

RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

MARCH 10, 2008

Location: Council Chambers, Municipal Office

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

The Deputy Clerk took roll call of Councillors.

Deputy Warden Rankin indicated that Councillor Boudreau was away, and Councillors McNamara and MacPhee were unable to attend, due to illness.

Items Added to the Agenda

Deputy Warden Rankin indicated he wished to add waiting lists for nursing home beds; Police Advisory Board; and Angelica which is a noxious weed in the Mainland of the Province, yet in Cape Breton, no controls are in place; and Warden Boudreau wished to add a letter from Marlene Usher (for information purposes).

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

Review of Minutes: February 11, 2008 (Regular Meeting)
February 25, 2008 (Special Meeting)

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Johnson that the minutes of February 11, 2008 (Regular Meeting) and February 25, 2008 (Special Meeting) be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Presentations and/or Delegations:

(a) Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources (Laurie Suitor) re: Lake Uist Project

Deputy Warden Rankin welcomed Ms. Laurie Suitor to the meeting.
Ms. Laurie Suitor made a presentation on behalf of the Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources regarding the Lake Uist Project (copy attached).

Deputy Warden Rankin thanked Ms. Suitor for her informative presentation.

A question and answer period followed.

Deputy Warden Rankin called a five minute recess at 8:00 p.m., due to audio problems.

Deputy Warden Rankin reconvened the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Notices of Motions:

- (a) Deputy Warden Rankin: 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 (attached as Appendix "A")

Moved by Warden Boudreau that the Travel Policy be amended, 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 (attached as Appendix "A").

Warden Boudreau requested clarification if the meal allowance of \$60 per day was a maximum of \$60 per day, with meals not being charged to the Municipality, when they are provided at conferences.

The Deputy Clerk indicated that under the proposed policy, a meal allowance of \$60 per day would be paid for a full day out of county travel.

Warden Boudreau withdrew his motion, noting he was not clear on the proposed amendment.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Martell that the Travel Policy be amended, 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, as attached in Appendix "A". Motion carried.

- (b) Deputy Warden Rankin: 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 (attached as Appendix "B")

Moved by Councillor Cotton, seconded by Councillor Johnson that the "Requests for Council and Committee Minutes" Policy regarding requests for paper copies of Council and Committee Minutes, be adopted as a policy of the Municipality, as attached in Appendix "B". Motion carried. (Ayes - Warden Boudreau, Councillor Beaton, Councillor Martell, Councillor Johnson, Councillor Cotton; Nay - Councillor Sampson)

- (c) Councillor McNamara: to rescind previous motion made to provide a grant of \$2,000 to the Basin River Inhabitants Society, with the funds to be taken from the Municipal District Fund \$17,000 for District #5

Moved by Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Beaton that the previous motion made to provide a grant of \$2,000 to the Basin River Inhabitants Society, with the funds

to be taken from the Municipal District Fund \$17,000 for District #5 be rescinded.
Motion carried.

Moved by Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Martell that Municipal Council provide a grant of \$2,000 to the Basin River Inhabitants Society, with the funds to be taken from the Councillors' District Activity Fund \$3,000 for District #5. Motion carried.

First Reading Approval - Deputy Warden Rankin: to give First Reading Approval to amend By-Law #56, Tax Exemption By-Law, to include the Lennox Passage Yacht Club (attached as Appendix "C")

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor Cotton that Municipal Council give First Reading Approval to amend By-Law #56, Tax Exemption By-Law, to include the Lennox Passage Yacht Club, as attached in Appendix "C". 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 Martell that Council accept the recommendation of the Deputy Clerk and the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the insurance tender for the Municipality for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2009 be awarded to MacCoy Insurance Brokers, at their low tender bid of \$57,624. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Beaton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the grant request from St. Hyacinth's Parish be approved in the amount of \$3,100, with the funds to be taken from the Municipal District Fund \$17,000 for District #3. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that a grant in the amount of \$3,400 be approved for the Immaculate Conception Parish, with the funds to be taken from the Municipal District Fund \$17,000 from District #10; and further moved that the remainder of the original \$6,837.50 grant request be processed at a later date. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Warden Boudreau that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that WHEREAS a unanimously accepted motion, at Committee of the Whole on November 26, 2007 recommended to Council that "Richmond Municipal Council wishes to revert to our original practice of water billing for apartment dwellings based on the size of the meter plus consumption";

