

RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
SEPTEMBER 12, 2022

Location: Council Chambers

Present: Councillor Shawn Samson, Councillor Michael Diggdon,
Deputy Warden Melanie Sampson, Warden Amanda Mombourquette
Councillor Brent Sampson, Troy MacCulloch, CAO

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Introductions of the new staff: CAO, Troy MacCulloch, Shannon Mury, Recreation Manager and Steve Marcellus, Emergency Management Coordinator.

Warden Mombourquette asked that we observe a moment of silence for the late Queen Elizabeth II.

Items Added to the Agenda (Approval of Agenda)

Warden Mombourquette requested and received unanimous consent to add the following items:

- Housing - Reviewing Richmond County Properties including the West Richmond Education Centre

Moved by Deputy Warden Melanie Sampson, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson that the agenda be approved with the items added. Motion carried.

Review of Minute: June 13, 2022, Committee of the Whole

Moved by Councillor Michael Diggdon, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson that the minutes of the June 13, 2022 Committee of the Whole meeting be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Appeal of variance for PID 75209106

- a) Alexander Zepf did not present.
- b) Mr. John Bain from the Eastern District Planning Commission.

Variance that was before council was appealed by a neighbor was withdrawn by the appellant after a conversation with Mr. John Bain. No decisions required by Council.

Permits can be issued immediately.

Due to multiple instances of this type of variance re infilling of lake, this should be referred to the Planning Advisory Committee.

Presentations:

a) Strategic Plan Refresh Update - Preferred Choice (Virtual) - Mr. James Leier and Mr. David Paterson.

Warden Mombourquette welcomed Mr. James Leier and Mr. David Paterson to the meeting. A Draft of the Richmond County Strategic Plan was presented to the Committee in a power point presentation.

There were no questions from Council.

Warden Mombourquette thanked Mr. James Leier and Mr. David Paterson for the presentation.

Motion made by Councillor Diggdon, seconded by Deputy Warden Melanie Sampson, to accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole to approve the Strategic Plan Refresh as presented by Preferred Choice. Motion Carried.

b) Destination Cape Breton re: Cape Breton Island Marketing Levy and proposed amendment to the legislation. Mr. Terry Smith (CEO of Destination Cape Breton)

Warden Mombourquette welcomed Terry Smith of Destination Cape Breton.

Mr. Smith provided a power point presentation in which he proposed the following changes to the Cape Breton Island Marketing Levy legislation:

- Increase the hotel room levy from 2% to 3% to make up for steady decrease in funding by ECBC and ACOA;
- Allow municipalities to change the Levy percentage without legislative changes;
- Remove the 10 room limit;
- Include AIRBNB & VRBO room nights to the Levy.

Destination Cape Breton is looking for approval from all Municipal Units to proceed.

A question period followed.

Warden Mombourquette thanked Mr. Terry Smith for his presentation.

c) Raising the Villages. Mr. Jim Mustard

Warden Mombourquette welcomed Mr. Jim Mustard to the meeting.

Mr. Mustard provided a verbal presentation to the Committee.

Raising the Villages is working to improve Quality of Life in small communities.

Warden Mombourquette thanked Mr. Mustard for his presentation.

New Business:

- a) J-Road Classification List for 2023/24 - October 17, 2022 is the deadline to submit the list. To be dealt with at the Regular Council Meeting.
- b) Housing Needs Assessment - confirmation of dates for engagement. CAO MacCulloch has determined that October 6th, 2022 is the only date available due to conflicts.
- c) Staff Recommendation – Motion made by Councillor Michael Diggdon, seconded by Deputy Warden Melanie Sampson, to refer the Awards of Recognition policy to the Bylaw and Policy Committee for review. Motion carried.
- d) Staff Recommendation - Motion made by Councillor Brent Sampson, seconded by Councillor Michael Diggdon, to refer the Heritage submissions to the Heritage Advisory Committee for review. Motion carried.
- e) Staff Recommendation - Locations for Digital Speed Radar Signs to be determined by Council. Councillors to send their recommendations to CAO MacCulloch as soon as possible.
- f) HEO Lease for Unity Drive - Motion made by Councillor Brent Sampson, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson, to offer Nova Scotia Community College a 15 month lease for their Heavy Equipment Operator course starting on October 1st, 2022. Motion carried.

