

**RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**DECEMBER 11, 2006**

Location: Council Chambers, Municipal Office

Warden Boudreau called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for the singing of O'Canada.

Items Added to the Agenda:

Warden Boudreau indicated that he wished to add Recognition of an act of Selfless Citizenry and a Christmas Greeting and the CAO wished to add Christmas Office Closure.

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

Warden Boudreau indicated that when the Items Added are dealt with the CAO can proceed with his item first.

Review of Minutes:

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor Martell that the minutes of November 14, 2006 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Deputy Warden McNamara presented the Committee of the Whole Report for December 2006.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Rankin that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the current system of a Warden chosen by Council be maintained and that this decision be included in the report to the UARB. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor C. Boudreau that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the status quo of ten Councillors and ten districts be maintained, and that this be included in the report to the UARB. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Martell that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that Council accept the Standard

Operating Procedures presented by the Occupational Health and Safety Committee, with the minor changes outlined. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Beaton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the grant request from the D'Escousse Early Childhood Education Centre in the amount of \$300.00 be approved and that this money be taken from the Councillors' District Activity Fund - \$3,000 for District #3. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the grant request from the Basin and River Inhabitants Historical Society be approved in the amount of \$2,000 and that this money be taken from the Councillors' District Activity Fund for District #5. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Cotton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Director of Public Works be authorized to purchase the necessary equipment to clear sidewalks; engage a contractor to erect the maintenance shed to house the equipment; and further moved that the maintenance of the sidewalks be provided by the Municipality; and that all costs (capital and operational) be applied to the area rate for District #6. Motion carried.

Councillor Cotton wished to express that it was always his intention that his District Funds would be used for capital and maintenance costs of the sidewalks and would have liked the motion to reflect this.

In response to a question from Councillor Rankin, Councillor Cotton indicated that he will still follow the same application process to access these funds.

Warden Boudreau noted that this motion must be made outside of the Committee of the Whole Report.

In response to a question from Councillor Sampson, Councillor Cotton indicated that he wanted to make his full intentions clear with his intention to use accumulated and current funds, noting that this may not be the intention of a future Councillor for this district.

The CAO indicated that this same motion was passed at a Special Council Meeting in August and also at the last Committee of the Whole meeting.

Deputy Warden McNamara indicated that she believed that this was redundant because Councillors have the right to apply these funds as they see fit.

Moved by Councillor Cotton, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Municipal Council authorize the Councillor for Louisdale to allocate current and accumulated annual District #6 funds from the District \$17,000 Policy and the District \$3,000 Policy, to the Louisdale

sidewalk and maintenance costs, subject to the normal application and approval process required for these policies. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Cotton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that Municipal Council establish a new full time position in the Public Works Department, of Field Hand, in the Maintenance Department. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden McNamara indicated that she has a problem with the next issue noting that it was not the intention to have packages e-mailed to P.A.C. members, noting that this blocks the opportunity for those who do not have the technology to sit on the Committee.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Rankin that Council table the issue of providing agenda packages to Planning Advisory Committee members in advance, until further information is obtained. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the application from Paul Kenneth Francis for rental of a 2,000 square foot bay at the industrial mall be accepted, with the standard business practice being applied that Mr. Francis sign a lease and provide the Municipality with 12 post-dated cheques; and also conditional that the space be vacated within three months' notice, if the building is sold. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Beaton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the arrears of the Isle Madame Community Ventures in the amount of \$2,400 be written off.

In response to a question from Councillor C. Boudreau, the CAO indicated that the \$2,400 is the cost of the incremental increase in rent following Year 1 levels, and this is what is being written off.

Councillor Cotton indicated that he has a problem with the wording, noting that this may be setting a precedent if it is not made clear in the motion that the amount being written off is the incremental increase in the rent only.

Moved by Councillor Cotton, seconded by Councillor Beaton that the motion be amended to indicate that the write-off is relating to the incremental increase in the rent following Year 1 levels. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that a grant in the amount of \$5,000 be approved for St. Francis de Sales Church, to be taken from the Municipal District Fund - \$17,000 for District #5. Motion carried.

Councillor Rankin declared a conflict in interest indicating that he is employed by the Strait Richmond Health Care Foundation, and removed himself from discussions.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Committee recommend to Council that a grant in the amount of \$2,000 be approved for the Strait Richmond Health Care Foundation, to be taken from the District \$17,000 Fund for District #5. Motion carried

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Rankin that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that a grant in the amount of \$5,000 be approved for the St. Peter's Community Club, to be taken from the District \$17,000 Fund for District #8. Motion carried

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Martell that the Committee of the Whole Report for the month of December 2006 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

(a) Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations re: Postponement of Regional Discussion Sessions on Capped Assessment Program

The CAO indicated that sessions have been postponed noting that they will be in touch regarding re-scheduled dates and locations.

