

**RICHMOND MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 13, 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 took roll call of Councillors.

Warden Johnson indicated that Councillor Goyetche could not be present due to work commitments.

Items Added to the Agenda

Warden Johnson indicated the CAO wished to add correspondence from the Hon. S. Brison regarding the divestiture of the Arichat Federal Building and from the U.N.S.M. regarding the Police Act; and Councillor MacPhee wished to add Canada Post Group Mail Boxes and Tourism Destination Cape Breton.

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

Review of Minutes: (a) June 21, 2004 (Annual Session)  
(b) August 4, 2004 (Special Meeting)

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Beaton that the minutes of June 21, 2004 (Annual Session) and August 4, 2004 (Special Meeting) be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Presentations and/or Delegations

(a) RuSh/SeaSide re: Broadband Project Progress

Warden Johnson welcomed Mr. Roland McCaffrey, General Manager, SeaSide Communications; Mr. David Boudreau, General Manager, RuSh Communications and

Mr. Nigel Thornley, who has designed much of the work that has taken place in our county, and who is assisting and directing the roll-out; to the meeting.

The CAO indicated that the Municipality had entered into an arrangement with the two cable companies that serve our communities, to move forward with funding from Industry Canada for broadband, which was finalized in May. He noted that the contribution agreement had been received from Industry Canada in May, and he indicated that the Managers from both cable companies would provide Council with progress updates on their work during this past summer.

Mr. McCaffrey noted that SeaSide's work is primarily in Chapel Island/Soldier's Cove, St. Peter's and area, L'Ardoise and area, and River Bourgeois. Mr. McCaffrey indicated that SeaSide's coverage area is indicated in green on the mapping being displayed. He noted that his contract requires him to complete the work by the end of December, and he does not anticipate any problem with achieving this deadline.

Mr. Boudreau indicated that RuSh is distributing the broadband services primarily in the communities of Louisdale, D'Escousse and area, West Arichat and area, Arichat and area, and Petit De Grat and area. Mr. Boudreau noted that his company's coverage area is illustrated in pink on the map displays, and he also noted that they would be able to easily meet their December 31, 2004 deadlines.

In response to a question, Mr. Thornley indicated that the services that were being provided to the 12 institutions were unique and innovative possibly for the entire country. The services are extremely high speed, 100 megabyte connections, that will not only be connected to each other, but to major facilities such as the Regional Hospital and U.C.C.B. Mr. Thornley noted that the challenge would be for the Municipality and its partners to determine the best and most appropriate methods of taking advantage of this unique community network.

In response to a question from Councillor Cotton, Mr. Boudreau indicated that there will be packages available whereby individuals can bundle up high speed internet with basic cable and digital cable.

Councillor McNamara indicated that residents in the surrounding area of the Strait Richmond Hospital and the Whiteside area were grossly disappointed that they will not have an opportunity to access high speed internet, noting that they have waited so long for something they're not going to get.

Mr. Boudreau indicated his company was very interested in being able to extend services into those communities because services are being provided basically through part of it and the communities are in close proximity to each other, and he indicated he would be more than happy to discuss the possibility of extending the service to these communities with Councillor McNamara.

The CAO indicated negotiations are underway to establish costs, and indicated there will be a meeting in the next week or so to try and find the partners to move forward with that, and noted he would advise Councillor McNamara of the meeting date.

In response to a question from Councillor McNamara, Mr. Thornley indicated that the cable is presently running through the area, and it is basically a matter of retrofit and capital expense to run into those communities, noting it is not a massive job, but it is a capital expense.

The CAO indicated the Managers of both cable companies have been extremely cooperative when it comes to investigating anything that would result in services being brought into our community.

In response to a question from Councillor Sampson, Mr. Thornley indicated that three nodes had been turned on in St. Peter's and expected to turn on two in Chapel Island this week, with four nodes to be done in River Bourgeois in approximately two to three weeks, and then moving to L'Ardoise in late October/early November.

In response to a question from Councillor Cotton regarding the Industrial Park in Point Tupper, Mr. Boudreau indicated that he had consultants in last week to basically do a walk through to scope out the area in order to determine what the technical issues are going to be, as well as generalize some of the cost issues and is expecting to receive a report from him by the end of this week. He noted they can then start putting together the design and determine how the work can proceed and what the costs will be. He noted he expected to have something tangible by the end of the month.

The CAO indicated Brand is a federal incentive program and he indicated the MP is very involved with this, as we continue to seek funding to expand. He noted the Municipality has invested several hundred thousand dollars, and noted the cable companies are good partners, indicating he appreciated them coming to Council and providing a progress report.

Warden Johnson thanked Mr. McCaffrey, Mr. Boudreau and Mr. Thornley for attending the meeting.

(b) United Way of Cape Breton (Allister Taylor) re: Campaign/Work Place Support

Warden Johnson noted that Mr. Taylor was not in attendance at present, and his presentation would be dealt with later in the meeting, if he arrives.

(c) Strait Richmond Health Care Foundation (Mary Frost) re: Proclamation for the Observance of Strait Richmond Hospital Month

Councillor McNamara indicated she is a member of the Strait Richmond Health Care Foundation and she had been asked to have Council declare the month of October as Strait Richmond Hospital Month and also have Warden Johnson sign the proclamation.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Richmond Municipal Council declare October as “Strait Richmond Hospital Month”. Motion carried.

Notice of Motion – Councillor Cotton: to adopt the Municipal Infrastructure Fund Policy, as a policy of the Municipality (attached as Appendix “A”)

Moved by Councillor Cotton, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that Richmond Municipal Council adopt the Municipal Infrastructure Fund Policy, as a policy of the Municipality, as attached in Appendix “A”. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

(a) Committee of the Whole

Deputy Warden Bourque presented the monthly report of the Committee of the Whole (copy attached).

Moved by Deputy Warden Bourque, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that a grant be provided to the L’Ardoise Community Cultural Center in the amount of \$11,500, to assist with the major renovation project that is occurring at the L’Ardoise Hall, with the funding to be derived from the Municipal Infrastructure Fund, Community Development, for District #9, in accordance with our policy. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Bourque, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that a grant in the amount of \$250 be provided to the Framboise Community Hall, to assist with their renovation project, with the funding to be derived from the Municipal Infrastructure Fund, Community Development, for District #10, in accordance with our policy. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Bourque reported that the Committee granted permission to the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Heritage Project Committee to move forward to the next step in the project of the history book and issue an RFP to determine the costs of the project.

Moved by Deputy Warden Bourque, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that staff be authorized to place an advertisement outlining grants provided by Council, in accordance with the requirements of the Municipal Government Act. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Bourque, seconded by Councillor Beaton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that a parcel of land adjacent to the former landfill in West Arichat be conveyed and donated to La Coopérative Radio Richmond Ltée., with the condition that the Municipality have the option of the land

reverting to it if the land ceases to be utilized by a non-profit group; and further moved that the appropriate municipal signing officers be authorized to execute the necessary documents. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Bourque, seconded by Councillor Sampson that the monthly report of the Committee of the Whole be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

(a) Hon. Ernest Fage re: Funding Approval, Broadband Project

The CAO noted that the Minister indicates that he is pleased to advise that his department will make \$50,000 in funding available to assist with the Broadband Project.

(b) Office of the Minister of Public Works and Government Services re:  
Acknowledgement

The CAO read the correspondence received from the Hon. S. Brison, which was an item added, regarding the divestiture of the Arichat Federal Building (copy attached).

Councillor Boudreau indicated he appreciated having the normal time period for responding extended to 60 days, and also that the time period will begin from the date of this letter rather than from the date of the prior correspondence.

Councillor Boudreau indicated concerns have been expressed by the Post Office staff, and by the community as well, noting that there is no guarantee that Canada Post will remain in this federal building if the building is purchased by a private enterprise.

Councillor Boudreau indicated he will prepare a report following consultation presently taking place in the community.

(c) Mr. Michel Samson re:

(i) Sidewalk Construction

Councillor Boudreau indicated that he had met with Department of Transportation officials in August and viewed the location of the proposed sidewalks in Arichat. He indicated he had received a rough estimate of the cost of installing the sidewalk, and will be providing a cost breakdown to the Arichat ratepayers at a meeting to be held in the next few weeks.

