

RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

SEPTEMBER 11, 2006

Location: Council Chambers, Municipal Office

Warden Cotton called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for the singing of O'Canada.

The CAO took roll call of Councillors.

There was a moment of silence in remembrance of the tragedy of September 11.

Items Added to the Agenda:

Warden Cotton indicated that Councillor Boudreau wished to add the Candy Shop/Chocolate Factory.

Councillor McNamara requested unanimous consideration by Council to be permitted to add two messages, one being a Thank you to Council and the other being an award that has been given to a Richmond County group.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor C. Boudreau that the items added be accepted unanimously. Motion carried.

Review of Minutes: (a) June 19, 2006 (Annual Session)
(b) August 14, 2006 (Special Meeting)

Moved by Councillor Johnson seconded by Deputy Warden Martell that the minutes of June 19, 2006 (Annual Session) and August 14, 2006 (Special Meeting) be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Presentations and/or Delegations:

(a) Cape Breton Centre for Craft and Design re: Overview of Activities

Warden Cotton welcomed Mrs. Carol Beaton, Executive Director of the Cape Breton Centre for Craft and Design.

Mrs. Beaton indicated that also present with her tonight were Dr. Theresa MacNeil, past Chair of the Board, and E. Del Zoppo an artist.

Mrs. Beaton handed the floor over to Ms. Michelle MacKinnon to proceed with the power point presentation.

Ms. MacKinnon presented the power point presentation to Council, which was previously circulated with the agenda.

Councillor MacPhee congratulated the Centre and the artists on Cape Breton Island, noting that he is elated to see what is being done and wishes the organization the best of luck, indicating his support for the project.

Councillor Rankin thanked the group for their wonderful presentation, re-iterating that their current location is quite inadequate.

Dr. Theresa MacNeil indicated that she is from Johnstown, Richmond County and stressed that the Cape Breton Centre for Craft and Design is not a government agency and is an extension of the Nova Scotia Centre for Craft and Design and is run 90% by volunteers.

Councillor McNamara congratulated the Centre for their great work and the artisans on their great products.

In response to a question from Councillor Sampson, Mrs. Beaton indicated that they have approached the province for \$700,000 in funding and they are approaching all municipal units in Cape Breton and they are seeking a municipal contribution of \$5,000 each.

In response to a question from Councillor J. Boudreau, Mrs. Beaton indicated that they are on the third generation of their website, noting that to have the artisans products available to purchase on-line would just be too overwhelming for them, noting that they have supported individual craftspeople in setting up their own websites which some utilize e-commerce, further noting that there are links on their website to the artisans.

In response to a question from Councillor Rankin, Mrs. Beaton indicated that if anyone is interested in pursuing their craft they should first visit the centre and will undergo a product assessment, noting that they may also take advantage of some of the professional workshops they host (product design, packaging etc...) and participate in the exhibit gallery or artisan trail map.

Councillor C. Boudreau commended the centre for being able to carry out the work they do in the limited space that they currently have.

In response to a question from Councillor Boudreau, Mrs. Beaton indicated that they are a not-for-profit organization.

Councillor C. Boudreau commented that perhaps the requested money could be accessed through the grant fund.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the presentation from the Cape Breton Centre for Craft and Design and that their grant request for \$5,000 be referred to the 2007 grant deliberations and that letters be written to other prospective funding partners expressing the Municipality's support for this project. Motion carried.

Notices of Motions:

(a) Councillor J. Boudreau: to adopt the Violence in the Workplace Policy (attached as Appendix "A")

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Rankin that the Occupational Health and Safety Standard Operating Procedure (Numbered 020), developed by the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee and hereto attached as Appendix "A", be adopted as a policy of the Municipality of the County of Richmond. Motion carried.

(b) Councillor J. Boudreau: to amend the District \$3,000 Policy (attached as Appendix "B")

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Deputy Warden Martell that the Councillors District \$3,000 Activity Policy be amended as presented in Appendix "B", hereto attached. Motion carried.