AND WHEREAS there appears to be some ambiguity in the interpretation of that motion;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that future billing, of water services, for apartment buildings, commencing with the billing for the first quarter of 2008 (January 1, 2008 to March 31, 2008), and subsequent billings, be done in accordance with the pre-March 2007 practice: That practice being that billings be based purely on the size of the meter plus consumption. Motion carried (Ayes - Warden Boudreau, Councillor Sampson, Councillor Johnson, Councillor Martell, Councillor Beaton; Nay - Councillor Cotton).

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Martell that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and staff; and support the initiative of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities in their draft policy entitled UNSM Municipal Property Tax Relief for Low Income Home Owners. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and of the Solicitor; and proceed with approaching a Member of the Legislative Assembly to bring forward a Private Members Bill to amend the Statute to enable Royal Canadian Legions to be eligible for municipal grants. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Cotton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that Mr. Robert Sampson be appointed Returning Officer for the Municipal and School Board Elections to be held in October 2008. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Warden Boudreau that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Municipality of Richmond become a participating partner of the Bras D'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve Association. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Cotton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and support the Women in Local Government Bursary Program and provide a contribution of \$300 for this year and that this request be revisited next year for additional funding. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Warden Boudreau that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Municipality provide Ralph and Margie Robertson with a quit claim deed to their lands located in the former Gillies Subdivision once a survey and accurate land description has been provided to the Municipality. 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.

Correspondence:

- (a) Hon. Chris d'Entremont re: (i) Dialysis Services
(ii) St. Anne Community & Nursing Care Centre Facility

- (b) Hon. Cecil Clarke re: Youth Criminal Justice Act

Warden Boudreau noted that Councillors may wish to have residents in their districts sign the attached petition and forward it to the Department of Justice.

- (c) Hon. Richard Hurlburt re: Wind Energy

- (d) Hon. Mark Parent re: Amendments to Definitions Contained in the Nova Scotia Building Code Regulations

- (e) Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations re: Election Preparations

The Deputy Clerk indicated the information will be forwarded to the Returning Officer.

- (f) Atlantic Association of Community Business Development Corporations re: Member Corporation's Successes

- (g) Mayor Regis Labeaume re: Quebec City's 400th Anniversary Celebrations

Items Added to the Agenda

- (1) Deputy Warden Rankin re:

- (i) Waiting List for Nursing Home Beds

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor Johnson that a letter be written to the Hon. Chris d'Entremont, Minister of Health, requesting additional nursing home beds in order to assist the residents of Richmond County who are attempting to gain admission to nursing home facilities in our local communities. Motion carried.

- (ii) Deputy Warden Rankin re: Policy Advisory Board has not met yet

The Deputy Clerk indicated that staff are awaiting a response from the Province regarding a provincial representative on the Board.

- (iii) Deputy Warden Rankin re: Angelica is a noxious weed in the mainland of the province, yet in Cape Breton there are no controls in place.

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor Cotton that a letter be written to the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture requesting that the Department examine the issue of the noxious weed angelica, with an outlook to offering control solutions; and

further moved that the Nova Scotia Agricultural College be requested to examine the plant with the hopes of discovering a beneficial use for the plant. Motion carried.

(2) Warden Boudreau re: Letter from Marlene Usher (for information purposes).

Warden Boudreau indicated he had provided the correspondence, for information purposes, noting that he and Councillor Sampson had met with E.C.B.C. and they had indicated there was no application submitted for the St. Peter's Marina Project and therefore this project had not been stalled by E.C.B.C., and this was a case of miscommunication between E.C.B.C. and the St. Peter's Economic Development Organization.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

Mr. Brian Marchand commented on the matter of his water rate increase, and noted that he will request to make a presentation to Council.

Mr. Richard Burt commented on the cost of obtaining hard copies of Council minutes, and indicated he will forward a letter requesting answers regarding comments made about him at a Committee Meeting.

Mr. Maury McCrillis commented on the environmental assessment review of the Lake Uist Project.

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

There being no further business, Deputy Warden Rankin adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.