(ii) Forchu Community Hall

Warden Johnson noted she had not been approached by the members of the Forchu Community Hall, however she indicated that she would contact Ms. MacLeod to inquire if there was anything Municipal Council could assist with.

(d) Emergency Measures Organization re: Emergency Services

(e) Merrick Holm re: Petit De Grat School

The CAO noted that the correspondence from the Solicitor representing the CSAP, is dated June 28, 2004, indicated that the CSAP had passed a resolution on June 13, 2004 confirming transfer of the Petit De Grat School to the Municipality, however he noted that the Municipality had still not received keys for the building. He noted work is ongoing with the Solicitor, and has requested the Deputy Clerk to place insurance on the building to ensure that the building is fully insured.

Councillor Cotton indicated the School Boards should be providing notice in advance of disposal, and stressed that a better arrangement needs to be arrived at regarding disposal of school properties.

(f) Richmond Academy re: Scholarships

(g) Mr. Max Maier re: Thank You

(h) Ecole Beau-Port re: Scholarship

(i) Riverdale Community Services Society re: Thank you

(j) Congrès Mondial re: EMO Coordinator

Moved by Councillor Cotton, seconded by Councillor McNamara that a letter of thanks be written to Mr. Cecil Frost, commending him for his outstanding performance in assisting the organizing committee prior and during the Congres Mondial Acadien 2004 activities; and further moved that Mr. Frost be provided with a copy of the correspondence received from the Coordinator, CMA 2004 Richmond. Motion carried. Councillor Beaton recommended that Mr. Frost be recognized at the employee recognition banquet for his hard work and dedication and he requested that a copy of this correspondence be placed in Mr. Frost's personnel file.

#### Items Added to the Agenda

(1) CAO/Correspondence re:

(a) Hon. S. Brison re: Divestiture of Arichat Federal Building (attached)  
Previously dealt with.

(b) U.N.S.M. re Police Act

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Deputy Warden Bourque that a letter be written to the Hon. Michael Baker, Minister of Justice, in support of Mayor Morgan's correspondence, and requesting that his department reconsider the plan to proceed with legislation this fall, and requesting more time in order to provide an appropriate consultation period, regarding the proposed Police Act. Motion carried.

(2) Councillor MacPhee re:

(a) Canada Post Group Mail Boxes

Councillor MacPhee indicated that new group mail boxes, with individual locks and keys had been installed in some communities, and noted that he had received representation from senior citizens who have indicated that they live approximately one mile from these group mail boxes. He also noted that individuals will soon be asked to remove mail boxes that are presently at their driveways, with their mail delivery moving to a central location.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor McNamara that a letter be written to Canada Post requesting that they re-examine their policy with regards to the location of the new group mail boxes; and further that they provide information regarding the cost increase for postal boxes from \$25 to \$75, for residents who live further than ¼ of a mile from the post office; and further moved that Canada Post officials be requested to attend a Council Meeting, in order to inform and explain the changes that are taking place within the postal system to Municipal Council. Motion carried.

(b) Tourism Destination Cape Breton

Councillor MacPhee briefed Council on a meeting he recently attended with regards to the Tourism Destination Cape Breton contacting members of hotel accommodations looking for support in asking the provincial government to place a maximum 2% tax on all rooms on Cape Breton Island, with the 2% being applied first, and the GST being placed on top of the 2%. He noted the proposed levy will be paid by the consumer and not the operator.

Councillor MacPhee indicated he was under the understanding that if approval is not received in all counties, then it would not be applied at all.

Councillor Cotton suggested that the Richmond County Tourism Association be consulted.

#### Fifteen Minute Question Period

Ms. Gloria Hill thanked Municipal Council for the chairs that were donated to Telile from the old municipal office surplus equipment.

Mrs. Rosemary Burns expressed concern with regards to the proposed Tourism Destination Cape Breton marketing levy, noting that 80% of the operators are small businesses, while 20% are large businesses, and she noted that 20% could garner 51% of the vote. She indicated she felt that all members of Destination Richmond, not just the Board of Directors, should meet with Tourism Destination Cape Breton.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Deputy Warden Bourque that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

There being no further business, Warden Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.