First Reading Approval - Councillor J. Boudreau: to give First Reading Approval for the Tax Exemption By-Law, as a By-Law of the Municipality (attached as Appendix "C")

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Council give first reading approval to adopt the Tax Exemption By-Law, described in Appendix "C", hereto attached, as a By-Law of the Municipality of the County of Richmond. Motion carried.

The CAO indicated that if Councillors are aware of any facilities in their communities that are missing from the By-Law please bring them to his attention.

Committee Reports:

(a) Committee of the Whole Report for the Month of September 2006

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor Rankin that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and WHEREAS Section 66 of the Municipal Government Act provides that the Municipality of the County of Richmond, subject to the approval of the Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, may borrow to expend funds for a capital purpose authorized by statute;

AND WHEREAS clause 66(4) (b) of the Municipal Government Act authorizes the Municipality of the County of Richmond to borrow funds to pay and retire debentures;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT under the authority of Section 66 of the Municipal Government Act, the Municipality borrow the sum or sums not exceeding Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$400,000) in total for the purpose set out above, subject to the approval of the Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations;

THAT the sum be borrowed by the issue and sale of debentures of the Municipality to such an amount as the Council deems necessary;

THAT the issue of debentures be postponed pursuant to Section 92 of the Municipal Government Act and that the Municipality borrow from time to time a sum or sums not exceeding Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$400,000) in total from any chartered bank, trust company doing business in Nova Scotia, or the Nova Scotia Municipal Finance Corporation;

THAT the sum be borrowed for a period not exceeding Twelve (12) months from the date of the approval of the Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations of this resolution;

THAT the interest payable on the borrowing be paid at a rate to be agreed upon;
and

THAT the amount borrowed be repaid from the proceeds of the debentures when sold.

Councillor J. Boudreau expressed concern that the exact amount that is required to be borrowed be indicated in the resolution.

The CAO indicated that the resolution was drafted by Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations.

In response to comments, the Solicitor indicated that the resolution can be changed to reflect the exact amount of money required to be borrowed.

Moved by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor J. Boudreau that the resolution be amended to reflect that the amount borrowed will be exactly \$400,000, and that the amended resolution be adopted. 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 correspondence received from the Department of Transportation and Public Works be forwarded to the Eastern District Planning Commission, in order to ensure that the road name change from Cabot Street to Lion's Avenue is properly named for 911 purposes. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor Beaton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that Mr. Fred Hussey be appointed as the Richmond County representative to serve on the Strait of Canso Superport Corporation Board of Directors. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that Mrs. Tracy Randall and Mr. Jason MacMillan be provided with full time permanent employment. Motion carried

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Council accept the Committee of the Whole Report for the month of September 2006. Motion carried.

(b) Planning Advisory Committee Report for the Month of September 2006

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Council accept the recommendation of the Planning Advisory Committee and that staff of the Planning Commission be authorized to serve the Joint Park Commission with a Court Order to have the illegal dumpsite located just outside of the Port Hawkesbury Town limits cleaned up. Motion carried.

Councillor MacPhee indicated that he has paid frequent visits to the site noting that it is a disgrace to Richmond and Port Hawkesbury and it is due time that something is done about it.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Council accept the recommendation of the Planning Advisory Committee and that minutes be distributed several days before the scheduled meeting so that members have time to review and prepare questions/comments before the meeting. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Council accept the recommendation of the Planning Advisory Committee and that action be taken to have the property of Mr. Hilary Taylor of L'Ardoise cleaned up because it is a dangerous and unsightly premise. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Rankin that Council accept the recommendation of the Planning Advisory Committee and that Council write a letter to the Department of the Environment expressing concern regarding the subdivision run-off into the Bras D'Or Lakes at the Black River Beach noting that wetlands were in-filled in the construction of this subdivision. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Deputy Warden Martell that Council accept the recommendation of the Planning Advisory Committee and that if members of the Planning Advisory Committee are to be absent from a meeting, they must call Mrs.

Doyle and report that they will be absent and that the meeting minutes reflect those present, as well as those with an excused absence in a “Regrets” section. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Council accept the Planning Advisory Committee Report for the month on September 2006. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

(a) Cindy Britten re: Recognition to Caregivers

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Council support the efforts of recognizing/saluting caregivers by encouraging the public to string a set of coloured lights outside on October 1, and light them up at 8:00 p.m. local time. Motion carried.

