

RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

APRIL 15, 2009

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 CAO took roll call of Councillors.

Items Added to the Agenda

Warden Boudreau indicated Councillor McNamara wished to add congratulations to a Sports Team in Richmond County; Councillor Sampson wished to add Access Nova Scotia Service Delivery; and he wished to add the naming of working groups regarding the use of municipal vehicles and consultant study on Advocacy Office Model and "In-Camera" negotiations.

Warden Boudreau requested and received the unanimous consent to add the creation of an Adhoc Committee to assist the working group with regards to planning events for the NHL training camp; the creation of an Audit Committee and a personnel matter, to be discussed "In-Camera".

Moved by Councillor Sampson, **seconded** by Deputy Warden Johnson that the agenda be accepted, with the items added. Motion carried.

Review of Minutes: March 9, 2009

Moved by Councillor McNamara, **seconded** by Councillor Boucher that the minutes of March 9, 2009 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

First Reading Approval: to amend By-Law #56, Tax Exemption By-Law, to include the parcel of land in River Bourgeois, formally owned by the Nova Scotia Nature Trust (Account # 01459724) and to change the name on the account numbers 9026754 and 3317951 to Nova Scotia Nature Trust from the Mowatt Environmental Institute; and also to include the parcels of land in Arichat owned by the Arichat Boat Club (Accounts #3386325; #7935854 and #1644688), attached as Appendix "A"

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, **seconded** by Councillor David that Municipal Council give First Reading Approval to amend By-Law #56, Tax Exemption By-Law, to include the parcel of land in River Bourgeois, formally owned by the Nova Scotia Nature Trust (Account # 01459724) and to change the name on the account numbers 9026754 and 3317951 to Nova Scotia Nature Trust from the Mowatt Environmental Institute; and also to include the parcels of land in Arichat owned by the Arichat Boat Club (Accounts #3386325; #7935854 and #1644688), attached as Appendix “A”. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

(a) Committee of the Whole

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

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, **seconded** by Councillor Marchand that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that staff be authorized to submit an application to the Province under the Provincial Capital Assistance Program (PCAP) for funding of the Louisdale/Evanston water treatment plant pre-design study. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, **seconded** by Councillor Boucher that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the list of accounts that have been deleted by the assessment services in the amount of \$10,095.06 be written off, because these accounts are no longer valid and are uncollectible. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, **seconded** by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Municipality exercise due diligence and enter into a lease agreement with Seaside Wireless Communications Inc., conditional on advice being provided from the Eastern District Planning Commission and the Solicitor, with a report to be provided to Council. Motion carried.

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

- \$5,000 to the D’Escousse Civic Improvement, with funding to be taken from the Municipal District \$17,000 Fund, District #3;
- \$1,000 to the Sacred Heart Parish Ladies Group, with funding to be taken from the Councillors’ District Activity - \$3,000 Fund, District #10;
- \$1,000 to the Fourchu Development Association, with funding to be taken from the Councillors’ District Activity - \$3,000 Fund, District #10;

- \$5,741.16 to the Fourchu Development Association, with funding to be taken from the Municipal District \$17,000 Fund, District #10.

Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, **seconded** by Councillor Martell that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and place the District #4 Wastewater Management Project on the Richmond County capital project priority list. Motion carried.

It was the consensus of Council that the District #4 Wastewater Management Project be placed on the Richmond County capital project priority list, without stating priority, and without replacing any projects already listed on the priority list.

Deputy Warden Johnson gave notice that she will introduce a motion at the next regular Council Meeting to amend the “Grants to Charitable and not for Profit Organizations” Policy (attached as Appendix “A”); the “Municipal District Fund - \$17,000” Policy (attached as Appendix “B”); and the “Municipal District Activity Fund - \$3,000” Policy (attached as Appendix “C”)

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

\$1,000.00 to the Basin River Inhabitants Historical Society
\$1,000.00 to the Basin River Inhabitants Historical Society
\$3,000.00 to the Isle Madame Historical Society
\$5,000.00 to the Leaside Transition House
\$1,000.00 to the MacAskill House Museum Society
\$1,000.00 to the Oceanview Wildlife Museum
\$1,000.00 to the Point Tupper Heritage Association
\$17,000.00 to the Regional Occupational Centre Society
\$20,000.00 to the Richmond County Early Childhood Education Association
\$20,000.00 to the Richmond County Literacy Network
\$2,400.00 to the Société Petit De Grat Beautification Society
\$7,150.00 to the St. Louis Parish Council
\$4,639.98 to the Strait Richmond Health Care Foundation
\$84,189.98

Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, **seconded** by Councillor Boucher that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the request from the Isle Madame ATV Riders Association, in the amount of \$5,000 and Development Isle Madame, in the amount of \$2,000 be sent to the Department of Tourism, Culture & Recreation to be funded via the Trails budget. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, **seconded** by Councillor Marchand that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that Fire Chief Johannes Sturm be appointed as an alternate to serve on the Fire Service Association of Nova Scotia. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, **seconded** by Councillor Boucher that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that;

WHEREAS the Municipality of Richmond County is in general agreement with the principles advanced by the Bras D'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve Association but could not support the listing as a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve should it fetter the jurisdictional discretion of the Province of Nova Scotia or the Municipality of Richmond County;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the application for inclusion of the Bras D'Or Lake watershed as a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve be withheld for a period of no less than six (6) months after which it will be reconsidered by Council. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, **seconded** by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that correspondence be sent to Mr. Billy Joe MacLean, the Mayor of Port Hawkesbury, indicating that Warden Boudreau, Councillor McNamara, the CAO, and the CFO will meet with the Town of Port Hawkesbury to discuss the shared fire services, and the request put forth. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, **seconded** by Councillor MacNeil that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that;

WHEREAS the St. Peter's, Samsonville & Area Water Utility was established under the Public Utilities Act, R.S.N.S 1989, c.380;

AND WHEREAS the said St. Peter's, Samsonville & Area Water Utility has resolved to borrow by the issue and sale of debentures the sum of Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000) for the purpose of water systems;

AND WHEREAS the said St. Peter's, Samsonville & Area Water Utility has requested the Municipality of the County of Richmond to guarantee the principal and interest of the said debentures when sold, pursuant to Section 89 of the Municipal Government Act;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that subject to the approval of the Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, the Municipality do guarantee the principal and interest of debentures of the St. Peter's, Samsonville & Area Water Utility, in the amount not to exceed Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000) when issued and sold;

AND FURTHER that the Warden and the Clerk be authorized to do all things and execute all documents necessary to give effect to this resolution. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, **seconded** by Councillor Boucher that the motion be amended to replace the word “Clerk” by the word “CAO”. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, **seconded** by Councillor Sampson that Council authorize staff to proceed with the requirements necessary in order to sell a municipal property in L’Ardoise, as long as the group covers the migration and legal fees, and further moved that a sale price be decided upon the outcome of the public hearing. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, **seconded** by Councillor Martell that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole, and that;

WHEREAS the Province of Nova Scotia no longer permits the location of signage such as the “Drive Carefully We Love Our Children” signs on its’ highway right-of-way;

AND WHEREAS it is of utmost importance to promote prudent operation of motor vehicles;

AND WHEREAS it is of increased importance to do so in areas where children may be present;

AND WHEREAS reasonable people will act responsibly when reminded of the risk of improper behavior;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that municipal government be permitted to cause to be erected signage that promotes prudent and responsible operation of motorized vehicles on streets, roads and highways;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such signage be permitted to be erected on highway right-of-ways where they do not present a hazard. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, **seconded** by Councillor McNamara that the monthly report of the Committee of the Whole be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

(a) Hon. Bill Dooks, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Heritage re: Cape Breton Island Marketing Levy Act

For information purposes.

(b) Department of Environment re: Nova Scotia’s Climate Change Action Plan

For information purposes.

- (c) Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency re: Evaluation of ACOA's Community Development Activities Innovative Communities Fund (ICF) and Business Development Program (BDP)

Warden Boudreau noted that he had participated in two interviews with the private firm who had been hired to do the review, and also participated in the mandate review with Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation.

- (d) St. Anne Centre re: Board Representation

Moved by Councillor Boucher, **seconded** by Councillor Marchand that Councillor Martell be re-appointed to continue to serve as the Council representative on the Board of the St. Anne Community and Nursing Care Centre. Motion carried.

- (e) West Bay Road & District Volunteer Fire Department re: Fire Protection Rate

Councillor McNamara indicated she was supportive of accepting the rate requested, and to continue applying that rate.

