.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Rankin that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the street going from Pepperell Street to the Lion’s Hall be named “Lion’s Avenue” and that the street that was named “Lion’s Avenue” going from Route #4 to the Lion’s Hall be removed. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor j. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that those staff that have capacity for lateral movement on their salary scale be provided with a 2.5% merit increase for the current year; and further moved that the travel allowance paid to Stewart MacDonald be increased from \$275 per month to \$415 per month. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Deputy Warden Martell that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that senior staff be authorized to engage external expertise to evaluate the performance appraisal system, and provide recommendations and options for its continuance.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Rankin that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that staff investigate if an appraisal has been done on this parcel of land and if there was no appraisal done, then arrange to have one completed. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Beaton 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, 2007 in the amount of \$10,528,250 (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 \$4,732,909 are required for the lawful purpose of the said Municipality for the year ending March 31, 2007, 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 .68¢ on each \$100 of the assessed value of

residential property assessed on the assessment roll and a commercial rate of \$1.48 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, 2006;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Richmond Council hereby fixes the 30<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2006 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 J. Boudreau, seconded by Deputy Warden A. Martell that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that staff and the Solicitor be authorized to develop several options to provide for the recovery of 50% of the net municipal cost of major municipal water and sewer projects; and further moved that major projects be defined as those projects that are contained in the municipal list of capital projects and priorities, that is determined annually. Motion carried.

Councillor J. Boudreau gave notice that he will introduce a motion at the next regular Council Meeting to give First Reading approval to adopt the Tax Exemption By-Law, as a By-Law of the Municipality.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and authorize a letter from Municipal Council to the appropriate licensing authorities, indicating that the Riverdale Community Services Society is an organization in good standing in our community. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that a letter be written to the Department of Transportation and Public Works indicating that the Municipality is interested in acquiring the road reserve that is surplus to the needs of the Department of Transportation and Public Works and requesting an extension beyond the June 26, 2006 deadline; and further moved that the Vested Property Clerk be requested to research the property to determine who the adjoining property owners are. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that a directive be given to existing municipal and related resources, such as the District Planning Commission staff (unsightly premises); Municipal Public Works staff (offences under the current Solid Waste By-Law) and the Police with respect to illegal dumping;

AND FURTHER MOVED that these staff be advised to respond quickly to issues of illegal dumping, which can carry fines of maximum \$5,000;

AND FURTHER MOVED that municipal staff prepare a plan to respond to the issues of illegal dumping, illegal dumps, etc.; to include coordination of existing resources and training of a person to provide the By-Law enforcement aspects of a new Solid Waste By-Law, when approved by Council and the Province. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Beaton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that Mr. Glenn Bennett (community representative) and Mr. Robert Wambolt (business representative) be approached to determine if they are interested in remaining on the Strait-Highlands Regional Development Agency Board, and if so, that they be re-appointed for a three year term, together with Councillor John Boudreau; and further moved that Municipal Council suggest to the R.D.A. that the terms of the Richmond County members be staggered, in order to avoid all three members' terms expiring at the same time. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Deputy Warden Martell that the Committee of the Whole Report for the month of June 2006 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

(b) Clerk re: Annual Report

The CAO indicated the he is please to report another successful year for the Municipality.

The CAO reviewed some of the initiatives of the Municipality over the past year.

The CAO indicated that the most important project was the negotiation of a property tax agreement for the Stora Enso plant in Point Tupper, noting that this role was appropriate in assisting with the Stora recovery plan, indicating that this leadership was vital because the current and future health of the community is closely linked to a strong local economy.

The CAO indicated that excess of revenue over expenditures for the year ending March 31, 2006 was \$48,254.

The CAO congratulated Warden Cotton on his accomplishment in being elected President of the UNSM, noting that the role is very demanding, but also provides the County with prestige and sometimes helps "open doors" for municipal initiatives.

The CAO indicated that he once again proposes that Council advocacy on behalf of the community is a major responsibility and he feels that more can be done with regards to the completion of Hwy 104 to Sydney, which has been designated by the Federal government as a portion of the "National Highway Infrastructure System". The CAO noted that this project would provide much needed employment in the local area and would provide a vital piece on infrastructure that is necessary for the growth of Richmond County and the entire Cape Breton community.



The CAO thanked Warden Cotton for his support and assistance and all of Municipal Council for the working relationship that has been developed with staff.

(c) Other

There were no other reports.

Annual Appointments

The CAO reviewed the current Committee appointments and indicated that if there are no objections that the current members be re-appointed with a single motion, as was done last year.

Councillor Beaton indicated that he will no longer be serving on the Planning Advisory Committee.

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that the Annual Appointments, with the exception of the Planning Advisory Committee, be re-appointed as follows:

Signing Officers – Warden Cotton, CAO, Deputy-Clerk Treasurer (Alternate)  
Eastern Counties Regional Library – Councillor Rankin  
Heritage Advisory Committee – Councillor MacPhee, Councillor Rankin,  
Councillor C. Boudreau  
Eastern District Planning Commission – Councillor Beaton, Councillor  
McNamara  
Strait Regional Airport Committee – Councillor Rankin  
Richmond/Port Hawkesbury Joint Development Commission – Warden Cotton,  
Councillor J. Boudreau, Councillor Rankin

Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Councillor McNamara, Councillor MacPhee, Councillor C. Boudreau and Deputy Warden Martell be re-appointed to the Planning Advisory Committee and that Warden Cotton be authorized to appoint the fifth member of Council to sit of the Committee. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

(a) Office of the Prime Minister re: Letter of Support

For information.