(b) Strait Superport re: Richmond County Nomination to Strait of Canso Superport Corporation Board of Directors

For information.

(c) Hon. Judy Streach re: Council Representative on the Board of the Cape Breton Island Housing Authority (2)

The CAO indicated that Hon. Judy Streach is notifying the Municipality that the term of Mr. Rudolph Boudreau on the Board of the Cape Breton Island Housing Authority had expired on June 30, 2006 and also includes a copy of the letter sent to Mr. Boudreau.

The CAO indicated that Mr. Rudolph Boudreau has expressed interest in being re-appointed.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Beaton that Council advertise for the position of Board Member for Richmond for the Cape Breton Island Housing Authority. Motion defeated.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor C. Boudreau that Council re-appoint Mr. Rudolph Boudreau as the Richmond Board representative for the Cape Breton Island Housing Authority. Motion carried.

(d) Fisheries and Oceans re: Sunken Vessels at West Arichat Wharf

Deputy Warden Martell indicated that he spoke to Ms. Lisa Berthier, representing Fisheries and Oceans in Ottawa, regarding this situation and she requested that he fax all correspondence regarding the sunken vessel to her and she would see what she can do to assist, noting that he has since provided her with all of the information that he has and is waiting to see what she can do.

(e) Hon. Jamie Muir re: Municipal Water Supply and Distribution – St. Peter’s and Sampsonville (2)

For information.

(f) Mr. Michel Samson, MLA re: Alexander & Katja Seufert – Municipal Water Supply and Distribution System Sampsonville

Warden Cotton indicated that applications have already gone forward for Phase I and Phase II of the project and perhaps this area be considered at another time.

(g) Department of Transportation and Public Works re: Road Name Change Notification

In response to a comment from the CAO, Councillor Sampson indicated that this application for a road name change followed the proper process, however this was at least a year ago and that is why the application does not seem familiar.

Councillor J. Boudreau indicated that he recently went through the road name change process in his district and the process took six months, noting that he suggests that once the changes are made that the RCMP be contacted to test the 9-1-1 database to verify the change.

(h) Hon. Chris d’Entremont re: Sale of Former Richmond Villa

The CAO indicated that this information will be presented to the Board of Directors of the Villa tomorrow night.

(i) Deputy Minister Kelliann Dean re: Cape Breton Marketing Levy

For information.

(j) Eastern District Planning Commission re: On-Site Sewage Disposal System Permits

The CAO reviewed correspondence and indicated that Council can either wait to see what the DPC is going or to seek legal advice.

Councillor McNamara indicated, as a member of the Board of the DPC, she attended this meeting indicating that this problem is only happening in certain areas, Richmond being one of them.

Councillor Beaton, who is also a Board member of the DPC, indicated that the problem with the hold up of the issuing of the permits is the short building season, noting that the Department of the Environment seems to be dragging their feet.

Moved by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Beaton that Council write a letter to the Department of the Environment and request that they investigate the issues causing delays in the issuing of On-Site Sewage Disposal permits in Richmond and review their procedures. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Deputy Warden Martell that Council request that Mr. Bain attend a Council meeting to discuss possible amendments to the Municipal Building By-Law that may assist in the problem of current delays in obtaining On-Site Sewage Disposal system permits and that he also be requested to discuss with Council the issue of the clean-up of derelict properties. Motion carried.

(k) Riverdale Community Services Society re: Thank You

For information.

(l) Marie Louise Samson, Concerned Citizen re: Potential Development of Chocolate Factory for Richmond County

It was the consensus of Council that this issue be tabled to the “Items Added” discussions because there is additional correspondence regarding this issue.

(m) Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations re: Stora Legislation

The CAO indicated that legislation is required to implement the Stora tax agreement, and a portion of the process is that Council must pass a resolution to request that the Legislature adopt a Private Member’s Bill.

In response to a question from Councillor J. Boudreau, Warden Cotton indicated that he had scheduled a meeting with MLA Michel Samson for September 1st to request that he introduce the Bill, however the MLA was unable to attend, and he will attempt to reschedule the meeting.