The CAO indicated that this is a significant piece of legislation and there has been very little publicity on it.

In response to a question from Councillor Rankin, Warden Boudreau indicated that these sessions are not for municipal units to present a reprieve.

Councillor Cotton indicated that all three parties supported this bill and the government is committed to holding a review late this year and he hopes to hear more in roundtable discussions later this month.

(b) Hon. Chris d'Entremont re: Breast Screening Mobile

The CAO indicated that this letter was received in response to a letter of concern from Council, noting that the Minister has responded by indicating that the mobile unit is experiencing mechanical problems and a new one is on order and service will be re-instated once it is received.

Deputy Warden McNamara indicated that it was good to receive the response but it was totally un-acceptable that the service was not provided in this area and it does not indicate when the service will be re-instated.

Moved by Deputy warden McNamara, seconded by Councillor Johnson that a letter be written to the Hon. Chris D'Entremont requesting the approximate time when the Breast Screening Mobile service will be reinstated and requesting that other options for providing the service be investigated during this down time. Motion carried.

(c) Hon. Len Goucher re: Bill 267, Cape Breton Marketing Levy Act

The CAO noted that correspondence indicates that the Minister had not received written confirmation of support from municipalities nor has he received any formal requests from Destination Cape Breton to enact the levy.

In response to a question from Councillor Sampson, Warden Boudreau indicated that there is still one smaller municipal unit that has not made a decision and he hopes that soon in the New Year things will progress.

(d) C.B. Crime Stoppers Association re: Grant Request

The CAO indicated that the Municipality's grant fund had been expended for the year and he suggests forwarding this organization an application to apply for a grant from next year's funds.

Warden Boudreau indicated that this organization had previously requested a multi-year grant from the municipality and was not aware that this could not be done so they wish to re-apply for a grant, requesting that staff provide them with the proper grant forms for next years grant fund.

(e) Alzheimer Society re: Alzheimer Awareness Month

Moved by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Council proclaim January 2007 as Alzheimer Awareness month and that Warden Boudreau sign the proclamation and that it be submitted to the Alzheimer Society of Nova Scotia. Motion carried.

#### Items Added to the Agenda:

##### 1. CAO re: Christmas Office Closure

The CAO indicated that last year the Municipal Office was closed from December 24<sup>th</sup> until January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

In response to a question from Warden Boudreau, the CAO indicated that he received no complaints regarding the closure of the Municipal Office over the Christmas Holidays in the past.

Councillor Cotton indicated that as past Warden he has never received a complaint of this nature.

Deputy Warden McNamara indicated that she has never heard one complaint over the office closure over the Christmas holidays.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Cotton that Council authorize the closure of the Municipal Offices in Arichat from 4:00 p.m. on December 22, 2006 until January 2, 2007(to re-open for regular hours on this day). Motion carried.

2. Warden Boudreau re

(i) Recognition of an Act of Selfless Citizenry

Warden Boudreau requested that Deputy Warden McNamara take chair of the meeting.

Warden Boudreau described an incident on July 12, 2006 where Edward and Brenda Rideout assisted fellow sailors whose boat caught fire on the Brad D'Or Lakes, noting that they rescued the elderly couple from the water, brought them to port in Dundee, arranged for transportation to their home in Arichat as well as medical attention and the next day drove them to meet family members for the voyage home to Northern New Brunswick. (Warden Boudreau's presentation attached)

Moved by Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor C. Boudreau that:

Be it resolved that Municipal Council for the Municipality of Richmond does hereby recognize and greatly value the selfless and invariably life-saving action taken by Edward and Brenda Rideout on that occasion.

And be it further resolved that Council communicate, to the Rideout's, its admiration and reverence in light of this feat of outstanding courage and citizenry.

Motion carried.

(ii) Christmas Greeting

Warden Boudreau wished a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to everyone present, as well as everyone in the Telile viewing audience.

Warden Boudreau resumed the Chair of the meeting.

Fifteen Minute Question Period:

Mr. Lorenzo Boudreau indicated that he is disappointed that Council did not go forward with the history book on the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Municipality.

Warden Boudreau indicated that the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary was in 2004 and he was not a Councillor at that time and is unsure why the Council decided not to carry out this project.

Mr. Lorenzo continued to provide a list of writers from the area that would be capable of creating such a book, noting that all of the history is done and it is just a matter of putting it all together.

Warden Boudreau urges Mr. Lorenzo Boudreau to bring this issue up in the new year through his Councillor.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Sampson that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.