

RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

FEBRUARY 11, 2008

Location: Council Chambers, Municipal Office

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

The clerk took roll call of Councillors.

Items Added to the Agenda

Councillor Cotton requested that the Lions Club make a presentation for the cheque that was donated to the Louisdale sidewalk project for the amount of \$100,000, after the Duke of Edinburgh awards presentation.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Martell that the Items Added be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Review of Minutes: January 17, 2008

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor C. Boudreau that the minutes of January 17, 2008 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Presentation of the Duke of Edinburgh Award

Warden Boudreau gave an overview of each level of the awards (Bronze, Silver and Gold levels). He indicated that Sergeant Paul Vickers along with Myrtle Babin and Elaine Walker will be presenting the two Bronze level awards to recipients Adele Babin and Jordan Kehoe.

Louisdale Lions Club \$100,000 Cheque to Louisdale Sidewalk Project

Councillor Cotton indicated that the Louisdale Lions Club put aside \$100,000 from the sale of their land purchased for the construction of the Richmond Academy, noting that these funds were pledged to the Louisdale Sidewalk Project and were used to leverage additional funds from the Province, Department of Transportation and infrastructure as well as Richmond County through the District Grant Funds.

Mr. Jackie Hopkins, King Lion, and Mr. Don Cornell, Club President presented the \$100,000 cheque to Warden Boudreau and Councillor Cotton for the Louisdale Sidewalk Project.

Warden Boudreau commended the Louisdale Lions Club on their contributions to their local community as well as to greater Richmond and wished them continued success in upcoming projects.

Presentation and/or Delegations:

(a) Nova Scotia Power (Ken Paruch) re: Council Request for Information Regarding Power Outages/Staffing/Maintenance and Upgrading/Communication

Nova Scotia Power representatives were unable to make it to the meeting due to weather conditions.

Second Reading Approval – Councillor Sampson: to give Second 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 Sampson, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Municipal Council give Second Reading Approval to amend the Tax Exemption By-Law, By-Law #56, to reflect the name change of the Knights of Columbus Hall to the Acadiaville Community Centre Society, attached as Appendix “A”. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the recommendation of the Municipal Engineer be accepted, and that Municipal Council assume ownership and maintenance of Lion’s Avenue in St. Peter’s, because the applicant has met the municipal standards for public roads, including the provision of asphalt. Motion carried

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor Martell that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Municipality proceed with the pre-design work for the District #4 sewage system project, and that the approval to proceed be conditional on the Municipality receiving financial assistance from the Provincial Capital Assistance Program and/or Gas Tax funding and also that staff be directed to apply for such funding as soon as possible. Motion carried

The Committee reported that staff have advised that Richmond County had the highest rate of solid waste diversion in the Province last year. Staff and the Committee wish to advise the Richmond County community of the success of residents, and the Committee also commends staff for their efforts.

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor Martell that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and the CAO; and that the proposed

schedule of fees and expenses for the 2008 Municipal Election be approved, as attached in Appendix "A". Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor Boudreau that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that DIMA report to Council regarding activities on a semi-annual basis. Motion carried.

Councillor Sampson indicated that Councillor MacPhee submitted a grant request for the EREC Home and School Association today and staff have notified that the application is complete and requested that since this organization is under some financial stress that his request also be included in the motion.

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor Martell that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the following grant requests be approved, as amended:

- \$1,200 to the Acadiaville Community Centre Society with funds to be taken from the District #4, \$3,000 Fund.
- \$312.50 to the East Richmond Education Centre Home & School Association with funds to be taken from the District #8, \$3,000 Fund
- \$312.50 to the East Richmond Education Centre Home & School Association with funds to be taken from the District #9, \$3,000 Fund
- \$312.50 to the East Richmond Education Centre Home & School Association with funds to be taken from the District #7, \$3,000 Fund
- \$2,000 to the L'Ardoise Economic Association for Development with funds to be taken from the District #9, \$3,000 Fund
- \$3,800 to the D'Escousse Civic Improvement Centre with funds to be taken from the District #3, \$17,000 Fund

Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Council Amend the motion to include an additional grant request as follows:

- \$312.50 to the East Richmond Education Centre Home & School Association with funds to be taken from the District #7, \$3,000 Fund

Amendment carried.