(b) Richmond County Licensed Fixed Roof Accommodation Operators Re: Bill No. 267, Cape Breton Island Marketing Levy Act

The CAO reviewed the correspondence indicating that they are requesting that Richmond Council ask the Province not to proclaim Bill No. 267 in its present state and request that if a Private Members Bill be presented to rescind Bill No. 267 is presented to the House that the Government of the day put their full support behind the Private Members Bill or request that if amendments to Bill No.267 which satisfy concerns of the majority of Richmond County Licensed Fixed Roof Accommodation Operators, an exception of 25 rooms or less is introduced, that the Government support such amendments.

Warden Cotton indicated that he has already approached the Province and they will not be proclaiming Bill No. 267.

Warden Cotton noted that there is a meeting scheduled between the CAO's and the Cape Breton Tourism Association.

(c) Department of Natural Resources re: Conveyance of Crown Land at St. Peter's

For information.

(d) Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation re: Cape Breton Marketing Levy

The CAO indicated that they approached ECBC to confirm their commitment of matching dollars, for which they have indicated that any decision by Council should not be dependent on their participation.

Warden Cotton indicated that their response is certainly not a confirmation of their commitment.

(e) Strait-Highlands R.D.A. re: Richmond County Representatives, RDA Board (2)

Previously addressed.

(f) Department of Environment and Labour re: New Guideline – Trihalomethanes in Drinking Water

The CAO reviewed correspondence indicating that the DOE are re-confirming the guidelines for THM's and are introducing a new guideline for BCDM's, noting that test results will now be made available to the public.

(g) Waste Management Committee re: Bill 221

The CAO reviewed correspondence indicating that Council may wish to support Bill 221, because Richmond has been adversely affected by the export of solid waste, both financially (reduction of diversion credits), and with reduction of the resources for our landfill.

Warden Cotton indicated that Bill 221 died on paper and will have to be re-introduced.

Warden Cotton indicated that the Regional Waste Management Committee will be addressing this, noting that he will get direction from them and advise Council.

(h) Mr. Rodger Cuzner, MP re: Access to Clean Water, Cape George

The CAO noted that this correspondence raised the same municipal issues as the presentation by Mr. Janega regarding the takeover of the roads in Cape George Estates, in that it appears that some residents of Cape George Estates will be petitioning the municipal government to install a public water system.

#### Items Added to the Agenda

- (1) Councillor Rankin re: Councillors District Activity Fund - \$3,000
  - Village on the Canal Association

Warden Cotton indicated that Councillor Rankin, who had to leave the meeting, had wanted him to bring this request forward however he did not specify an amount.

The CAO indicated that Councillor Rankin had faxed in his affidavit earlier today, after the items added had been sent.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Municipal Council approve of the request from the Village on the Canal Association, for funding from the Councillors' District Activity Fund - \$3,000 for District #8, conditional on an amount being included in the Affidavit provided by Councillor Rankin, and approved for that amount. Motion carried.

In response to a question from Councillor J. Boudreau, the CAO indicated that Councillor Rankin provided this item to be added to the agenda on time but only provided a completed affidavit today.

- (2) Councillor C. Boudreau re: Councillors District Activity Fund - \$3,000
  - Isle Madame Historical Society
  - Arichat Community Development Association
  - Arichat Oceanview Festival Committee

Moved by Councillor C. Boudreau, seconded by Deputy Warden Martell that the following grant requests be approved from the Councillors District Activity Fund for District #1:

- Isle Madame Historical Society - \$450 (additional \$400 to come from Canada Day Fund)
- Arichat Community development Association - \$470
- Arichat Oceanview Festival Committee - \$550

Motion carried.

Councillor C. Boudreau indicated that he has received another grant request from the Our Lady of Assumption Parish, noting that he was made aware that additional requests can be brought to the agenda for any meeting that will be scheduled over the summer months.

Warden Cotton conformed that if there are issues that arise that a special meeting can be scheduled.

In response to a question from Councillor J. Boudreau, Warden Cotton indicated that he will review the policy for the Councillors District Activity Fund to determine if the affidavit must be submitted at the time the grant request is brought to Council and will advise Council.

Councillor McNamara indicated that she would like to introduce two new residents to Richmond County that are in the audience tonight, Reverend Jim and Vickie Brogan, noting that Rev. Brogan is the new minister for the United Church in her district.

#### Fifteen Minute Question Period

There were no questions.

Councillor McNamara indicated that perhaps it would be appropriate to send letters of congratulations to Michel Sampson, Rodney MacDonald and Darryl Dexter on their success in the election.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Council send letters of congratulations to Mr. Michel Sampson, Mr. Rodney MacDonald and Mr. Darryl Dexter for their success in the recent election. Motion carried.

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

Warden Cotton adjourned the meeting at 9:42 p.m.