The CAO indicated that the Municipal Solicitor would draft the Bill, and he noted that the legislation was required as soon as possible, in order to implement the tax agreement.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Richmond Municipal Council request the Nova Scotia Legislature to introduce a Private Members Bill to implement a ten year property tax agreement that the Municipality has negotiated with Stora; and further moved that the MLA be contacted to determine if he is willing to introduce the Bill at the next session of the Legislature. Motion carried.

Warden Cotton indicated that Council will approach the MLA, and if the MLA is unwilling to present the legislation, then the provincial government will be approached for assistance.

Items Added to the Agenda:

It was the consensus of the Committee that Councillor McNamara's Items Added be addressed first.

(1) Councillor McNamara re: Thank you

Councillor McNamara indicated that she attended a ceremony held in Sampsonville commemorating War Brides, noting that this was a very worth while event.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Rankin that Council write a letter of congratulations to the Lakeside Community Association who organized the event to honor the War Brides. Motion carried.

(2) Councillor McNamara re: Award

Councillor McNamara indicated that the Richmond County Literacy Network was recently honored by receiving a Canada Post Award for Activity in Literacy, one of five issued in Canada, and the only one east of Montreal.

The CAO noted that he had also observed the reference in the media to recognition given to Karen Malcolm.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Deputy Warden Martell that Council write a letters of congratulations to the Richmond County Literacy Network for their being awarded a Canada Post Award for Activity in Literacy and also to Mrs. Karen Malcolm for receiving the Canada Post "Community Activist Award". Motion carried

(3) Councillor C. Boudreau re: E-Mail (Candy Shop/Chocolate Factory)

Warden Cotton read the letter from Mary-Louise Sampson regarding the location of the Chocolate Factory to Port Hawkesbury, requesting Council to investigate all activities concerning the potential development of a Chocolate Factory in Richmond and the loss of that potential development to Port Hawkesbury.

Councillor C. Boudreau outlined how the situation of the potential development of the Chocolate Factory in Port Hawkesbury was revealed to him, along with the many questions and concerns that have been brought to his attention regarding this issue.

Councillor Johnson declared a conflict of interest, indicating that she is an employee of ECBC, and removed herself from discussions.

Deputy Warden Martell declared a conflict of interest, indicating that he is am employee of DIMA, and removed himself from discussions.

Councillor J. Boudreau indicated that he is the Chairperson of the RDA, however he will not declare a conflict of interest and remove himself from discussions.

Warden Cotton indicated that he had heard many rumors regarding the Chocolate Factory, however he advised that the owners of the Candy Shop had not approached Council for assistance, other than the re-tendering of the Petit De Grat School.

Warden Cotton indicated that neither staff nor Council have approached ECBC for funding for this project, and therefore ECBC has not offered any assistance to the Municipality.

Warden Cotton further advised that he was aware that DIMA has submitted an application to ECBC for funding for a building that would house the Candy Shop business, and he commended DIMA for their efforts, which appeared to be successful.

Warden Cotton indicated that in response to the item added by Councillor C. Boudreau, that he had requested the CAO to provide any information that he could quickly gather for Council, regarding the Candy Shop re-location to Port Hawkesbury.

The CAO reviewed the report prepared for the Warden (copy attached), indicating that the Municipality does not have development officers, but he approached the organizations that do provide community economic development services for the Municipality. The RDA indicated that they provided some business planning assistance, which appeared to be appropriate.

The CAO indicated that DIMA have advised that they had applied for funding for a building which would have housed the Candy Shop, and they believed that they would have been successful with this request, and this appears to be an excellent response from DIMA.

ECBC have advised that the owners subsequently decided to locate on the Port Hawkesbury waterfront, and an amendment was made to the application, to transfer the funds to that location.

The CAO indicated that the only staff involvement was a response to a request to re-tender the Petit De Grat School, which was carried out within a few days.

The CAO indicated that he felt the Candy Shop was an excellent business for Arichat, Isle Madame, and Richmond County, and he suggested that Council quickly form a group to immediately meet with the owners to determine if they wish to operate their business in Isle Madame.

The CAO also suggested that Municipal Council make representation to the Federal Government as soon as possible, regarding communication problems with ECBC, and he outlined several serious problems that Council has experienced in the past year.

The CAO also noted that if an offer of \$1 million for the Candy Shop had been made to the Municipality, it would be significant, and would require substantial documentation, so that ECBC would easily be able to substantiate the offer (if that offer had been made).

Warden Cotton indicated that a draft press release had been sent to DIMA from ECBC a couple of weeks ago, to the effect that funding for a building in Arichat had been approved, and asking DIMA's approval for the press release.

Warden Cotton indicated that he felt the project could probably be saved for Isle Madame, if the proponents want to remain on Isle Madame.

Warden Cotton then requested questions from Councillors.

In response to a question from Councillor C. Boudreau, the CAO indicated that there has been no communication or offer made by ECBC to the Municipality in the amount \$1.2 million for the establishment of an incubator mall that would house the Chocolate Factory, noting that a project of this nature would have required an application from the Municipality, noting that the Municipality would not have the knowledge of the operation of a Chocolate Factory to put that forward, further noting that the only involvements from the Municipality was the re-tendering of the Petit De Grat School because the proponents showed a possible interest in this building.

Warden Cotton indicated that he and Councillor J. Boudreau had met with Mrs. Peggy Bosdet and she was initially interested in the Petit De Grat School so the county re-posted the property but no offers were submitted, noting that the proponents indicated that after some investigation they found the property to be un-suitable.

In response to a question from Councillor C. Boudreau, Warden Cotton indicated that there was no official requests from the proponents seeking assistance to house the Chocolate Factory.

Councillor C. Boudreau indicated that he would like to know what has happened over the past couple of weeks to have caused the funding offer to have changed from Isle Madame to Port Hawkesbury, noting that this can probably only be answered by the funding agency.

Warden Cotton indicated that the proponents needed a facility immediately, noting that they had orders to fill, noting that they were unable to find an existing facility on Isle Madame but did find this in Port Hawkesbury, which may have played part in their move.

In response to a question from Councillor C. Boudreau, Warden Cotton indicated that the Bosdets were contacted regarding a meeting, which they requested to have Deputy Warden Martell and Councillor J. Boudreau present, noting that this meeting was held, and that there were no written reports but there were verbal reports and remarks implicating individuals that he is not at liberty to repeat and there will be some follow-up done on discussions.

The CAO indicated that it is important to realize that this business owned by someone other than the Municipality and questions should perhaps be directed to the owners.

In response to a question from Councillor C. Boudreau, Warden Cotton indicated that the e-mail that the CAO received from Mr. Rick Beaton of ECBC on September 1, 2006 was regarding \$1 million for funding for the proposed incubator mall in Point Tupper.

Warden Cotton indicated that in 3-4 instances the Municipality has been requested to provide a municipal contribution to projects, noting that this is probably because of the Municipality's tax base, noting that he feels that Richmond is being treated unfairly by the Vice President of ECBC and he indicated that Municipal Council must arrange to meet with him, his superiors and the minister in charge as soon as possible.

In response to a question from Councillor J. Boudreau, Warden Cotton indicated that other municipal units are not being required to make a financial contribution to projects but some are also having problems with miscommunications with ECBC.

Councillor Beaton indicated that he would like a copy of the CAO's report made available to the public in the lobby of the Municipal Office tomorrow.

Councillor J. Boudreau indicated that Mr. Bosdet is present this evening and he would like to invite him to speak during the 15 minute question period.

The CAO noted that the focus of Council and the Community should be to keep the business in Arichat, and commence by meeting with the owners.

Moved by Councillor C. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Richmond Municipal Council quickly assemble a delegation to make representation to the owners, with regard to establishing their business permanently on Isle Madame and further moved that correspondence be directed to the Federal Minister responsible for ACOA, with a request for a meeting, to discuss the communication problems that have occurred with ECBC in the past year, and also that information be requested from Rick Beaton, to clarify the process that has resulted in the move of the Candy Shop/Chocolate Factory from Isle Madame to Port Hawkesbury. Motion carried.

Warden Cotton indicated that this issue will result in Council discussions on the manner of municipal delivery of economic development services.

In response to a question from Councillor C. Boudreau, Warden Cotton indicated that he will ensure that Mrs. Sampson receives a response to her letter.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Richmond Council accept the report from the CAO to the Warden, concerning the re-location of the Candy Shop/Chocolate Factory to Port Hawkesbury, and also the difficulties with

communication with ECBC, and further moved that this information be made available to the public immediately. Motion carried.

Fifteen Minute Question Period:

Warden Cotton requested, and received unanimous consent, from Councillors for a statement from Charles Bosdet, owner of the Candy Shop.

Mr. Bosdet indicated that he wanted to clarify his situation, because he has heard a lot of wild stories, that are almost bizarre.

Mr. Bosdet indicated that he appreciated the reception received on Isle Madame, and has been working for two years to establish a factory here.

Mr. Bosdet indicated that he approached the County to purchase the former Petit De Grat School, but because of the lack of information available about the facility (building plans) that their engineer estimated that the renovations would be much more costly than the Bosdet's were willing to spend.

Mr. Bosdet indicated that Development Isle Madame was approached to submit an application for funding for a new building for Arichat, and he indicated that he felt that this process had been time consuming, partially because DIMA did not have a budget or core funding.

Mr. Bosdet further indicated that they carried out a thorough search of Isle Madame for a temporary facility, but were forced to look elsewhere, and he indicated that Port Hawkesbury (who had been pursuing them for two years) had space available immediately in the front area of the Creamery.

Mr. Bosdet indicated that his business had to move quickly to acquire space, because a major customer needed a decision quickly, or they would approach an American competitor to provide them with candy, and Mr. Bosdet indicated that he did not want another competitor entering the market locally.

Mr. Bosdet made reference to the draft press release that was provided to DIMA from ECBC. Mr. Bosdet indicated that this draft press release was a mistake, because ECBC was aware that he and his wife had changed their intended location from Isle Madame, several weeks before, and the draft press release was issued by an ECBC staff person who was not aware of this. Mr. Bosdet also indicated that Mr. MacKay was well aware of the intended Port Hawkesbury location, when he made the announcement.

Mr. Bosdet indicated that he and his wife had made a commitment to the community of Port Hawkesbury, and he did not think that they would change that commitment, because he did not want to put a second community through the upheaval that the community of Isle Madame appeared to be now experiencing.

Mrs. Mary Louise Sampson approached Council and requested to pose a question to Mr. Bosdet, which Warden Cotton indicated was out of line for the meeting, however she indicated that perhaps the Warden could re-direct the question to Mr. Bosdet.

Mrs. Sampson expressed concern that the population in Richmond is decreasing and the Chocolate Factory would provide 50 jobs that the area needs and requested that Mr. Bosdet re-consider the re-location until the communities would have some time to seek some funding and hopefully with the assistance of the Municipality, noting that they would work hard to do that on their behalf.

Warden Cotton indicated that the decision of the Bosdet's was based on a business case scenario and they have made plans and will be proceeding.

Mrs. Sampson indicated that maybe if a group of people would get together and try to get funding it may assist and they would welcome the Bosdets if they wish to re-consider and she counts on Council to work very hard on their behalf.

Mr. Billy Digdon approached Council indicating that the Bosdets are members of the DIMA Board of Directors and he questioned what role DIMA is playing, noting that there has been a lot of occasions like this one and they are just not getting businesses to come here.

Warden Cotton indicated that he does not believe that DIMA did anything wrong, noting that they believed that they were being offered the contract and funding for a new building.

Ms. Sarah Nettleton approached Council requesting what steps that Council has taken to assist the Bosdets and also what steps is Council willing to take to expediate the process.

Warden Cotton indicated that the only meeting that they had with the Bosdets was regarding the Petit De Grat School and after he and Councillor J. Boudreau met with Mrs. Bosdet they approached the CAO who agreed to re-tender the school, noting that they will do everything they can to get to the bottom of what went on in this instance but they have to respect the wished of the proponents.