- (f) Mrs. Marilyn MacKay re: Poor Air Quality

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, **seconded** by Councillor McNamara that the CAO be authorized to continue his investigation regarding the matter of wood burning units, and that he report further to Committee of the Whole, with his recommendation; and further moved that correspondence be sent to Mrs. Marilyn MacKay, indicating that the matter is being dealt with. Motion carried.

- (g) Municipality of the District of Barrington re: 2009 Declared as "Year of the Lobster"

Moved by Councillor Beaton, **seconded** by Councillor David that correspondence be sent to MP Gerald Keddy, with a copy to Mr. Rodger Cuzner, MP, expressing the support of Richmond Municipal Council for the Municipality of Barrington's declaration of 2009 as the "Year of the Lobster" in their municipality. Motion carried.

- (h) Nova Scotia North American Occupational Safety and Health Steering Committee re: May 3-9, 2009 Designated as "North American Occupational Safety and Health (NAOSH) Week"

Moved by Councillor Boucher, **seconded** by Councillor McNamara that Richmond Municipal Council proclaim May 3-9, 2009 as "North American Occupational Safety and Health Week" in Richmond County. Motion carried.

Items Added to the Agenda

(1) Councillor McNamara re: Congratulations to a Sports Team in Richmond County

Moved by Councillor McNamara, **seconded** by Councillor MacNeil that a letter of congratulations be sent to the Strait-Richmond Atom AA team, congratulating them on their winning the provincial title, and also winning the “fair play” banner. Motion carried.

(2) Councillor Sampson re: Access Nova Scotia – Service Delivery

Moved by Councillor Sampson, **seconded** by Councillor Marchand that;

WHEREAS the Access Nova Scotia office in Port Hawkesbury provides a variety of government related services to the residents of the Strait Area, such as driver license renewal, vehicle renewal and marriage licenses;

AND WHEREAS there appears to be a chronic shortage of staff at the Port Hawkesbury office which has led to lengthy delays and frustration for area residents;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Richmond Municipal Council write to the Hon. Richard Hurlburt, Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, calling for increased staff at the Port Hawkesbury Access Nova Scotia site and establish reasonable customer wait times;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this correspondence be sent to Richmond MLA Michel P. Samson. Motion carried.

(3) Warden Boudreau re:

(i) Naming of Working Group re: Use of Municipal Vehicles

Moved by Councillor David, **seconded** by Councillor Marchand that an Adhoc working group to look at the use of municipal vehicles be established to comprise of Deputy Warden Johnson as Chair; Councillor Boucher, Councillor David and Councillor Marchand, the CAO, the Municipal Engineer, and further moved that staff representatives be brought on board, as required. Motion carried.

(ii) Naming of Working Group re: Consultant Study on Advocacy Office Model

Moved by Councillor Sampson, **seconded** by Councillor Boucher that a working group to look at the consultant study on advocacy office model be established to comprise of Councillor Martell as Chair; Councillor MacNeil, Councillor David and Deputy Warden Johnson; and further moved that staff bring representatives, as required. Motion carried.

(iii) Creation of an Adhoc Committee to Assist the Working Group re: Planning Events for the NHL Training Camp

Moved by Councillor Boucher, **seconded** by Councillor Martell that an Adhoc Committee be established to assist the working group regarding planning events for the NHL training camp, comprising of Councillor David as Chair, Deputy Warden Johnson and Councillor Boucher, the CAO and the Director of Tourism, Culture & Recreation. Motion carried.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

There were no questions.

Moved by Councillor Martell, **seconded** by Councillor Boucher that the meeting move to “In-Camera” session at 7:50 p.m.

Municipal Council me “In-Camera” to discuss legal and personnel matters.

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, **seconded** by Deputy Warden Johnson that the meeting revert to regular session. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor McNeil, **seconded** by Councillor David that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

There being no further business, Warden Boudreau adjourned the “In-Camera” Meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Warden Boudreau reconvened the regular meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Moved by Councillor David, **seconded** by Councillor McNamara that all Municipal Councillors be members of the Audit Committee. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, **seconded** by Councillor David that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

There being no further business, Warden Boudreau adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

MINUTES RECORDED BY:

COUNCIL RECORDER:

CHAIRPERSON

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER