

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

FEBRUARY 23, 2009

Location: Council Chambers, Municipal Office

Deputy Warden Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### Items Added to the Agenda

Deputy Warden Johnson indicated that the Chief Financial Officer wished to add the computer purchase program for Councillors and staff.

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

Review of Minutes: (a) February 2, 2009 (Regular Committee of the Whole Meeting)  
(b) February 2, 2009 (“In-Camera” Committee of the Whole Meeting)  
(c) February 9, 2009 (“In-Camera” Council Meeting)

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that the minutes of February 2, 2009 (Regular Committee of the Whole Meeting); February 2, 2009 (“In-Camera” Committee of the Whole Meeting); and February 9, 2009 (“In-Camera” Council Meeting) be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

### Staff Reports:

- (a) Director of Public Works re: Report on Solid Waste Education/Enforcement and Paul Parry

Deputy Warden Johnson welcomed Mr. Darrin McLean, Mr. Paul Parry and Mr. Warren Jeffrey to the meeting.

Mr. McLean presented a slide presentation (copy attached), providing an overview of the Richmond Solid Waste Management Program.

Mr. McLean indicated the following:

- the solid waste management program was developed and implemented to meet

- provincial regulations which ban the disposal of recyclable and compostable material from burial at the landfill, and to comply with provincial regulations;
- the Municipality provides weekly curbside collection of waste and recyclables for all properties fronting public roads or private roads that have been incorporated into collection routes;
  - the Municipality also supports a program encouraging the use of backyard composters;
  - the Municipality was the first municipality in the Province of Nova Scotia in the summer of 2003, to pass a By-Law that requires that waste placed at the curbside for municipal collection has to be placed within a clear, transparent bag; and since that time, more than 30 municipalities in the province have adopted a clear bag program;
  - a full time staff person was hired and deployed in the spring of 2005 to carry out curbside inspection of waste and education and provide assistance with the use of backyard composters, and also assist with community cleanups;
  - the Municipality was awarded the RRFB Mobius Award in the summer of 2008, for significant achievement in waste diversion;
  - Richmond had the highest rate of diversion of waste in the province at 51%, based on tonnages disposed in the fiscal year 2006/2007;
  - the Municipality operates the cleanest, most organized waste management facility in the province, and the facility receives and processes virtually all waste that is normally generated by Richmond residents;
  - there is no excuse for illegal dumping;
  - the Richmond Solid Waste By-Law Enforcement Officer has been responding to reports of illegal dumping and open burning of solid waste; and noted that this work is carried out in accordance with the Municipality's By-Law Enforcement Policy adopted by Municipal Council in November, 2007, which lays out the "rules of engagement" for conduct of the By-Law Enforcement Officer and involves use of various means of pursuing suspected violators including verbal warnings, written notices, payment in lieu of prosecution notices and summary offence tickets issued at the discretion of the By-Law Enforcement Officer;
  - Issuing a summary offence ticket by the By-Law Enforcement Officer requires consultation with the responsible Department Head (Director of Public Works) or the CAO;
  - the By-Law Enforcement Officer has been keeping detailed records of the location, types and quantity of waste placed at illicit dumpsites in Richmond, for future reference and monitoring;
  - he provided maps showing the locations of the illegal dumpsites in 2007 and 2008;
  - Richmond will receive a total of approximately \$230,000 in revenues from the RRFPP for solid waste education/enforcement efforts and other solid waste revenues this fiscal year; noting that all these revenues will go towards offsetting solid waste management costs, including education/enforcement staff salaries;
  - the diversion rate for Richmond is sliding mainly due to amounts of bulky waste disposed and waste generated by institutional, commercial and industrial (ICI) units;
  - the following are some of the proposed education initiatives for 2009:
    - compliance certificates for small/medium size business audits (Paul Parry);

- continue with inspections of residential waste at the curbside and use of “well done” tags for compliant waste (Paul Parry);
- “final notice” tags on residential bags/collaboration with By-Law Enforcement Officer (Paul Parry/Warren Jeffrey);
- School classroom visits and lectures (Paul Parry)
- the following are some of the proposed By-Law enforcement activity for 2009:
  - continue illegal dumping patrols and clean-up with the intent of pressing charges against illegal dumpers, if appropriate (Warren Jeffrey);
  - continue to respond to complaints of illegal dumping, open burning and other serious By-Law offences with the intent of pressing charges against a violator, if appropriate (Warren Jeffrey);
  - issue written notices for chronic violations of requirements for placing waste at the curbside (Warren Jeffrey/Paul Parry);
  - media bulletin or mail-out regarding backyard burning of solid waste with contact information to report violations and issue complaints (Warren Jeffrey/Paul Parry);
- Richmond Municipal Council has supported the initiatives of municipal staff in the area of education/enforcement for the Municipality’s solid waste management program; and as a result, the Municipality now has one of the best solid waste programs in Nova Scotia; and he requested continued support of these education/enforcement initiatives.

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- there have been no charges laid since the program started, however written notices have been issued regarding illegal dumping;
- there are still illegal dumpsites that exist on the Port Malcolm Road and other areas in Richmond, that are not shown on the map;
- there are approximately 16 illegal dumpsites throughout Richmond County;
- a greater amount of success has been seen with general compliance during the past four years;
- it is very gratifying to see all the areas that have done so well, with still a bit of work remaining;
- there has been great success with composting, and there has been an increase in the number of backyard composters sold, with some residents having obtained a second or third compost bin;
- the fee of \$20 for a composter includes the delivery and set up by Mr. Parry;
- composters can also be purchased at the landfill;
- Mr. Parry is a good resource person, with education still required, and the key to success is follow-up;
- Councillors questioned why neighboring units are not forced to comply with provincial regulations
- Councillors commended staff and the Solid Waste By-Law Committee for their work;
- there have been an increase in the number of backyard composters sold;
- it is important to ensure that good evidence is obtained that will stand up in Court, prior to issuing summary offence tickets;
- it was felt that perhaps Mr. Parry could work with the Department of Housing

- regarding composting at senior citizen complexes;
- Councillors should be notified and informed regarding matters of non-compliance;
- work that is currently taking place by staff is exemplary, and second to none.

Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded by Councillor Sampson that the Committee recommend to Council that Municipal Council continue providing Council support for education and enforcement initiatives.

Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded by Councillor Sampson that the report of the Director of Public Works be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Presentation:

(a) Strait-Highlands Regional Development Agency re: Milestone 3 Final Report

Deputy Warden Johnson welcomed Mr. John Beaton, Mr. Francis Gillis and Mr. Stefan Telac to the meeting.

Mr. Beaton provided the Committee with an overview of the project (copy of presentation attached), and requested Municipal Council's endorsement of the Milestone Three (Local Action Plan).

A question and answer period followed.

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Martell that the Committee recommend to Council to accept and adopt the Strait-Highlands Green Action Milestone 3 Report (Local Action Plan) as written. Motion carried.

Tabled from January 12, 2009 Council Meeting – St. Peter's-Samsonville and Area Water Utility Funding

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the Committee recommend to Council that \$475,000 be taken from the gas tax funding; and that \$500,000 be taken from the infrastructure reserve fund, to provide funding for the St. Peter's-Samsonville and Area Water Utility Project. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

(a) Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal re: 2009 Annual Temporary Count Program

For information purposes.

(b) Strait-Highlands Regional Development Agency re: Municipal Funding

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the request for municipal funding be referred to the Committee on budget deliberations. Motion carried.

(c) Eastern Counties Regional Library re: Report of the Library Funding Task Force

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the Committee recommend to Council that Richmond Municipal Council endorse and support the Report of the Library Funding Task Force. Motion carried.

(d) Strait Regional School Board re: Surplus Property/East Richmond Education Centre (Former St. Peter's District High School)

Councillor MacNeil indicated that there was a study done on the former high school site, noting that a group is interested in utilizing part of the school, and requested that further discussion take place after the school is turned over to the Municipality. He noted that demolition costs would be approximately \$500,000.

(e) River Bourgeois Community Services Society re: Request for Tax Exemptions

The Chief Financial Officer indicated he would request a legal opinion from the Solicitor regarding the request for property tax exemptions, because one of the accounts was listed in an individual's name, rather than an organization.

(f) Shannon Diggdon re: Various Grant Requests

Moved by Councillor Boucher, seconded by Councillor Sampson that the Committee recommend to Council that the following grants be approved:

- \$3,000 to St. Joseph's Parish Council, with funding to be taken from the Municipal District \$17,000 Fund, District #2;
- \$200 to Development Isle Madame Association, with funding to be taken from the Councillors' District Activity - \$3,000 Fund, District #3;
- \$7,000 to St. John the Baptist Church, with funding to be taken from the Municipal District \$17,000 Fund, District #7;
- \$2,500 to the Framboise Community Centre Association, with funding to be taken from the Municipal District \$17,000 Fund, District #10.

Motion carried.

(g) "Turn on the Tap and Ditch the Bottle" Coalition re: Draft Resolution

Moved by Councillor David, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the Committee not support this correspondence. Motion carried. (Nay - Councillor McNamara)

List of Cheques Issued: January, 2009

Councillor David declared a conflict of interest indicating that his business is listed as receiving cheques, and he left his seat during discussion and voting of this item.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Boucher that the list of cheques issued for January, 2009, in the amount of \$1,658,488.26 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Items Added to the Agenda

(1) Chief Financial Officer re: Computer Purchase Program for Councillors and Staff

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor David that the Committee recommend to Council that the Computer Purchase Program for Councillors and Staff be extended indefinitely, as deemed necessary. Motion carried.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

There were no questions.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor David that the meeting move to “In-Camera” session at 8:45 p.m. Motion carried.

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

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

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

MINUTES RECORDED BY:

COUNCIL RECORDER:

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CHAIRPERSON

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CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER