

Committee of the Whole Meeting

March 11, 2025

- Location:** Council Chambers
- Present:** Warden Lois Landry, Deputy Warden Brent Sampson, Councillor Brian Marchand, Councillor Amanda Mombourquette, Councillor Shawn Samson
- Staff:** Troy MacCulloch, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Chris Boudreau, Director of Public Works, Kathleen Jeffrey, Interim Director of Finance, Shannon Mury, Director of Community Development and Recreation, Shelley David, Municipal Clerk

Call to Order

Warden Lois Landry called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

In Camera Session

Moved Deputy Warden Brent Sampson, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson, that the meeting move to an "In Camera" session at 5:03 p.m.

Motion carried.

Councillor Amanda Mombourquette arrived at 5:05 p.m.

Councillor Brian Marchand arrived at 5:12 p.m.

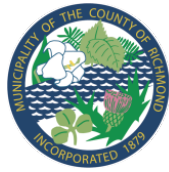
a) Personnel

Moved by Deputy Warden Brent Sampson, seconded by Councillor Amanda Mombourquette, that the meeting revert to "Regular" session at 5:53 p.m.

Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Shawn Samson, seconded by Deputy Warden Brent Sampson, that the Committee break for recess for the By-Law/Policy Committee meeting.

Motion carried.



Opening Acknowledgement

The Warden reconvened the “Regular” session at 7:01 p.m. and read the following acknowledgment:

We are proud to acknowledge that we are gathered today on Unama'ki, the Land of Fog, a part of Mi'kma'ki, the unceded traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq people since time immemorial. We honour and thank the Mi'kmaq for sharing their land and home with us.

Items Added to the Agenda (Approval of Agenda)

Moved by Councillor Amanda Mombourquette, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson, that the agenda be approved.

Motion carried.

Review of Minutes, February 11, 2025, Committee of the Whole

Moved by Deputy Warden Brent Sampson, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson, that the minutes of February 11, 2025, Committee of the Whole be approved as corrected.

Motion carried.

Presentations

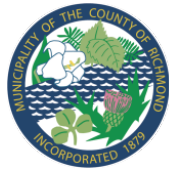
By consensus, the Committee changed the order of presenters on the agenda.

- a) Gina MacDonald, Program Director, Cape Breton South Recruiting for Health, Re: 2024 - A Year in Review

Gina MacDonald presented the Cape Breton South Recruiting for Health 2024 - A Year in Review presentation.

Moved by Councillor Brian Marchand, seconded by Councillor Amanda Mombourquette, that the Committee of the Whole recommend to Council to defer the funding request from the Cape Breton South Recruiting for Health to budget deliberations.

Motion carried.



- b) Rachelle Samson, Economic Development Officer, MOCR and the Town of Port Hawkesbury, Re: Cape Breton Regional Enterprise Network - Richmond County and Port Hawkesbury Q3 - Information and Activity Report

Rachelle Samson presented the Cape Breton Regional Enterprise Network - Richmond County and Port Hawkesbury Q3 - Information and Activity Report.

New Business

- a) 2025 Heavy Collection

Moved by Deputy Warden Brent Sampson, seconded by Councillor Brian Marchand, that the Committee of the Whole recommend to Council to authorize staff to proceed with the 2025 Heavy Collection at an estimated cost of \$175,000 (net HST rebate), with the funds to be allocated in the 2025/26 budget.

- b) Strait of Canso Clean Fuels Domestic Use Strategy

Moved by Councillor Amanda Mombourquette, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson, that the Committee of the Whole recommend to Council, that based on the 82% leveraging of funds and the opportunity to maximize the benefit for local residents in building a hydrogen economy here in the region, to accept the staff recommendation to fund the project at \$24,250 from the 2024/25 fiscal year budget if there is room, otherwise to fund it from the 2025/26 fiscal year budget.

Motion carried with three (3) in favour and two (2) opposed. (Nay: Councillor Brian Marchand)

- c) Construction and Demolition Debris Landfill Expansion

Moved by Deputy Warden Brent Sampson, seconded by Councillor Brian Marchand, that the Committee of the Whole recommend to Council to authorize staff to proceed with the expansion of the Construction and Demolition Debris Landfill, with construction subject to budget approval.

Motion carried.



Moved by Deputy Warden Brent Sampson, seconded by Councillor Amanda Mombourquette that the Committee of the Whole recommend to Council, to proceed with the engineering work and studies on or after April 1, 2025, at an estimated cost of \$275,000 (exclusive of HST), with the funding to be allocated from CCBF funds.
Motion carried.

d) Grant Applications:

- i. St. Peter's - Grand River - Loch Lomond Pastoral Charge, Type 4 -
Regional/Health/General Funds - \$2,645.00

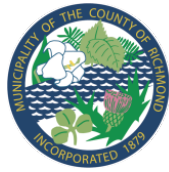
Moved by Deputy Warden Brent Sampson, seconded by Councillor Amanda Mombourquette, that the Committee of the Whole recommend to Council to defer the St. Peter's - Grand River - Loch Lomond Pastoral Charge Type 4 - Regional/Health/General Funds application back to staff for further information.
Motion carried.

- ii. St. Peter's - Grand River - Loch Lomond Pastoral Charge, Type 1 -
Infrastructure Fund - \$5,000.00

Moved by Councillor Amanda Mombourquette, seconded by Deputy Warden Brent Sampson, that the Committee of the Whole recommend to Council to approve the St. Peter's - Grand River - Loch Lomond Pastoral Charge grant request for the Type 1 - Infrastructure Fund in the amount of \$5,000.00, and the funds be allocated as follows: \$2,020.00 from the District 4 Funds and \$2,980.00 from the Regional Funds.

Moved by Councillor Amanda Mombourquette, seconded by Deputy Warden Brent Sampson, that the main motion be amended to allocate the funds as follows: \$1,520.00 from the District 4 Funds and \$3,480.00 from the Regional Funds.

Motion carried.



Moved by Councillor Amanda Mombourquette, seconded by Deputy Warden Brent Sampson, to amend the amended motion to support this project at \$1,520.00 and FURTHER MOVE that the organization be advised to reapply for the remainder of the project work in the new fiscal year.

Motion carried.

- iii. D'Escousse Civic Improvement Society, Type 1 - Infrastructure Fund - \$5,000.00

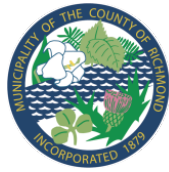
Moved by Councillor Amanda Mombourquette, seconded by Councillor Brian Marchand, that the Committee of the Whole recommend to Council to approve the D'Escousse Civic Improvement Society grant request for the Type 1 - Infrastructure Funds in the amount of \$5,000.00, and that the funds be allocated as follows: \$520.00 from the District 2 Funds, \$500.00 from the District 1 Funds and \$3,980.00 from the Regional Funds.

Motion carried.

- iv. Richmond Rize Volleyball Association, Type 4 - Regional/Health/General Funds - \$9,919.83

Moved by Councillor Shawn Samson, seconded by Councillor Brian Marchand, that the Committee of the Whole to Council to approve the Richmond Rize Volleyball Association grant request for the Type 4 - Regional/Health/General Funds in the amount of \$4,500.00 and that the funds be allocated as follows: \$1,020.00 from the District 1 Funds and \$3,480.00 from the Regional Funds.

Motion carried.



- v. St. Louis Parish Council, Type 4 - Regional/Health/General Funds - \$2,000.00

Moved by Councillor Brian Marchand, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson, that the Committee of the Whole recommend to Council to approve the St. Louis Parish Council grant request for the Type 4 - Regional/Health/General Funds in the amount of \$2020.00, and that the funds be allocated from the District 3 Funds.

Motion carried.

