

RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE 45TH COUNCIL

JUNE 21, 2004

Location: Council Chambers, Municipal Office

Warden Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for the singing of O'Canada.

The Clerk then took roll call of Councillors.

Warden Johnson indicated that Councillor Beaton was unable to attend due to personal reasons and both Deputy Warden Bourque and Councillor Goyetche would be late, due to personal commitments.

Opening Remarks of the Warden

Warden Johnson presented her opening remarks (copy attached) of the Annual Council Session, summarizing the activities and progress that have taken place during the past year, such as the recent \$100 million expansion at Stora; the Richmond County Petroleum Office, which is in full operation, with three employees; CED Office in St. Peter's; Tourism Cooperative; New Year's Levy; the 125th Anniversary Calendar, the formation of a Heritage Committee, the Tall Ships visit this summer; and the completion of our new municipal building.

Warden Johnson thanked the CAO and Councillors for their support and friendship and thanked all staff for their cooperation, dedication and hard work over the past year.

Items Added to the Agenda

Warden Johnson indicated Councillor Boudreau wished to add a Municipal Infrastructure Grant for Community Playground/Enhancement; Deputy Warden Bourque wished to add a Road Name Change; the CAO wished to add the Abandonment of a Federal Building in Arichat; she wished to add the National Highway System/Twinning and Councillor McNamara wished to add a Taxi License Application.

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

Review of Minutes: May 10, 2004

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the minutes of May 10, 2004 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Notice of Motion – Councillor McNamara: to adopt the Dangerous and Unightly Premises Policy, as a Policy of the Municipality (attached as Appendix “A”)

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Boudreau that the Dangerous and Unightly Premises Policy, attached as Appendix “A” be adopted as a Policy of the Municipality of Richmond. Motion carried.

Reports:

(a) Committee of the Whole re: Estimates/Tax Rates/Other

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

Moved by Councillor Cotton, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and award the following grants to community groups:

- \$40,000 to Richmond Arena Association (Year 2 of 2 year commitment – recreation project)
- 9,270 to D.I.M.A. ((Year 3 of 3 year commitment)
- 7,000 to Early Childhood Education Centre (Year 2 of 2 year commitment)
- 10,000 to Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre (Year 2 of 10 year commitment)
- 1,200 to Stora Enso Minor Hockey Tournament
- 4,300 to L’Archeveque Fishermen’s Association
- 1,000 to Red Islands Property Owners Committee
- 5,000 to Regional Occupational Centre
- 2,100 to Sacred Heart Ladies Group
- 1,000 to Strait Richmond Health Care Foundation
- 1,000 to Eastern Regional Help Line
- 1,900 to East Richmond ATV Riders
- 2,500 to Cape Breton Crime Stoppers
- 750 to MacAskill House Museum
- 750 to Oceanview Wildlife Association
- 750 to Point Tupper Heritage Museum

AND FURTHER MOVED that a grant in the amount of \$25,000 per year for a three year period be given to the Richmond County Literacy Network, with the condition that their budget will be reviewed each year, and that the grant funding will not be further allocated to them, if federal funding is renewed/becomes available. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Cotton, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the following grants be awarded under the Municipal Infrastructure Fund - "Community Infrastructure Building":

Société Destination Isle Madame Society (Tall Ships)	-	\$7,500 (to be taken from the districts where Councillors agree, and with the understanding that this event will be held in St. Peter's in four year's time)
Riverdale Community Services Society	-	10,000
Salmon River Community Centre	-	1,400
Isle Madame Historical Society	-	1,000

Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Cotton, seconded by Councillor Boudreau that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the grant requests from Henson College and UCCB/Jack Hartery Scholarship not be funded. Motion carried

Moved by Councillor Cotton, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the South Mountain Arm of Gold Community Association be provided grants in the amount of \$9,500 per year for a two year term and the contributions will be taken from the districts infrastructure funds as follows:

District #7	-	\$5,000
District #5	-	\$2,000
District #8	-	\$1,500
District #10	-	\$1,000

Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Cotton, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Lakeside Community Association be provided a grant in the amount of \$2,000 for improvements to their ball field and that this amount be taken from the District #8 Infrastructure Fund. Motion carried.

Councillor Cotton gave notice that he will introduce a motion at the next regular Council Meeting to adopt the Municipal Infrastructure Fund Policy, as a policy of the Municipality (attached as Appendix "B").

Moved by Councillor Cotton, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the following halls/facilities be provided with grants equal to their taxes, totalling approximately \$18,037:

<u>Name of Facility:</u>	<u>Assessment</u>
Rocky Bay Hall (4018265)	\$119,100
D'Escousse Hall (1193376)	499,700
Salmon River Hall (5494281)	63,800
Framboise Hall (889334)	53,400
Lakeside Hall (2413167)	76,500
MacAskill House Museum (1481606)	31,000
Isle Madame Historical Society (2154447)	82,700
Isle Madame Historical Society (9141847)	24,800
Isle Madame Historical Society (3441598)	41,100
Forchu Hall (1538519)	38,600
River Bourgeois Historical Society (5359287)	47,300
South Mountain Arm of Gold (4715071)	32,600
Nicholas Denys Museum (3501396)	27,000
Grand River Volunteer Fire Department (5188911)	184,500
Grand River Volunteer Fire Department (1776754)	5,500
Basin River War Memorial (8815739)	900
River Bourgeois Comm. Serv. Society (8816778)	8,000
Janvrin Island Sports & Recreation Association (9081461)	6,000
Isle Madame Community Venture Centre Association (01193384)	151,600
Janvrin's Island Community Centre (9140972)	3,000
(9141006)	3,800
(9141030)	7,500

Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Cotton, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the following properties that have a charitable tax number, and that are included in By-Law #36 be provided with a total tax exemption for the current year, conditional on these organizations maintaining their charitable tax numbers:

<u>Name of Facility:</u>	<u>2004/05 Assessment</u>
Oceanview Museum (7944454)	\$71,700
Isle Madame Active Living Centre (3392007)	97,900
Arichat Parish Hall (5177553)	88,600
Petit De Grat Parish Hall (1415263)	168,100
Knights of Columbus Hall (2386453)	115,400

Janvrin's Harbour Hall (4176561)	59,200
Riverdale Community Hall (3971074)	174,200
Louisdale Parish Hall (1414712)	199,100
River Bourgeois Funeral Home (7944608)	86,700
River Bourgeois Hall (3970698)	285,700
L'Ardoise Parish Hall (1414801)	164,500
L'Ardoise Funeral Home (1414828)	63,500
Loch Lomond Hall (2577607)	87,400
Johnstown Parish Hall (1413929)	67,700
Mowat's Environmental Institute (9026754)	30,000
Mowat's Environmental Institute (9026754)	20,000
Mowat's Environmental Institute (3317951)	14,100
St. Peter's United Church Hall (4715098)	111,500
L'Ardoise Medical Centre ((1414836)	107,500
East Richmond Medical Centre (3189678)	157,900
Motion carried.	

Moved by Councillor Cotton, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the following properties be exempt from taxation, through the legislative authority provided:

<u>Name of Facility:</u>	<u>2004/05 Assessment</u>
Arichat/PDG Water Utility (By-Law #33) (3397114)	\$1,282,300
Louisdale Water System (By-Law #33) (2606399)	985,100
Evanston Water Utility (By-Law #33) (5233453)	741,900
Johnstown Development Co-op (2257424)	109,800
Isle Madame Seniors Club (1163639)	152,000
Bonnie Brae Seniors Club (7944810)	33,900
St. Peter's Lions Club (658723)	122,300
St. Anne's Community Nursing Care Centre (5846838)	863,800
(5846838)	117,000
Richmond Villa (3956482)	1,086,100
Motion carried.	

Moved by Councillor Cotton, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that staff be provided with merit increases of the lessor of 2.5%, or to the maximum of their salary scale. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Cotton, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that a plan amendment and a post-retirement benefit be approved to enable the municipal unit to provide pension benefits to the CAO of 2% per annum for service to April 1, 1993, and in the amounts included in the current pension plan for employees for the period since (1.3% to YMPE plus 2% on

remainder); and further moved that the Warden and Deputy Clerk be authorized to enter into any necessary agreements. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Cotton, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the following area rates be established for the current fiscal year:

L'Ardoise Volunteer Fire Department	-	.16¢
West Bay & District Volunteer Fire Department	-	.10¢
St. Peter's Volunteer Fire Department	-	.13¢
Red Islands (District #10) Volunteer Fire Department	-	.12¢
Louisdale & District Volunteer Fire Department	-	.10¢
Isle Madame Volunteer Fire Department	-	.09¢
Loch Lomond Volunteer Fire Department	-	.12¢
Grand River Volunteer Fire Department	-	.15¢
Framboise-Forchu Volunteer Fire Department	-	.15¢

AND FURTHER MOVED that the Municipality collect the area rate for the St. Peter's Village Commission, in the amount established by the Village Commissioners. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Cotton, seconded by Councillor Boudreau that Council accept a recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and approve an area rate for District #2 in the amount of .04¢ per \$100 of assessment, to be used towards community improvements. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Cotton, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the interest on capital reserves for the fiscal year 2004/05 be taken into operating revenues for the current year. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Cotton, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that \$415,000 be taken out of the Municipality's capital reserve fund and \$700,000 from the unappropriated special reserve to finance the remaining costs of the new municipal office. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Cotton, seconded by Councillor Boudreau that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that net costs, approximately \$1,104,336, for the Arichat Water Treatment Plant Project and the Arichat and Louisdale Tank Projects be funded through the municipal water utility depreciation reserve fund. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Cotton, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and give approval to the municipal

estimates of revenues and expenditures for the year ending March 31, 2005 in the amount of \$10,320,557 (copy of budget attached as Appendix "C");

AND FURTHER MOVED THAT WHEREAS pursuant to the Municipal Act, the Municipal Council of the Municipality of Richmond estimates that sums amounting to \$7,784,239 are required for the lawful purpose of the said Municipality for the year ending March 31, 2005, after crediting the probable revenue from all sources other than rates for the said year and making due allowance for the abatement and losses which may occur in the collection of the taxes and for taxes for the said year which may not be collectible or collected;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that Richmond Council hereby authorizes the levying and collection of a residential rate of .69¢ on each \$100 of the assessed value of residential property assessed on the assessment roll and a commercial rate of \$1.36 which rates said Council deems sufficient to raise the sums required to defray the expenditures of the said Municipality for this year, and any deficit from the preceding years;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Richmond Council hereby imposes an additional percentage charge of 18 percent per annum on all rates and taxes remaining unpaid from the final billing after the 31st day of October, 2004;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Richmond Council hereby fixes the 30th day of September, 2004 as the day on which the Tax Collector or Treasurer may proceed to issue warrants for the collection of all rates and taxes then unpaid. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Cotton, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that proposals be requested for the three year provision of both audit and legal services. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Cotton, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that Councillor Boudreau be re-appointed as the municipal representative on the Board of Directors at St. Anne's Community and Nursing Care Centre. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Cotton, seconded by Councillor Boudreau that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that a letter be written to Gerard Jessome, Area Manager for the Department of Transportation in Port Hawkesbury asking for officials from the Department to provide an estimate of the work needed to be done and the approximate costs involved with the construction of sidewalks in Arichat from St. Anne's Community and Nursing Care Centre to Highland Street on the High Road of Arichat, connecting both seniors complexes to some necessary amenities in Arichat. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Cotton, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that a letter be written to the

Department of Transportation requesting that Victoria Street, Cambridge Street and Crandall Street in Point Tupper be conveyed to the Forbrigger family of Point Tupper. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Cotton, seconded by Councillor Boudreau that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that Mr. Martell be advised that the property has not been turned over to the Municipality, and that a suggestion be made to Mr. Martell that he approach the two local School Boards, and further moved that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that permission be granted to the Congres Mondial to use the Petit De Grat School property for parking during the Congres Mondial, if the property is returned to the Municipality before that event, and with the condition that they provide liability insurance in the same amount as carried by the Municipality on other properties. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Cotton, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that staff be authorized to review the Municipality's Taxi License By-Law over the summer months and that a revised draft be submitted to Council in September, and further moved that no taxi licenses be issued until review of the By-Law is completed. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Cotton, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that staff be given authority to make decisions regarding contracts for the janitorial services for the new Municipal Administration Building and the Evanston Sewage System Pre-Design Study, provided the Municipality's purchasing policy is adhered to. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Cotton, seconded by Councillor Boudreau that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and appoint Mr. Leon LeBlanc of the Isle Madame District Fire Department, to the Board of Directors of the Nova Scotia Firefighters School and Fire Service Association of Nova Scotia. Motion carried.

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

(b) Clerk re: Annual Report

The CAO presented his annual report (copy attached) and reviewed the Municipality's Statement of Operations for the year ending March 31, 2004, noting that the Municipality had a surplus of \$61,533 for the fiscal year.

The CAO thanked Warden Johnson and Municipal Council for their excellent support and working relationship with staff.

Warden Johnson thanked the CAO for his report.

(c) Planning Advisory Committee

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

Councillor McNamara reported that the Committee continues to work on the proposed amendments to the Sporting Mountain Municipal Planning Strategy, and at its last meeting on June 15th decided to refer the issue back to the Area Advisory Committee, for further clarification.

Councillor McNamara also reported on the dangerous condition of the Stewart House property in St. Peter's, as outlined in the attached staff report (attached as Appendix "D").

The CAO indicated that Council had adopted a policy regarding Dangerous and Unightly Premises this evening and that a recommendation was received from staff that action should be commenced. He noted that he was unsure of the process regarding demolition, noting that Municipal Council should perhaps make the decision, but there may be some significant public hearing requirements.

The CAO requested that the Planning Advisory Committee members provide additional information to Council regarding this matter.

Councillor McNamara indicated that Mr. Bain had advised the Committee at its last meeting that Council approval was required and indicated there are legal steps to follow. She also noted that there were no living members of that family, and further research would be required.

Councillor McNamara requested the Solicitor to provide advice regarding this matter.

Mr. MacDowell indicated he did not have any paperwork this evening, therefore it would be difficult to provide legal advice, and he suggested that this file be referred to him for further research and he will provide some recommendations to Council.

In response to the CAO requesting if anything specific was required from Council, Councillor McNamara indicated that Mr. Bain had started the necessary steps and she noted that if Council's approval is received, he will move quickly with the process as outlined in the policy adopted by Council this evening.

The CAO noted that Municipal Council had previously appointed Mr. Bain as Administrator pursuant to Section 41 of the Municipal Government Act, and he noted that the new policy adopted tonight indicates that the Administrator can either be appointed by the CAO or by a resolution of Council.

It was the consensus of Council that the CAO appoint Mr. Bain as Administrator, who will be responsible for the provisions of the Act respecting dangerous or unsightly premises.

The CAO indicated that he would appoint Mr. Bain as the Administrator.

Councillor MacNeil indicated this is a serious issue, and he noted Mr. Bain has indicated this matter requires a motion of Council before final demolition could take place. He has indicated that even with the inclusion in the new policy, he would not have the authority to do final demolition.

Mr. MacDowell indicated it would depend on what notice was given, and there are public hearing procedures for demolition, with the matter coming back to Council for approval.

Councillor MacNeil indicated he felt the matter should proceed in the direction outlined because of the dangerous factor related to this matter.

The CAO indicated the matter is complicated by the direct owners and heirs being deceased, and there is the question of who the Municipality will file notification with; and he indicated he would request Mr. Bain to provide information to the Solicitor in order to obtain legal advice prior to demolition.

Councillor MacNeil indicated if the process is delayed, he is requesting that the property be secured because of the very dangerous situation this property poses to the public.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Council authorize staff and the Administrator of the Dangerous or Unsightly Premises Policy to proceed with the next steps that are necessary to move forward with the demolition order, and further moved that the Administrator and the Solicitor be requested to provide information on the types of involvement necessary from Council, if a demolition order is being considered (i.e. Public Hearings, etc.). Motion carried.

Annual Appointments

(a) Signing Officers

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Cotton that the Clerk, the Deputy Clerk and the Warden be appointed as Signing Officers, with the Deputy Warden being appointed as an Alternate to the Warden. Motion carried.

(b) Representative – Eastern Counties Regional Library Board

(c) Heritage Advisory Committee (3 Councillors)

(d) Inverness/Richmond District Planning Commission (2 Councillors)

(e) Representative – Strait Regional Airport Committee

(f) Planning Advisory Committee (5 Councillors)

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

Moved by Councillor Cotton, seconded by Councillor Goyetche that the Council representatives currently serving on the following Committees remain the same, until after the Municipal Elections to be held in October:

- Eastern Counties Regional Library Board: Councillor Malcolm Beaton
- Heritage Advisory Committee: Councillor Joe MacPhee
Councillor Steve MacNeil
Councillor Malcolm Beaton
- Inverness/Richmond District Planning Commission: Deputy Warden Gerry Bourque
Councillor Malcolm Beaton
- Strait Regional Airport Committee: Deputy Warden Gerry Bourque
- Planning Advisory Committee: Councillor Shirley McNamara
Councillor Steve MacNeil
Councillor Joe MacPhee
Councillor James Goyetche
Councillor Chuck Boudreau
- Richmond/Port Hawkesbury Joint Development Commission: Warden Gail Johnson
Councillor Shirley McNamara
Deputy Warden Gerry Bourque

Motion carried.

Correspondence:

(a) Department of Natural Resources re: Use of Lennox Passage Park

For information purposes.

(b) Eastern Counties Regional Library re: St. Peter's Branch

The CAO indicated the correspondence is in response to a Council resolution requesting a branch library to be located in St. Peter's. The CAO noted that the Library Board has one branch library located in each of the 7 municipal units.

The CAO indicated that the Eastern Counties Regional Library have indicated that St. Peter's is the first potential "new branch location" to appear on their Board's draft list of capital project needs over the next 4-5 years. He also indicated that there are several ongoing capital projects in St. Peter's (i.e. nursing home, new school) and he was hopeful that a branch library could be incorporated with these facilities.

(c) Canadian Federation of Independent Business re: Property Taxation

The CAO indicated this organization sends correspondence bi-weekly, and this particular correspondence touched on the three following issues:

- Tax relief to commercial day care operators
- Elimination of the Business Occupancy Tax (BOT)
- The need for a property tax policy for the province

Councillor Goyetche indicated notice had been given to the U.N.S.M. by the Province to eliminate the business occupancy tax beginning next year.

Presentation to Mr. Edgar Samson, in recognition of his receiving an Honorary Doctorate in Economic Development from L'Université Ste. Anne

Warden Johnson presented Mr. Samson with a congratulatory note from Municipal Council congratulating him for his many accomplishments and thanked him for his generosity to our Richmond County communities, and she wished Mr. Samson much success for the future.

Mr. Samson thanked Municipal Council for the recognition, indicating he was very surprised when he received the call from L'Université Ste. Anne. He noted he started this business, along with Brian and John Samson, in order to create jobs in their own community which would allow them to stay at home rather than go away like many of his friends had to do. He noted his company has been in business for 20 years, and he is hopeful he will remain in business for many years to come.

Warden Johnson asked Mr. Michel Samson, MLA if he wished to address Council.

Mr. Samson thanked Municipal Council for the opportunity to say a few words.

Mr. Samson noted the CBC news regarding a riding profile which picked Canso/Glace Bay, focusing on the challenges being faced in Canso and Glace Bay.

The MLA commended Council for recognizing Mr. Samson for such a significant accomplishment, and he noted he had presented a resolution in the House regarding this significant achievement. He noted Mr. Samson had started his business buying lobsters

in the back of a truck 20 years ago, with sales of \$64,000/year, compared to sales of \$36 million last year. He noted the Premium Group is the second largest employer in Richmond County, outside of Stora, with 200 employees.

Mr. Samson stressed that Municipal Council must not only remind government officials of the challenges Richmond County faces, but also continue to remind them of the many successes that we have had.

Mr. Samson commended Mr. Edgar Samson on his achievements and also commended Municipal Council on their significant investment in the construction of the new municipal building. He also thanked Warden Johnson, the CAO and Mr. Alan MacDonald for their presentation to the Legislature regarding Economic Development.

Mr. Samson also extended best wishes to Councillors re-offering in the upcoming municipal election, and wished everyone a safe summer.

Warden Johnson thanked Mr. Samson for his comments.

Items Added to the Agenda

- (a) Councillor Boudreau re: Municipal Infrastructure Grant for Community Playground/Enhancement (attached)

Councillor Boudreau indicated that Councillors had several copies of the budget, but noted he had distributed a copy of the revised budget prior to the meeting, which requested a grant in the amount of \$1,600 which would be used for lawn mowing/site beautification, signage repairs and repair of rails at cannons. He noted the original request of \$4,000 included the Arichat playground and he indicated that as of today, the playground is not a responsibility, nor will it be a part of the Arichat Community Development Association.

Moved by Councillor Boudreau, seconded by Deputy Warden Bourque that the Arichat Community Development Association be provided with a grant in the amount of \$1,600, with the contribution to be taken from the District #1 municipal infrastructure fund. Motion carried.

- (b) Deputy Bourque re: Road Name Change

Moved by Deputy Warden Bourque, seconded by Councillor Goyetche that approval be given to change the road name "Forgeron Lane" in West Arichat (District #4), if it meets policy approval and receives the approval from the Department of Transportation and the Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Bourque indicated that he will advise municipal staff of the new name, and provide a copy of the petition as soon as it is received from the residents of that Lane, in order for the change to take place over the summer months;

(3) CAO re: Abandonment of Federal Building in Arichat

The CAO indicated he had received correspondence on Friday from Public Works and Government Services Canada indicated that the Canada Post building in Arichat was surplus to federal requirements, although they understood that Canada Post intends to remain as a leaseholder. The CAO noted that surplus federal properties are offered to the federal, provincial and then municipal levels of government.

Councillor Boudreau expressed concern with the correspondence that had only been received on Friday, and the Municipality was only being given 30 days to respond if it had an interest in purchasing this property, and if not interested, it would go to public sale. Councillor Boudreau indicated Canada Post, the local Capsite and the Isle Madame Historical Society were all located in this building.

Moved by Councillor Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Goyetche that a letter be written to the Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada requesting information as to why this necessary federal infrastructure is being abandoned by the federal government; and further requesting an extension beyond the 30 days in order to consult and hold discussions with the current lease holders of the building in order to determine what the impacts will be, prior to being put out to public sale. Motion carried.

(4) Warden Johnson re: National Highway System/Twinning

Warden Johnson that a resolution had been passed unanimously at a Mayors and Wardens Meeting held earlier today to write a letter to the Minister of Transportation regarding the twinning of Highway 104 and Route 4.

The CAO indicated that at a meeting held several years ago with a Department of Transportation Representative, along with the Minister of Transportation, they clearly indicated that Route 4 to Sydney was designated by the federal government as part of the National Highway System, and held very high priority. He noted the federal government had insisted at that time that this not be changed, and the province gave us priority for upgrades.

Councillors expressed their concern with the deplorable conditions of our roads, and noted in order to continue to attract tourists, we must continue the fight for the proposed twinning from the Strait to Sydney through Richmond County.

The CAO suggested that an Adhoc Committee be established to approach the provincial government and perhaps approach the Mayors and Wardens to make representation to address this problem, and stressed that Municipal Council must show leadership in this regard.

The CAO noted that the provision of basic transportation infrastructure was a responsibility of government, that would provide immediate economic development benefits.

Moved by Councillor Cotton, seconded by Councillor McNamara that correspondence be sent to the federal and provincial Ministers of Transportation, reminding them that Route 4 is part of the National Highway System, and is in a deplorable condition; and further moved that the Warden be authorized to appoint Councillors to an Adhoc Committee to make representation to the provincial and federal governments, including the newly appointed Regional Federal Minister, after the federal election; with the nature of the representation to be the completion of Highway 104 from River Tillard to Sydney, which will accomplish the twinning of this portion of the National Highway System. Motion carried.

(5) Councillor McNamara re: Taxi License Application

Councillor McNamara indicated she had received a telephone call from Mr. Mark Cavanagh who had applied for a taxi license. She noted he had indicated he felt he had fully completed his application and was questioning why his application had not been approved by Municipal Council.

The CAO indicated that his completed application had only been received a few days ago (June 16th), and Municipal Council has passed a resolution this evening to look at our Taxi By-Law and prepare a revised draft over the summer months, and not to issue any further licenses, until the By-Law has been reviewed.

It was the consensus of Councillors that Councillor McNamara's request not be upheld, because they felt our By-Law is extremely old, and requires revisions.

It was also the consensus of Council that an advertisement be placed in the local newspaper indicated that the Taxi License By-Law will be reviewed over the summer months and that no taxi licenses be issued until a new By-Law is redrafted, and also request input from the public with regards to the By-Law.

Councillor McNamara indicated she would convey this information to the constituent.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

There were no questions.

Warden Johnson thanked the audience for their attendance and wished everyone a safe and enjoyable summer.

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

There being no further business, Warden Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.