Warden Mombourquette re:

a) Develop Nova Scotia re: Broadband Update, verbal report only.

MP Kelloway suggested that council write a letter of support to him, encouraging the federal government to recapitalize the universal broadband fund so that we can continue to make application under that fund and have staff continue to look for funding opportunities.

Motion made by Councillor Shawn Samson, seconded by Councillor Brent Sampson, that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole to write a letter of support to the advancement of Broadband agenda to MP Kelloway AND FURTHER MOVE that staff continue to explore funding opportunities. Motion carried.

b) Point Tupper Paving and Fire Incident/hydrant request, verbal report only.

A fire on Langley Lane has identified the need for a fire hydrant.

Motion made by Councillor Michael Diggdon, seconded by Deputy Warden Melanie Sampson, to have staff explore the feasibility of installing a hydrant on Langley Lane. Motion carried.

c) Offshore Wind and Ongoing Point Tupper Energy Developments, verbal report only.

Warden Mombourquette attended a meet and greet with Everwind.

Motion made by Deputy Warden Melanie Sampson, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson, to request to have a staff member and a councillor attend future Offshore Wind and Ongoing Point Tupper Energy Developments meetings. Motion carried.

d) ACTing Collectively – Mail out

Motion made by Councillor Brent Sampson, seconded by Councillor Michael Diggdon, to provide financial support, in the amount of \$669.00, to fund a mail out to seniors. Motion Carried.

e) Louisdale Lions Club Request

Motion made by Councillor Brent Sampson, seconded by Deputy Warden Melanie Sampson, to have staff explore funding opportunities for the washrooms being used by patrons of the recreation facilities located at the Louisdale Lions Club AND FURTHER MOVE that staff contact the Louisdale Lions Club regarding the request put forward. Motion carried.

Councillor Mike Diggdon: Look-off - Babin's Hill Follow-up

CAO to discuss with Director of Public Works increasing the parking lot.

Community Acknowledgements

For information purposes.

Correspondence - Action Required

(a) Citywide Letter – Support

Decision was made to defer this item.

(b) FCM re: RCMP Back-pay letter

Motion made by Councillor Michael Diggdon, seconded by Councillor Brent Sampson, to write a letter of concern to MP Kelloway regarding retroactive pay for the RCMP. Motion carried.

(c) Request - Proclaim September Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Month

Motion made by Councillor Shawn Sampson, seconded by Councillor Brent Sampson, to accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole to declare the month of September as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FDAS) Awareness Month. Motion carried.

(d) Breaking Barriers Together Letter – Support

Information purposes only.

(e) Jason Martell, CFO re: Grant Requests

- Holy Guardian Angels Parish, Type 4 Regional/Health/General Grant Funds (\$5000).

Motion made by Councillor Brent Sampson, seconded by Councillor Michael Diggdon, to provide funding to the Holy Guardian Angels Parish in amount of \$3,750.00, with the allocation of funds as follows, \$2,000.00 from the District 5 Activity Fund and \$1,750.00 from the Regional Fund. Motion carried.

- Rural Communities Foundation of NS. Type 3 - C3 Recreation/Sponsorship (\$500).

Motion made by Councillor Shawn Sampson, seconded by Councillor Michael Diggdon, to provide funding from the Regional Fund to the Rural Communities Foundation in the amount of \$500.00. Motion carried.

Correspondence - For Information Purposes

Approval of Arichat Sewage System I&I Study

For information purposes.

Review of Cheques Issued

For information purposes.

Review of Action Items from June 13, 2022 (Committee of the Whole Meeting)

For information purposes.

Items Added to the Agenda

Housing - Reviewing Richmond County Properties including the West Richmond Education Centre

Motion was made by Councillor Brent Sampson, seconded by Councillor Shawn Sampson that Staff along with EDPC do an assessment of lands owned by Richmond County for housing purposes.

15 Minute Question Period 902-226-9885 (Not Restricted to Items on the Agenda)

There were no questions.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

CLERK:

CHAIRPERSON:
