

RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
FIRST ANNUAL SESSION OF THE 47TH COUNCIL

JUNE 22, 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 C.A.O. took roll call of Councillors.

Items Added to the Agenda

Warden Boudreau indicated that the CAO wished to add the Isle Madame Health and Wellness Centre funding request; and asked if any Councillors wished to add items to the agenda.

Councillor MacNeil requested and received unanimous consent to add the asset transfer agreement for the St. Peter's-Samsonville water project.

Deputy Warden Johnson requested and received unanimous consent to add a grant request from the Calvin Presbyterian Church for funding from the Municipal District \$17,000 Fund.

The CAO requested and received unanimous consent to add a lease agreement with Seaside Communication, and also a report regarding a request for sewer hook-ups (to be reviewed "In-Camera").

Warden Boudreau indicated the Personnel Committee will be giving a report, which will be reviewed "In-Camera".

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

Review of Minutes: May 11, 2009

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the minutes of May 11, 2009 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Warden Boudreau indicated that due to the length of the agenda, he will request a motion of postponement to tomorrow night, if Municipal Council is unable to complete the agenda tonight.

Presentations and/or Delegations:

- (a) Presentations to Mrs. Norma Boudreau, Mr. Ralph Roberts and Mr. George Kehoe

Councillor Victor David presented Mrs. Norma Boudreau with special recognition for her recent appointment as “President of the Funeral Service Association of Canada”.

Warden Boudreau presented Mr. Ralph Roberts with special recognition on his recent “Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation Award”.

Councillor Beaton presented Mr. George Kehoe with special recognition on being named “School Board Member of the Year” by the Nova Scotia School Board Association.

- (b) Mr. Darrin McLean/Mr. Karl Grenke re: Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP)

Warden Boudreau welcomed Mr. McLean and Mr. Grenke to the meeting.

Mr. McLean and Mr. Grenke presented a slide presentation (copy attached) and summarized the draft outline for the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan.

A question and answer period followed.

Warden Boudreau thanked Mr. McLean and Mr. Grenke for their presentation.

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 McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Municipality of the County of Richmond go on record as supporting the initiative of the Federation of Scottish Clans in Nova Scotia to have the federal government declare April 6th annually as “Tartan Day” and the Maple Leaf Tartan recognized as Canada’s “National Tartan”. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, seconded by Councillor Boucher that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that Mr. Glenn Bennett (community representative) and Mr. Robert Wambolt (business representative) be re-appointed to serve another three year term; and further moved that Councillor Victor David (Council representative) be appointed for a three year term, to replace Warden John Boudreau on the Strait-Highlands Regional Development Agency Board. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, seconded by Councillor Boucher that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that Mr. Fred Hussey be re-appointed for a further three year term as the municipal representative on the Strait of Canso Superport Corporation Board of Directors. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, seconded by Councillor Boucher that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that Mr. Rudolph Boudreau be re-appointed as the Richmond representative on the Board of the Cape Breton Island Housing Authority. Motion carried (One nay – Councillor David).

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, seconded by Councillor Martell that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and approve the following grant requests:

- \$2,775 to the Sacred Heart Parish, Municipal District \$17,000 Fund, District #10;
- \$1,000 to Potlotek Education Office, Councillors' District Activity - \$3,000 Fund - District #10;
- \$200 to the Village on the Canal Association, Councillors' District Activity - \$3,000 Fund - District #8
- \$8,000 to La Picasse, Centre Communautaire Culturel, Municipal District \$17,000 Fund – District #2;
- \$1,000 to St. Hyacinth's CWL, Councillors' District Activity - \$3,000 Fund, District #3;
- \$15,000 to St. Anne Community and Nursing Care Centre – Municipal District \$17,000 Fund, (Multiple Districts);
- \$5,000 to D'Escousse Civic Improvement Society – Municipal District \$17,000 Fund for District #3;
- \$2,915.25 to Janvrin's Island Community Centre Association – Municipal District \$17,000 Fund for District #4;
- \$800 to Strait Health Care Foundation – Municipal District \$17,000 Fund for District #5;
- \$2,500 to Royal Canadian Legion, Branch #47 – Municipal District \$17,000 Fund for District #7.

Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that a full time Administrative Assistant position be created. 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 Tourism Partnership Coordinator position become a permanent position. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, seconded by Councillor Martell that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that staff be instructed to move forward with the funding in the amount of \$3,000 to Development Isle Madame for the hiring of two summer students for the Isle Madame Composting and Recycling Education Project, as a county wide project. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, seconded by Councillor Boucher that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that a letter be written to the Strait Area Mutual Aid Association, with a copy to the Minister of Transportation, expressing Municipal Council's support in their initiative regarding their correspondence to the Minister of Transportation requesting improvements to the Port Hastings Rotary. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and THAT WHEREAS addressing the food security needs of children, youth and families today is fundamental to the future of Richmond County;

WHEREAS the need for comprehensive, coordinated emergency food programs place upon our community a critical responsibility;

WHEREAS it is appropriate that a day should be set apart each year for the direction of our thoughts towards the health and well-being of hungry Canadians;

WHEREAS FEED NOVA SCOTIA, through its unique approach to providing emergency food supplies, is effectively caring for the needs of hungry children, youth and families in our community;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Richmond Municipal Council do hereby proclaim June 2, 2009 as "National Hunger Awareness Day" in Richmond County, and urge our citizens and all agencies and organizations interested in meeting the needs of hungry people to unite on that day in the observance of such exercises as will acquaint the people of Richmond County, with the fundamental necessity to support the work of food banks in meeting the food security needs of hungry children and youth and families. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, seconded by Councillor Marchand that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the municipal portion for the Louisdale/Evanston/Whiteside water treatment plant pre-design be funded out of the general revenue and charged against the project should the project go to construction. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, seconded by Councillor Boucher that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that a Council/CAO Consultation Group on Personnel Matters be formed and that Councillors that are interested in serving on this Committee notify the Warden by e-mail. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, seconded by Councillor David that Council accept the recommendation of the Chief Financial Officer and of the Committee of the Whole and that the following area rates be approved for the 2009/10 fiscal year:

- St. Peter's Volunteer Fire Department .10¢
- West Bay Road and District Volunteer Fire Department .10¢
- L'Ardoise Volunteer Fire Department .16¢
- Grand River Volunteer Fire Department .15¢
- Loch Lomond Volunteer Fire Department .12¢
- Louisdale & District Volunteer Fire Department .10¢
- Framboise-Fourchu Volunteer Fire Department .15¢
- Isle Madame Volunteer Fire Department .11¢
- District #10 Volunteer Fire Department .15¢
- Louisdale Sidewalks .10¢
- District #2 .04¢
- District #4 .05¢
- St. Peter's Village Commission – collect whatever rate they establish, conditional on them providing their rate to the Municipality by July 31, 2009.

Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and send a letter to the new NDP Government under the leadership of Mr. Darrell Dexter, congratulating them on their victory and also send letters to all of the four local candidates congratulating them on their campaign efforts, and in particular MLA Michel Samson, on his election win. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, seconded by Councillor Boucher that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and approve and accept the terms of settlement negotiated on May 20, 2009, concluding the subdivision development contract between the Municipality and HJS Consultants and further moved that municipal staff be

instructed to take such actions and execute such documents as may be necessary to conclude the matter on the terms so approved. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that Council fund \$5,000 for fireworks to add to the \$500 per Councillor that will be committed and that Council review this matter prior to next year's budget approval. Motion carried.

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

(b) Audit Committee

Warden Boudreau presented the report of the Audit Committee (copy attached).

Moved by Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor David that Council accept the recommendation of the Audit Committee and that the audit report and financial statements for the Municipality for the year ending March 31, 2009 be accepted as presented by the Auditors and the Chief Financial Officer. Motion carried.

Moved by Warden Boudreau, seconded by Deputy Warden Johnson that the report of the Audit Committee be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

(c) Chief Administrative Officer re: Annual Report

The CAO presented his annual report, thanking Warden Boudreau, Municipal Councillors, staff and the residents of Richmond County for the warm welcome extended to him; and also for the great partnership with the Warden and Council.

The CAO indicated he was very pleased to see Directors and staff in attendance, which is a great sign of improved relationships between Council and staff.

The CAO outlined a few of the major changes that took place since his employ (i.e. change in the budgeting process; the establishment of teams between Council and staff; Council/staff will continue to improve relationships with the business community; the creation of a working group between Council/CAO/staff on succession planning, which is an opportunity for all staff to advance and receive training which will continue to create a very motivated staff).

Warden Boudreau thanked Mr. Thibault for his report.

(d) Chief Financial Officer re: Annual Report

Mr. MacDonald presented his annual report for the year ending March 31, 2009, noting the significant change in this year's budgeting process. He indicated that the Municipality had another successful year from a financial perspective, with a surplus of \$58,348 and also a surplus of \$20,186 in our water utility. He noted the Municipality had one of the lowest tax rates in the province.

Warden Boudreau thanked Mr. MacDonald for his report.