Deputy Warden Rankin gave notice that he will introduce a motion at the next regular Council Meeting to amend By-Law #56, Tax Exemption By-Law, to include the Lennox Passage Yacht Club.

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor Boudreau that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Municipality of Richmond not participate in the AIMS Project. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole to call upon the Federal Government to have a full Environmental Review of the Lake Uist Project. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor Martell that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that staff be authorized to approach the Solicitor to determine what type of authority the Municipality has in regards to regulating alternative energy projects within the county. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor Martell that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that a letter be sent to the Chair of the Conseil Scolaire Acadien Provincial, with copies to the local CSAP representative, the CSAP Superintendent, and the school principal; indicating that the Municipal Recreation Department is having difficulty in gaining access to the school to provide programs to the community of Isle Madame (partially because the school closes at 8:30 p.m.); and requesting that the CSAP make arrangements to make the school available for Recreation Department programs to be offered to the residents of Isle Madame. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that a Committee be established to draft a policy regarding the display/flying of flags on municipal property; and further moved that the Warden be authorized to appoint the members to sit on the Committee. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor Boudreau that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the rental request from Thai Luong for Bay #2 at the Industrial Mall be approved, conditional on information being provided by staff prior to the Council Meeting, to indicate the types of products that Mr. Luong intends to finish or refurbish, the materials to be used in the refurbishing, and the materials to be stored in the bay. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Rankin gave notice that he will introduce a motion at the next regular Council Meeting to amend the Travel Policy, to reflect a meal allowance of \$60 per day for a full day out of county travel, and all rooms and airline flights will be booked by municipal staff.

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Director of Tourism, Culture and Recreation be instructed to proceed with having the necessary changes prepared to amend the Heritage By-Law, to include members at large, in order to provide better geographic representation on our Heritage Advisory Committee. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Rankin gave notice that I will introduce a motion at the next regular Council Meeting to adopt the "Requests for Council and Committee Minutes" Policy,

regarding requests for paper copies of Council and Committee minutes, as a policy of the Municipality.

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the grant request from the Basin River Inhabitants Historical Society be approved in the amount of \$2,000, and that this money be taken from the Municipal District Fund \$17,000 for District #5. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that Rena Burke be appointed as the Recognized Agent for the St. Peter's, Samsonville and Area Water Utility. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that a grant in the amount of \$600 be provided to cover the costs of a retirement party that has been organized by the Richmond Arena, and further moved that a gift also be provided, with the funds to be taken from the Recreation budget. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor Cotton that the Committee of the Whole Report for the month of February 2008 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

(a) Nova Scotia Power re: Power Outages

The CAO indicated that Nova Scotia Power representatives were unable to attend tonight's meeting due to power outages and they will be contacted to make arrangements to appear at the next possible Council meeting.

(b) Hon. Cecil Clarke re: Allocation of Police Officers

The correspondence indicates that Richmond County will receive an additional Police Officer, from the provincial R.C.M.P. allocation.

(c) Hon. Mark Parent re: Oily Waste Disposal sites re: Arrow Tanker Disaster

The CAO indicated that a meeting will be scheduled with staff from the Port Hawkesbury Department of the Environment office and he hopes to have both Council and staff representation at the meeting.

(d) Destination Cape Breton re: Cape Breton Island Destination Marketing Strategy

For information.

(e) Hagit Hadaya re: Grandique and Marche Point Light towers

It was determined that the Grandique Lighthouse was located in Councillor Beaton's District and the Marche Point lighthouse is in Councillor Boudreau's District.

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor Boudreau that Council send a letter to Senator Pat Carney in support of her Bill to protect lighthouses across Canada; and further moved that correspondence be sent to Ms. Hadaya indicating that lighthouses in Richmond County serve not only a functional purpose, but also historical, cultural, social and economic (tourism) purposes; and further moved that she be advised that these lighthouses have deep community and personal meaning to residents of Richmond County; and further moved that the Councillors from the districts involved be copied, and advised that they may also wish to provide letters of support. Motion carried.

(f) Heart and Stroke Foundation of Nova Scotia re: Proclamation of Heart Month

Moved by Councillor Cotton, seconded by Councillor Martell that Council declare February as Heart Month. Motion carried.

Warden Boudreau asked council to consider the fact that three organizations have asked to mark February as their month, and the impact of proclaiming dates for various organizations may lose their impact if they are not given more thought and suggested Council may want to consider allowing one per month/week.

(g) Federal Transport Department re: Route 4

For information.

Items Added to the Agenda:

(1) Councillor Cotton re: \$100,000 Cheque to Louisdale Sidewalk Project

Previously addressed.

(2) CAO re: Request from Warden for Report

The CAO advised that the Warden requested a detailed report on each employee of the Municipality, for all salary, and individual benefits, paid for each individual; with the Warden feeling that this had been authorized at the December Council Meeting. The CAO reported that the minutes, and recordings, do not reflect this. The CAO further noted that the significant information requested on all individuals may include information that would be considered private or personal, and he requested direction.

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- Several Councillors indicated that they were asked for this type of information on individuals receiving remuneration from the Municipality, and they felt that they should be in a position to provide it to members of the public;
- The privacy provisions of the Freedom of Information Act should be considered, and the Solicitor consulted.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the CAO be requested to provide a report on individuals receiving remuneration from the Municipality to include their name, gross annual salary, pension benefits, medical benefits, dental benefits, and other insurance coverages paid by the Municipality on behalf of each individual, travel allowances paid, professional fees and other dues paid, and any other remuneration; and further moved that the report be prepared in consultation with the Solicitor, to ensure that the information is provided in a manner that does not contravene any legislation, particularly regarding privacy; and further moved that the CAO present this report on a confidential and “In-Camera” basis. Motion carried.

(3) Warden Boudreau re:

(i) Introduction of Special Resolution

Warden Boudreau noted that Friday, February 15th is Flag Day and Mr. Clifford Boudreau has arranged a flag raising ceremony at the Municipal Office at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, encouraging all councilors to attend.

Councillor Boudreau noted that students from Ecole Beau Port will be attending and that he will contact other principals of schools in Richmond to encourage attendance.

(ii) Special Resolution re: “Heart and Stroke Month”

Previously addressed.

(4) Deputy Warden Rankin re: Lake Uist Power Project

Deputy Warden Rankin indicated that he had difficulty with the project, noting flaws in the environmental review, such as the example that the Grand River is not included in the environmental review area.

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor Johnson to write a letter to the Proponent, the Federal Government, and the Provincial Department of the Environment requesting that Grand River be included in the Federal Review of the Lake Uist project. Motion carried.

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- The project involves creating what may be the largest man-made reservoir in the world;

- The concerns with methyl mercury, does not appear to be addressed;
- The withdrawal of huge amounts of water from Lake Uist are a very negative impact on Richmond County, and the positive impacts regarding property taxes are mainly in Cape Breton County;
- There has been very little consultation in Richmond County;
- A meeting was held in Loch Lomond on Remembrance Day week-end in November, 2007;
- A presentation was received from the proponents by the Committee of the Whole in November, but the environmental terms of reference document released shortly thereafter referred to consultations held in Richmond County;
- A meeting was held two weeks ago with the project proponent and their environmental review team;
- CBCL have offered to share information received, on behalf of the project proponents, as the environmental review proceeds.

Warden Boudreau noted that there was a ceremony last week in Port Hawkesbury, to launch the new wind turbine operation in Point Tupper.

The CAO noted the municipal role in the project, consisting mainly of providing proper land use planning and zoning (following consultation with the communities involved), and he suggested that correspondence be sent from Municipal to the project proponents, welcoming them to the Point Tupper and Richmond County areas.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Cotton that Council write a letter to Mr. Larry LeBlanc, President/CEO of Renewable Energy Resources Limited, with a copy to Nova Scotia Power, welcoming their wind turbine project to the Point Tupper area, and commending them for their investment in a renewable energy project in Richmond County. Motion carried.

Fifteen Minute Question Period:

Doug Begg, former High School teacher, commented that Richmond County is a tremendous location for wind projects, noting that he worked with a group from Dalhousie University many years ago collecting wind data in the Strait Area.

Adjournment:

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

There being no further business, Warden Boudreau adjourned the meeting at 8:15pm.