

RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

MAY 12, 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.

The Clerk took roll call of Councillors.

Items Added to the Agenda

Warden Boudreau indicated that Deputy Warden Rankin wished to add a discussion on the Port Hastings Rotary, and a reply from the government on the Lake Uist Project.

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

Review of Minutes: (a) March 10, 2008 (Regular Meeting)
(b) April 28, 2008 (Special Meeting)

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor Martell that the minutes of March 10, 2008 (Regular Meeting) and April 28, 2008 (Special Meeting) be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Presentations and/or Delegations:

(a) Development Isle Madame re: Semi-Annual Report

Councillor Martell declared a conflict of interest indicating he is an employee of Development Isle Madame, and he left his seat during the presentation.

Warden Boudreau welcomed Mr. Joel Bowen and Mr. Laurie Smith to the meeting.

Mr. Bowen and Mr. Smith presented their report, on behalf of Development Isle Madame (copy attached).

A question and answer period followed.

Moved by Councillor Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Council accept the presentation from Development Isle Madame; and further moved that once the requested budget and revised proposal is received, that their funding request be referred to the Committee on budget deliberations. Motion carried.

Warden Boudreau thanked Mr. Bowen and Mr. Smith for their presentation.

(b) St. F.X. Celtic Department re: Gathering of the Gaels, July 24-26, 2008

Warden Boudreau welcomed Ms. Catriona Parsons to the meeting.

Ms. Parsons presented her report, on behalf of the St. F.X. Celtic Department (copy attached).

A question and answer period followed.

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Council accept the presentation from St. F.X. Celtic Department, and refer the funding request to the Committee on budget deliberations. Motion carried.

Warden Boudreau thanked Ms. Parsons for her presentation.

(c) Richmond County Early Childhood Education Association re: Grant Request

Warden Boudreau welcomed Mrs. LeeAnne Marchand to the meeting.

Mrs. Marchand presented her report on behalf of the Richmond County Early Childhood Education Association (copy attached).

Ms. Laurie Sutor shared her story as a parent using the day care; and Mr. Stephen Anthony, Speech Language Pathologist, addressed Council regarding the special needs of children attending the day care.

A question and answer period followed.

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor Cotton that Council accept the presentation from the Richmond County Early Childhood Education Association, and refer their funding request to the Committee on budget deliberations. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor Martell that the Municipality of Richmond urge the Federal Government to institute immediately a national day care strategy to look after the needs and wants of the children of Canada, our next generations. Motion carried.

Warden Boudreau thanked Mrs. Marchand, Ms. Sutor and Mr. Anthony for their presentation.

(d) Richmond County Literacy Network re: Notable Achievements

Warden Boudreau welcomed Mrs. Millie Hatt to the meeting.

Mrs. Hatt presented her report on behalf of the Richmond County Literacy Network (copy attached).

A question and answer period followed.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Martell that Council accept the presentation from the Richmond County Literacy Network and refer their funding request to the Committee on budget deliberations. Motion carried.

Warden Boudreau thanked Mrs. Hatt for her presentation.

Second Reading Approval: to give Second Reading Approval to amend By-Law #56, Tax Exemption By-Law, to include the Lennox Passage Yacht Club (attached as Appendix "A")

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor Cotton that Municipal Council give Second Reading Approval to amend the Tax Exemption By-Law, By-Law #56, to include the Lennox Passage Yacht Club, attached as Appendix "A". Motion carried.

First Reading Approvals - Deputy Warden Rankin:

- (i) to give First Reading Approval to adopt the Repeals By-Law, attached as Appendix "B" (notice given April 28, 2008)

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor Martell that Municipal Council give First Reading Approval to adopt By-Law #57, Ratings By-Law Repeals By-Law, attached as Appendix "B". Motion carried.

- (ii) to give First Reading Approval to amend By-Law #52, attached as Appendix "C" (notice given April 28, 2008)

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor Boudreau that Municipal Council give First Reading Approval to amend By-Law #52, Sewer Service Charge By-Law, attached as Appendix "C". Motion carried.

Notice of Motion - Deputy Warden Rankin (April 28, 2008): to adopt the Major Capital Sewer Projects Policy, attached as Appendix "D"

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor Martell that the "Major Capital Sewer Projects Policy", attached as Appendix "D", be adopted as a policy of the Municipality of the County of Richmond. Motion carried.

The CAO indicated that Committee Reports had been omitted from the agenda.

Moved by Councillor Cotton, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Committee reports be added to the agenda. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

(a) Committee of the Whole

Deputy Warden Rankin presented the monthly report of the Committee of the Whole (copy attached).

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor Boudreau that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that an application be made to the Utility and Review Board for amended water rates and regulations, in accordance with the study prepared by G.A. Isenor Consulting Limited/W.H. Gates Utility Consultants Ltd., with a proposal that the first water rate increase would commence on January 1, 2009, and that the increases would be in accordance with Mr. Isenor's e-mail of April 9, 2008. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Rankin gave notice that he will introduce a motion at the next regular Council Meeting to adopt the "Publication of Council, Committee and Committee Reports on Municipal Website" Policy, attached as Appendix "A", as a policy of the Municipality of the County of Richmond.

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that staff provide a report on the authority and process available to Municipal Council to assume ownership of roads in subdivisions, wherein the subdivision approval was given on the basis of the applicant indicating that he would construct a private road, and further moved that staff provide the relevant legal, planning, technical and financial advice that would be required for Council to make a decision, with the request from the owner of Cape George Estates/Torus Country Lands Inc. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the report being prepared by staff in response to the letter of request received from the owners of Cape George Estates be provided to the May 26th Meeting of Committee of the Whole. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor Cotton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and the recommendation of the Deputy Clerk, and that Grant Thornton be retained to carry out the audit for the Municipality of Richmond for the year ending March 31, 2008. Motion carried.

Councillor Martell declared a conflict of interest indicating that his wife is employed by Grant Thornton, and he left his seat during discussion and voting of this item.

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the \$500 item for a meal to be hosted in each district in conjunction with a festival or festivals, be continued in the 2008/09 budget. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and of the Adhoc Recreation Committee and that Richmond Council support the establishment of a mountain bike park in Richmond County. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and of the Adhoc Recreation Committee and that Council direct the Recreation Department to establish a strategy to enhance sport fishing in Richmond County. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and of the Adhoc Recreation Committee and that staff be directed to prepare a policy that would provide funding to individual Councillors and staff on an annual basis, to help individuals participate in physical fitness activities. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor Cotton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the “Municipal Self Assessment” be accepted, as completed and provided by staff, and further moved that this self assessment be submitted to the Provincial Minister as required by the Province. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Rankin gave notice that he will introduce a motion at the next regular Council Meeting to adopt the “Delegation Appearing Before Municipal Council” Policy, attached as Appendix “B”, as a policy of the Municipality of the County of Richmond.

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

- \$1,200 to the MacKay Cemetery Society with funds to be taken from the Councillor’s District Fund - \$3,000 for District #7
- \$6,000 to the Arichat Recreation Commission with funds to be taken from the Municipal District \$17,000 Fund for District #1
- \$1,000 to the River Bourgeois Community Services Society Cenotaph Restoration Committee with funds to be taken from the Councillor’s District Activity Fund for District #7

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 written to the Minister of Transportation requesting immediate elimination of the two dangerous turns on the “Martinique Road” (by the Richmond County Transfer Station) and to completely re-surface with new asphalt all of Highway 206 from the Martinique intersection of Highway 320 in Richmond County to the Godfrey’s Lane Intersection of Highway 206 in Arichat Richmond County, Nova Scotia, and that allowances be made when re-paving and line painting for the creation of a cycling lane. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and give approval to the attached “Act Respecting Municipal Grants to the Royal Canadian Legion in Richmond County” attached as Appendix “C”, and further moved that the Provincial Legislature be requested to adopt the Act as soon as possible. Motion carried.

Warden Boudreau indicated that he will approach the MLA to move this Bill forward.

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor McNamara 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 Boudreau that Council accept the recommendation of the Planning Advisory Committee and that all existing AAC members be grandfathered until the policy takes effect, which will be in the year following the municipal election (the October following the municipal election – October, 2009).

Councillor McNamara withdrew her motion, with the permission of the seconder.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Johnson that the matter regarding AAC members be referred to the Committee of the Whole. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Boudreau that Council accept the recommendation of the Planning Advisory Committee and order a complete investigation of the dangerous and unsightly premises in Boudreauville and that immediate remediation of the issues on the property be initiated. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Deputy Warden Rankin that Council accept the recommendation of the Planning Advisory Committee and that Mr. Tommy Richard be given one month to rectify any potential fire hazards affecting the neighbors; and that the Municipality take the next steps of proper protocol, if Mr. Richard doesn’t comply.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Deputy Warden Rankin that the motion be amended to remove the word “fire” from the motion. Motion carried.