Warden, Re:

- a) Review of Warden's Council Report

For information only.

- b) Request from resident regarding flags

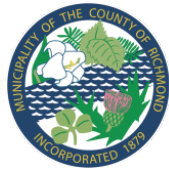
Moved by Councillor Amanda Mombourquette, seconded by Deputy Warden Brent Sampson, that the Committee of the Whole recommend to Council to suspend the MOCR Flag Policy, permitting the Canadian Flags to be flown, from the day after St. Patrick's Day until March 31, 2025.

Motion carried.

- c) Conversations around housing

Moved by Councillor Amanda Mombourquette, seconded by Councillor Brian Marchand, that the Committee of the Whole recommend to Council to have staff support consultations with developers on improving housing in an open call to ensure no one is excluded.

Motion carried.



Members of Council Items:

- a) Councillor Brian Marchand, Re: Strait Richmond Hospital - CT Scanner - Verbal
Moved by Councillor Brian Marchand, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson, that the Committee of the Whole recommend to Council to have the Warden write a letter of support for the purchase of a CT Scanner for the Strait Richmond Hospital site to the Minister of Health, and cc'd to MLA/Minister Trevor Boudreau and the Strait Richmond Hospital Foundation.

Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Brian Marchand, seconded by Councillor Amanda Mombourquette, that the Committee of the Whole recommend to Council to move the discussion of some financial support towards the purchase of a CT Scanner for the Strait Richmond Hospital to the 2025/2026 budget deliberations.

Motion carried.

CAO, Re:

- a) Administration Operations Report
For information only.

Community Acknowledgements

For information only.

Correspondence

- a) **Action Required**
i. Letter from Laura Emery, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Eastern Counties Regional Library, Re: Request for the allocation of funding for the St. Peter's Hub project to be included in the Municipality's 2025/2026 annual operating.

Moved by Councillor Shawn Samson, seconded by Deputy Warden Brent Sampson, that the Committee of the Whole recommend to Council to accept the request for the allocation of funding for the St. Peter's Hub project to be included in the Municipality's 2025/2026 annual operating budget.

Motion carried.



- ii. Letter from the Eastern District Planning Commission (EDPC), Re: Operating estimates for the 2025/2026 fiscal year.

Moved by Councillor Amanda Mombourquette, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson, that the Committee of the Whole recommend to Council to accept the EDPC operating estimates, deferring them to budget deliberations.

Motion carried.

b) For Information Only

- i. Letter from the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) regarding pending legislation.
- ii. Letter to Minister John Lohr, Department of Municipal Affairs, regarding the request for a change to property assessment caps for homes destroyed by fire or other disasters.
- iii. Letter to Minister John Lohr, Department of Municipal Affairs, regarding the response to his letter dated February 11, 2025.
- iv. Letter to Honourable Tim Houston, Premier, regarding an invitation to Superport Days.
- v. Letter from NSFM regarding pending legislation - Follow-up to the previous correspondence.

Unfinished Business

- a) Tyler Mattheis, President and CEO, Cape Breton Partnership, Re: Multi-Party First Nations and Municipal Agreement

Moved by Councillor Amanda Mombourquette, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson, that the Committee of the Whole recommend to Council to accept the recommendation to enter into the CBREN funding agreement for a four (4) year period with a two (2) year notice of withdrawal.

Motion carried with three (3) in favour and two (2) opposed. (Nay: Councillor Brian Marchand)



b) Good Neighbour Program

The Committee reached the consensus that it would not recommend Council's participation in the Good Neighbour Program this year.

c) Richmond Arena

Moved by Councillor Brian Marchand, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson, that the Committee of the Whole recommend to Council to defer the Richmond Arena discussion to budget deliberations.

Motion carried.

Review of Cheques Issued Re:

a) January 2025

For information only.

Review of Action Items

a) Action Items

For information only.

15 Minute Question Period - (902) 226-9885

There were no questions.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:16 p.m.

Municipal Clerk

Chairperson