Moved by Councillor David, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the annual reports of the Chief Administrative Officer and the Chief Financial Officer be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

(e) Mr. John Bain, Director, Eastern District Planning Commission re: 2008-2009 Annual Report and Financial Statements/2009-2010 Budget

Warden Boudreau welcomed Mr. John Bain to the meeting.

Mr. Bain presented his 2008-2009 annual report and financial statements, and also presented his 2009-2010 budget.

A question and answer period followed.

Mr. Bain thanked Municipal Council for the opportunity to appear before Municipal Council to present his annual report.

Warden Boudreau thanked Mr. Bain for attending the meeting.

Moved by Councillor David, seconded by Councillor Martell that the 2008-2009 annual report and financial statements and the 2009-2010 budget of the Director of the Eastern District Planning Commission be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

(f) Other

Warden Boudreau indicated that he wished to provide his remarks at this time.

Warden Boudreau highlighted some of the tremendous changes that took place in the past year. He personally thanked Municipal Councillors for their work, ethical and moral commitments to the citizens of Richmond County. Warden Boudreau also highlighted the St. Peter's-Samsonville water project, which was a major project undertaken; the ICSP process, the Arichat lift stations and the Evanston sewage treatment plant projects, which are two long standing projects being taken off the capital priority list; new projects being proposed for D'Escousse, West Arichat and Louisdale and succession planning. He also noted that he had attended the UARB hearing today regarding New Page/NSP Biogen Project.

Warden Boudreau thanked the Solicitor and Deputy Warden Johnson and for their tremendous work and assistance during the past year.

Annual Appointments:

(a) Signing Officers

Moved by Councillor David, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Municipal Council appoint the Chief Administrative Officer, the Chief Financial Officer and the Warden as Signing Officers for the Municipality, with the Deputy Warden serving as an alternate. Motion carried.

Warden Boudreau indicated that appointments to the following Committees had only taken place in November, and asked all Committee Members if they wished to remain on the Committees that they currently sit on.

(b) Representative - Eastern Counties Regional Library Board

Deputy Warden indicated she wished to remain as the Council representative on the Eastern Counties Regional Library Board.

(c) Eastern District Planning Commission (2 Councillors)

Councillor McNamara and Councillor David indicated they wished to remain as the Council representatives on the Board of the Eastern District Planning Commission.

(d) Representative – Strait Regional Airport Committee

Councillor Beaton indicated he wished to remain as the Council representative on the Strait Regional Airport Committee.

(e) Planning Advisory Committee (5 Councillors)

Deputy Warden Johnson, Councillor McNamara, Councillor MacNeil, Councillor Marchand and Councillor Boucher indicated they wished to remain as the Council members on the Planning Advisory Committee.

(f) Richmond/Port Hawkesbury Joint Development Commission
(Warden plus 2 Councillors)

Warden Boudreau indicated that it is mandatory for the Warden to sit on this Committee, and both Councillor McNamara and Councillor Beaton indicated they wished to remain as the Council representatives on the Richmond/Port Hawkesbury Joint Development Commission.

Moved by Councillor David, seconded by Councillor Boucher that Council members be appointed to the above noted Committees, as follows:

Eastern Counties Regional Library Board - Deputy Warden Gail Johnson

Eastern District Planning Commission - Councillor Shirley McNamara
Councillor Victor David

Strait Regional Airport Committee - Councillor Malcolm Beaton

Planning Advisory Committee - Councillor Shirley McNamara
Deputy Warden Gail Johnson
Councillor Steve MacNeil
Councillor Brian Marchand
Councillor Gilbert Boucher

Richmond/Port Hawkesbury Joint Development Commission - Warden John Boudreau
Councillor Shirley McNamara
Councillor Malcolm Beaton

Motion carried.

Correspondence:

(a) Emergency Management Office re: Emergency Management Office – Municipal Staff Evaluation

For information purposes.

(b) Hon. Richard Hurlburt re: Port Hawkesbury Access Nova Scotia Centre

For information purposes.

(c) Mr. Michel Samson, MLA re: Provincial Capital Assistance Program Funding, Louisdale, Evanston & Whiteside Water Treatment Plant

For information purposes.

(d) Mr. Peter Julian, MP re: Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers

For information purposes.

(e) Councillor Sampson re: Request for Road Name Change

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Boucher that Municipal Council give approval to the road name change from “5093 Road” to “Puddle Duck Lane” (“Foggy Hollow”, second choice; “Ocean View”, third choice) in District #9, if it meets policy approval and receives the approval of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal and the Eastern District Planning Commission. Motion carried.

(f) Island Community Justice Society re: Request for Volunteer for Board of Directors

Warden Boudreau requested that any Councillor or staff interested in serving on the Board of Directors of the Island Community Justice Society submit their name to him.

(g) Nova Scotia Health Promotion and Protection re: Level 6 H1N1 (Human Swine Influenza) Pandemic

Councillor MacNeil indicated that the Richmond Villa had taken measures regarding the pandemic plan.

Warden Boudreau indicated that St. Anne’s Centre also had a plan in place.

(h) Hon. Richard Hurlburt re: Thank You

For information purposes.

(i) Mr. Stephen MacNeil re: Thank You

For information purposes.

(j) U.N.S.M. re: 2009 UNSM @live Program – Appointment of a Wellness Champion

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor David that the C.A.O. be authorized to appoint a staff member to serve as a Wellness Champion on the 2009 UNSM @live Program. Motion carried.

(k) Tracy Randall re: Grant Requests:

- Arichat Community Development Association – Councillors’ District Activity Fund \$3,000, District #1 (\$1,000);
- Festival Acadien de Petit De Grat – Councillors’ District Activity Fund \$3,000, District #2 (\$250);
- Lennox Passage Yacht Club – Councillors’ District Activity Fund \$3,000, District #3 (\$1,800);
- South Mountain Arm of Gold Community Association – Municipal District

\$17,000 Fund, Districts #5, 7 & 8 (\$15,000);

Councillors MacNeil and Boucher indicated they had an issue with the South Mountain Arm of Gold Community Association grant request, and Warden Boudreau indicated he would remove the request for funding from that organization at this time, and Councillors McNamara, MacNeil and Boucher can move forward with the request tomorrow night.

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor David that the following grant requests be approved:

- \$1,000 to the Arichat Community Development Association – Councillors’ District Activity Fund \$3,000, District #1;
- \$250 to Festival Acadien de Petit De Grat – Councillors’ District Activity Fund \$3,000, District #2;
- \$1,800 to Lennox Passage Yacht Club – Councillors’ District Activity Fund \$3,000, District #3.

Motion carried.

Items Added to the Agenda

(1) CAO re: Isle Madame Health and Wellness Centre Funding Request

Moved by Councillor David, seconded by Councillor Beaton that Municipal Council approve funding of one-third, to a maximum of \$15,000, to be taken from general revenue, for the Isle Madame Health and Wellness Centre; and further moved that our Physical Activity Coordinator work directly with that group as a liaison person. Motion carried.

Warden Boudreau indicated he was going to recommend to the group that the name of the Centre be changed from Isle Madame Health and Wellness Centre to Richmond County Health and Wellness Centre.

(2) CAO re: Seaside Communications Proposed Lease Agreement

Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded by Councillor Beaton that the C.A.O. be given authority to move forward with the request from Seaside Communications for a lease agreement and execute the necessary documents. Motion carried.

(3) Councillor MacNeil re: Asset Transfer Agreement

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor David that the C.A.O. and Warden be given authority to complete the agreement between the Municipality and the St. Peter’s Water Utility, once the Solicitor confirms that everything is satisfactory. Motion carried.

(4) Deputy Warden Johnson re: Calvin Presbyterian Church Grant Request

Moved by Deputy Warden Johnson, seconded by Councillor McNamara that a grant in the amount of \$2,192.20 be approved for the Calvin Presbyterian Church, with funding to be taken from the Municipal District \$17,000 Fund for District #10. Motion carried.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

There were no questions.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the Annual Council Session be postponed to 7:30 p.m., June 23, 2009, to review the “In-Camera” items. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor David, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the meeting be adjourned at 9:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Warden Boudreau reconvened the Council Meeting at 7:40 p.m., June 23, 2009.

Moved by Councillor David, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that the meeting move to “In-Camera” session at 7:40 p.m.

The “In-Camera” Meeting discussed a prior sewer commitment and a personnel report.

Moved by Councillor David, seconded by Deputy Warden Johnson that the meeting move to regular session at 9:20 p.m.

Moved by Councillor David, seconded by Councillor Marchand that staff correspond with Mr. Bobby Samson, advising him that Municipal Council is committed to moving forward with the commitment previously made regarding the provision of sewer hook-ups. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor David that a grant in the amount of \$10,500 be approved for the South Mountain Arm of Gold Community Association as follows:

- \$5,000 from the Municipal District \$17,000 Fund, District #5
- \$3,000 from the Municipal District \$17,000 Fund, District #7
- \$2,500 from the Municipal District \$17,000 Fund, District #8

Motion carried.

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

There being no further business, Warden Boudreau adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m.