

RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

JANUARY 17, 2008

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. He requested that everyone remain standing to observe one minute of silence in memory of the seven students and school teacher killed in Bathurst; Allena MacDonald; and also Neil Urquhart.

The Clerk took roll call of Councillors.

Items Added to the Agenda

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

Review of Minutes: December 10, 2007

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor Martell that the minutes of December 10, 2007 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Presentations and/or Delegations:

(a) Returning Officer (Request from Council to Appear)

Warden Boudreau welcomed Mr. Bobby Sampson to the meeting.

Mr. Sampson addressed the concerns expressed by Councillor MacPhee regarding the enumeration carried out in Polling Division #20 for the School Board bi-election.

A question and answer period followed.

Warden Boudreau thanked Mr. Sampson for attending the meeting.

(b) St. Peter's Economic Development Organization re: East Richmond Business Focus Session

Warden Boudreau welcomed Mr. Parker Stone and Mr. Robert Wambolt to the meeting.

Mr. Stone presented and summarized ten development priorities that were raised at the October business focus session, and requested that Municipal Council and staff review these priorities and also requested that Municipal Council partner with the St. Peter's Economic Development Organization on these issues.

A question and answer period followed.

Warden Boudreau thanked Mr. Stone and Mr. Wambolt for their presentation.

First Reading Approval - Councillor Martell: to give First Reading Approval to amend the Tax Exemption By-Law, By-Law #56, to reflect the name change from the Knights of Columbus Hall to the Acadiaville Community Centre Society, attached as Appendix "A"

Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Municipal Council give First Reading Approval to amend the Tax Exemption By-Law, By-Law #56, to reflect the name change from the Knights of Columbus Hall to the Acadiaville Community Centre Society, attached as Appendix "A". Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

(a) Committee of the Whole Report

Councillor Sampson presented the monthly report of the Committee of the Whole (copy attached).

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that an application be made to the Building Canada Fund for the Evanston Sewage Treatment Plant Project, and that the project be listed as the first priority of the Municipality, and that this application be conditional on the community agreeing to proceed with the project at a community meeting to be organized in January;

AND FURTHER MOVED that the Committee recommend to Council that an application be also made to the Building Canada Fund for the Arichat Pump Station Replacement Project, and that the project be listed as the second priority of the Municipality, and that this application be conditional on the community agreeing to proceed with the project at a community meeting prior to the end of January;

AND FURTHER MOVED that the Arichat project will be listed as the first priority, if the Evanston community meeting does not agree to proceeding with the project. Motion carried.

The CAO noted that a public meeting is being held in the community of Evanston on January 21st; and in the community of Arichat on January 23rd.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Martell that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the CAO's report on the capital costs of sewer projects be accepted; and further moved that Council direct staff and the Solicitor to carry out the work required to provide for a direct municipal contribution from the general rate to major capital sewer projects, with criteria to include that the project must be on the list of three year capital projects for the Municipality, and that the project must have an estimated minimum cost of at least \$500,000, with external funding of at least 50% of the estimated total project cost, and maximum municipal funding of 25% of the external funding, to a maximum contribution of the lessor of one-sixth of the total estimated costs of the project or \$1 million. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Cotton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the borrowing resolution for the Louisdale Sidewalk Project be approved for the net cost of \$574, 687. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Cotton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the positions of Compost Facility Operator/Laborer and Waste Facility Operator/By-Law Enforcement Officer be designated as "full time positions". Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Martell that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that staff be authorized to engage consultants to carry out a study to establish a strategy for prioritizing water and sewer capital expenditures and further moved that staff be authorized to investigate, and if positive, apply for PCAP funding for the project. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Beaton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that staff be authorized to submit applications for funding for paving streets; and further moved that staff be instructed to return to Council before proceeding with construction, if any streets are approved. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Martell that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the rental request from Plant Management Gardening for Bay #3 at the Industrial Mall be approved and that staff be authorized to execute the lease. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Municipality send a letter of commitment to the Superport Corporation indicating that the Municipality will commit a maximum of \$27,000 to the Port Master Plan study, with the final funding amount being determined after decisions are made by the remaining Strait Area municipal units and the Strait Area Mayors and Wardens group; and further moved that the municipal commitment be conditional on the designation of a position for the Municipality on the Port management plan study oversight group. Motion carried.

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

(b) Planning Advisory Committee

Councillor McNamara presented the monthly report of the Planning Advisory Committee (copy attached).

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

Correspondence:

(a) Department of Transportation and Public Works re: Trunk 4

(b) Sydney and Area Chamber of Commerce re: Route 4

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Sampson that a letter be written to the Hon. Murray Scott expressing Municipal Council gratitude for the Department's commitment to upgrading Route 4; and further moved that representation be made to the Minister requesting that work be commenced in upgrading Route 4 in Richmond County, with the potential of completing the work within a few years. Motion carried.

(c) Hon. Bill Dooks re: Marketing Strategy for Cape Breton Island

(d) Tourism Advisory Board re: Generic Marketing Strategy for Cape Breton Island

(e) Department of Environment and Labour re: Wind/Hydro Energy Project

(f) Property Valuation Services Corporation re: Property Valuation Services Corporation Client Service

(g) Cape Breton Ski Club Ski Ben Eoin re: Request for Letter of Support, Snowmaking Upgrade Project

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Martell that a letter of support be sent to Cape Breton Ski Club Ski Ben Eoin, expressing Municipal Council's support regarding their snowmaking/upgrade project. Motion carried.

Items Added to the Agenda

(1) CAO re: Evaluation of Nova Scotia Municipal Governments

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Beaton that Richmond Council defer a decision on participation in the evaluation by the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies, until after Warden Boudreau consults with other municipal units at the January 25th Rural Caucus Meeting; and further moved that the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies be requested to provide an extension beyond the January 31, 2008 deadline, should the Municipality of Richmond decide to participate. Motion carried.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

Mr. Doug Begg requested Council's support for the proposed St. Peter's Marina.

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

There being no further business, Warden Boudreau adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.