Warden Cotton noted that the Port Hawkesbury Council was not involved with the re-location of the Chocolate Factory, but rather the Waterfront Development Association.

Warden Cotton indicated that Council will try to get answers as quick as those they are questioning will respond, noting that Council representatives will be meeting with all parties involved.

Mrs. Ruth Landry approached Council, asking if Mr. Digout was a Councillor, and suggesting that he should have approached the Bosdet's directly, to request if they required assistance.

Mr. Digout indicated that the Warden and several Councillors were meeting directly with the Bosdet's, and these Councillors would have approached him directly, if any assistance was required.

Warden Cotton indicated that the CAO was not involved in the meeting with Mrs. Bosdet but was consulted after the meeting, noting that it is the job of Council to provide the bridge to the community.

Mr. Bernard Landry approached Council, noting that most people heard about the Chocolate Factory a year ago and it should be in operation right now, questioning that the system is to blame, indicating that the Municipality should have given them a piece of land.

Warden Cotton indicated that economic development is not delivered directly by the Municipality but rather contracted out the RDA and DIMA and the process of going about economic development will be a discussion at further Council meetings.

Mrs. Brenda Martell approached Council indicating that she is feeling the impression that the public feels that DIMA has not done their job with respect to the Bosdets, noting that DIMA has traveled the roads with the Bosdets looking for property on Isle Madame, and worked long and hard.

Mrs. Martell indicated that she was previously employed with DIMA and it was in 1998 that she first met with the Bosdet's at the Island Nest, and convinced them to locate in Arichat.

Mrs. Martell indicated that she does not think that sufficient credit is being given to DIMA for the work that they have done.

Mrs. Martell indicated that there was nothing suitable on Isle Madame for the Bosdets and they began to look elsewhere and in the end the Bosdet's will do what they wish and they chose to move.

Mrs. Nancy Landry approached Council indicating that once again history repeats itself as what happened with the fisheries, noting that there are a lot of concerned citizens wondering what is going wrong, what is wrong with Isle Madame, and asking why Councillors are not upset?

Mrs. Landry indicated that she hopes that Council will get upset and find out the reasons why businesses do not want to set up on Isle Madame and work for the public on this issue.

Warden Cotton indicated that it is not as simple as Council supporting economic development, noting that Council will investigate these issues further, noting that ultimately the decision to locate the Chocolate Factory in Port Hawkesbury was a

business decision by Mr. And Mrs. Bosdet based on the fact that there is no available infrastructure on Isle Madame.

Mr. Bosdet addressed the crowd indicating that they should not get their hopes up about getting the Chocolate Factory back on Isle Madame, noting that if they get caught up in an inter-territorial dispute it will be the end of them, noting that they had to make their decision, they had no time to waste and no choice.

Mr. Bosdet indicated that he is grateful to everyone in the community, noting that he thought it would be irresponsible to mislead the public into thinking they will change their minds.

Mrs. Mary Rose Richards addressed Council.

In response to a question from Mrs. Richards, Warden Cotton indicated that he did not believe that there was a facility on the Island that would meet the needs of the Bosdets, noting that he is unsure of all of the locations that were explored and that would be a question for the Bosdets.

Warden Cotton noted that the non-profit organization that owns the Creamery in Port Hawkesbury has been after the Bosdets to open a store in Port Hawkesbury for some time, noting that he understands that they had to make their decision based on a business case scenario and if not they would have lost a large contract.

Moved by Councillor C. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the meeting proceed past 10:00 p.m. Motion carried.

In response to a question from Mr. Shaun Sampson, Warden Cotton indicated that he is unsure if they considered that former Charles Forest Coop, noting that would be a question to ask DIMA.

Ms. Sarah Nettleton indicated that she has some concern that this investigation may affect the construction of the factory in Port Hawkesbury.

In response to a question from Ms. Nettleton, Warden Cotton indicated that they cannot force a business to stay in the area if they don't want to, noting that the County does not want to jeopardize the Chocolate Factory for Port Hawkesbury, noting that Council will be further examining how they are delivering economic development in Isle Madame as well as their relationship with ECBC.

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

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m.