Councillor McNamara indicated that she would not bring forward the motion to approve the Terms of Reference, attached as Appendix “A” at this time.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Beaton that Council accept the recommendation of the Planning Advisory Committee and proceed with the process associated with carrying out the demolition of the Dangerous and Unsightly Premises of Alcide J. Sampson, D’Escousse. Motion carried.

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

Correspondence:

(a) Hon. Jamie Muir re: Strait Area Transit Project – Provincial Funding

Councillor Beaton declared a conflict of interest, indicating he is an employee of the Strait Area Transit Cooperative, and he left his seat during discussion of this item.

(b) Service Nova Scotia re: Evanston Valve Chamber Replacement

(c) Mr. Rodger Cuzner, MP/Hon. M. Scott re: Trunk 4

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor Beaton that a letter be written to the Minister of Transportation requesting information on when work is expected to be carried out in Richmond County. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor Beaton that Department of Transportation engineering staff be requested to appear at a future Council Meeting, to discuss road paving and road maintenance projects in Richmond County. Motion carried. (Ayes: Deputy Warden Rankin, Councillor Boudreau, Councillor Beaton, Councillor Martell, Councillor McNamara, Councillor Cotton, Councillor Johnson; Nays: Councillor Sampson).

(d) Hon. Chris d’Entremont re: Nursing Home Beds

(e) NDP Office re: Bill 37

(f) Eastern Regional Help Line re: 211 System

Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded by Councillor Cotton that a letter be written to the United Way of Halifax, requesting further information on how the 211 system in Nova Scotia will operate. Motion carried.

(g) St. Peter's and District Volunteer Fire Department re: 2008/09 Area Rate

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor McNamara that this item be referred to the Committee on budget deliberations. Motion carried.

(h) West Bay Road & District Volunteer Fire Department re: 2008/09 Area Rate

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Sampson that this item be referred to the Committee on budget deliberations. Motion carried.

(i) West Arichat & District Village Circle Society re: 2008/09 Area Rate

Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded by Councillor Boudreau that this item be referred to the Committee on budget deliberations. Motion carried.

(j) Hepatitis Outreach Society re: Proclamation of May as Hepatitis C Awareness Month

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor Boudreau that Richmond Municipal Council proclaim May, 2008 as Hepatitis C Awareness Month. Motion carried.

(k) Child Care Connection Nova Scotia re: Child Care Awareness Days

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Beaton that Richmond Municipal Council declare the month of June, 2008 as "Child Care Awareness Days". Motion carried.

(l) Rocky Bay Irish Club re: Thank you

(m) Village of St. Peter's re: Fire Protection/Request for Grant

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor Sampson that the Solicitor be requested to investigate the legalities of being able to utilize funds from the municipal general tax rate to pay the fire protection rates due to the water utility from the Village of St. Peter's. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Cotton that the meeting be permitted to go beyond 10:00 p.m. Motion carried

(n) Richmond County Literacy Network re: Request for Grant

(o) Cape Breton Fiddlers' Association re: Grant Request

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Boudreau that the grant request from the Cape Breton Fiddlers' Association be referred to the Recreation Department. Motion carried.

(p) NuStar Point Tupper Terminal re: Letter of Support for RCECEA Grant Request

Items Added to the Agenda

(1) Deputy Warden Rankin re:

(i) Reply from Government on Lake Uist Project

Deputy Warden Rankin expressed disappointment that no reply had been received from the correspondence sent two months ago regarding the addition to the terms of reference.

(ii) Port Hastings Rotary

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor Johnson that a letter be written to the Minister of Transportation requesting that improvements be carried out to the Canso Causeway Rotary as soon as possible, in order to avoid any further accidents. Motion carried.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

Mrs. Millie Hatt made a suggestion to keep a yearly calendar regarding proclamations.

Miss Gloria Hill noted that Telile would advertise for free, any months that Municipal Council proclaim.

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

There being no further business, Warden Boudreau adjourned the meeting at 10:15 p.m.