

RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

JANUARY 12, 2004

Location: Court House, Arichat

Warden Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for the singing of O'Canada.

The Clerk took roll call of Councillors.

Warden Johnson indicated that Deputy Warden Bourque and Councillor MacNeil were unable to attend, due to illness.

Items Added to the Agenda

Warden Johnson indicated that Councillor Beaton wished to add National Family Literacy Week and Councillor MacPhee wished to add ditching and brush cutting, Department of Transportation.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Boudreau that the items added be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Review of Minutes: December 8, 2003

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Boudreau that the minutes of December 8, 2003 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Petitions and/or Delegations:

- (a) EnRoute Isle Madame re: E-Government Project

Warden Johnson welcomed Mr. Joel Bowen to the meeting.

Mr. Bowen thanked Municipal Council on behalf of EnRoute for the opportunity to make a presentation to Council and noted that Mrs. Norma Boudreau and Mrs. Brenda Martell, who were Board Members were present at the meeting. He indicated that Councillor Boudreau is also a Board Member.

Mr. Bowen reviewed the “Report on Building Capacity for Local E-Government” for the project which began approximately 2½ years ago, and which received Council support (copy attached), which was comprised of the following four reports:

- Report 1 – “The Status of Municipal E-government” – A comparison of the status of e-government in the fifty-five municipalities in Nova Scotia;
- Report 2 – “Governance Comes of Age” – Results of a citizen survey in Richmond County regarding internet usage, e-government, and CAP site involvement in the growth of both;
- Report 3 – “The Highway to E-government” – A report with observations and recommendations on how government can best provide e-government from a local perspective based on the findings from the first two reports;
- Report 4 – “CAP Site Project User Statistics Report” – A summary of the user statistics for the EnRoute CAP site during the project (November, 2002 – October, 2003)

A question and answer period followed.

Councillor Boudreau thanked Mr. Bowen, on behalf of the Board, for his presentation.

Warden Johnson thanked Mr. Bowen for his informative report.

Committee Reports:

(a) Committee of the Whole

Councillor Beaton presented the monthly report of the Committee of the Whole (copy attached).

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and the Vested Property Clerk and offer the surplus property located in Lower L’Ardoise to Mr. Emmanuel Mombourquette at the appraised value, conditional on Mr. Mombourquette paying for the costs of the appraisal. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and the Vested Property Clerk and that the former Fleur de Lis Tavern located in L’Ardoise be declared surplus and be sold by public tender. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor Boudreau that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that staff be authorized to borrow the funds required for the construction of the new municipal building from the Municipal Finance Corporation, on a 15 year term. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor Cotton that the monthly report of the Committee of the Whole be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

(b) Planning Advisory Committee

Councillor MacPhee presented the monthly report of the Planning Advisory Committee (copy attached).

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Beaton that Council accept the recommendation of the Planning Advisory Committee and approve the expenditures, if so required, in order to clean up the property owned by Michael Joseph Sampson and make it safe. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Council accept the recommendation of the Planning Advisory Committee and that a letter be written to the Department of Transportation requesting that they assign a Route # to the section of West Bay Road that runs from Trunk 4 in St. Peter's to the County Line Road at West Bay. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Boudreau that Council accept the recommendation of the Planning Advisory Committee and that a letter be sent to the Emergency Health Services requesting that they work in conjunction with the Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission with regards to civic addressing and investigate how West Bay Highway/West Bay Road/West Bay community is identified in their database, in order to clarify confusion that occurs with ambulance drivers, in order that their drivers can familiarize themselves with communities and routes. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Boudreau that the monthly report of the Planning Advisory Committee be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

(a) Congres Mondial Acadien 2004 re: Funding Issues

The CAO indicated the correspondence was in response to Council's request for information from the Provincial Organizing Committee requesting if monies would be allocated to Richmond County. He noted that none of the \$7.5 million was coming to Richmond, however they indicate that they are encouraging municipalities to financially support local initiatives.

(b) Federation of Canadian Municipalities re: Prime Minister's Swearing In

(c) Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation re: Responsible Gaming Awareness Week

The CAO noted the correspondence provided some feedback from the second annual Responsible Gaming Awareness Week's activities, and a general responsible gaming update.

- (d) Department of Environment and Labour re: Municipal Water Supplies – Louisdale; Arichat; St. Peter's

The CAO indicated our municipal water supplies had been tested for Lead-210, as a result of elevated levels of naturally-occurring radionuclides having been identified in well water at some schools in Nova Scotia. He noted the correspondence provided the test results for our water supplies, and the water meets the Lead-210 guideline.

- (e) Canadian Union of Public Employees re: International Trade Agreements

- (f) Nova Scotia Government & General Employees Union re: General Agreement on Trade in Services

The CAO reported that these two items of correspondence are similar, in that they wish to make us aware of research regarding international trade agreements and P3 partnerships, their analysis on the legal opinion they commissioned, and the impacts of the general agreement on trades in services.

Moved by Councillor Cotton, seconded by Councillor Boudreau that the correspondence from the Canadian Union of Public Employees and the Nova Scotia Government & General Employees Union be referred to the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities, because they have broad provincial/national implications. Motion carried.

- (g) University College of Cape Breton re: Jack Hartery Memorial Fund

Moved by Councillor Cotton, seconded by Councillor Goyetche that this item of correspondence be tabled and referred to the Committee on budget deliberations. Motion carried.

- (h) Nova Scotia Building Officials Association re: NSBOA Anniversary/New Initiatives

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Boudreau that a letter be written to the Nova Scotia Building Officials Association congratulating them on their 40th Anniversary, celebrated in November. Motion carried.

- (i) Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission re: Ballam's Point, Dundee

Items Added to the Agenda

- (i) Councillor Beaton re: National Family Literacy Week

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Richmond Municipal Council proclaim the week of January 25-31, 2004 as Family Literacy Week in Richmond County. Motion carried.

(ii) Councillor MacPhee re: Ditching & Brush Cutting, Department of Transportation

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Beaton that Richmond County Municipal Council ask the Department of Transportation to initiate a brush cutting and ditching program in Richmond County that will address the shortcoming with regard to alders along highway road ditches and the safety hazard it involves as well as provide for adequate run-off of water along paved roads. Motion carried.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

Mr. Richard Burt requested to be placed on the agenda for the next Council Meeting.

The CAO indicated that a copy of his presentation should be forwarded to the Municipal Office one week prior to the meeting, in order to include it in the agenda packages for the meeting.

Moved by Councillor Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Goyetche that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

There being no further business, Warden Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.