

RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

REGULAR COUNCIL

DECEMBER 13, 2004

Location: Council Chambers, Municipal Office

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

The Deputy Clerk took roll call of Councillors.

Warden Cotton indicated that Councillor MacPhee was unable to attend the meeting, due to illness.

Items Added to the Agenda

Warden Cotton indicated that Councillor MacPhee wished to add a petition regarding paving of the Grand Gully Road in River Bourgeois.

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

Review of Minutes: (a) October 12, 2004
(b) November 8, 2004

Councillor J. Boudreau indicated that the reference to his receiving the Order of Canada on page 2 of the November 8th minutes, should be changed to the Order of Nova Scotia; and also that the reference to MLA Rodger Cuzner on page 5, be changed to MP Rodger Cuzner.

Moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor C. Boudreau that the minutes of October 12, 2004 be adopted as presented and further moved that the minutes of November 8, 2004 be adopted as amended. Motion carried.

Petitions and/or Delegations:

(a) The Roots of Empathy Program (Jim Mustard) re: Classroom Program

Warden Cotton welcomed Mr. Jim Mustard and Sheila Hill to the meeting.

Mr. Mustard indicated that the Roots of Empathy is a not for profit organization dedicated to building caring, peaceful and civil societies through the development of empathy in children. He noted that working in partnership with communities, Roots of Empathy delivers an innovative classroom-based parenting program that aims to reduce aggression through the fostering of empathy and emotional literacy. The program reaches children aged 3 to 14. He distributed a pamphlet regarding the parenting program (copy attached).

Mr. Mustard indicated that the heart of the program is a neighborhood infant and parent, who visit the classroom once a month for the full school year. He noted that with a certified Roots of Empathy Instructor, students are coached to observe the baby's development, celebrate milestones, interact with the baby and learn about an infant's needs. He noted that the emotional literacy taught in the program builds more caring classrooms, and when children understand how others feel, they are less likely to victimize each other through bullying, and further noting that as empathy rises, aggression falls.

Mr. Mustard indicated he had initiated the growth of the Roots of Empathy in Nova Scotia starting in 2002 when he brought Mary Gordon, the founder and president of Roots of Empathy to speak in Whycomagh and Halifax, to community members.

Mr. Mustard indicated there were 10 Roots of Empathy programs in the 2003/04 school year held in 7 schools; with new programs confirmed for the 2004/05 school year in 21 schools, with East Richmond Education Centre and Felix Marchand Education participating, and Walter Fougere interested in starting.

Mrs. Hill, an Instructor for the program being offered at the Felix Marchand School, briefed Municipal Council indicating she is totally amazed with the program and how the children relate to her and to each other and how they focus on caring and sharing.

Mr. Mustard noted that he is requesting financial assistance from Municipal Council for the Roots of Empathy Program to help fund the cost for training and certifying an Instructor, which costs approximately \$2,500, and also the staffing of an Instructor position.

Mr. Mustard indicated he is scheduled to meet with the Hon. Rodney MacDonald, Minister in Charge of Health Promotion, in order to attempt to obtain provincial funding.

A question and answer period followed.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor J. Boudreau that the presentation from the Roots of Empathy Program be accepted as presented and that the funding request be tabled until budget deliberations. Motion carried.

Warden Cotton thanked Mr. Mustard and Mrs. Hill for their presentation.

(b) Inverness/Richmond Society for Persons with Disabilities (Debbi Tobin) re: Update

Warden Cotton welcomed Ms. Debbi Tobin to the meeting.

Ms. Tobin, Executive Director, addressed Council and indicated that the Inverness Richmond Society for Persons with Disabilities is a not for profit organization funded by HRSDC who assists persons with disabilities enter or re-enter the workforce, access information for educational upgrading and a referral source for help to resolve barriers that persons with disabilities encounter. She also indicated that the office employs two full time staff and noted that half of the Board of Directors is comprised of persons with disabilities, with the other half comprised of stakeholders. She distributed a pamphlet to Council Members on the Society (copy attached).

In response to a question from Deputy Warden Sampson, Ms. Tobin indicated that the Board of Directors is comprised of 3 members from Richmond County, one from Port Hawkesbury, with a second member coming from Port Hawkesbury, and four members from Inverness County. Ms. Tobin indicated the Society would certainly accept an application from anyone interested in serving on the Board.

Ms. Tobin indicated that the Society is committed to work in partnership with all levels of government and service providers in the Inverness and Richmond County areas to ensure that persons with disabilities achieve their career goals. She also indicated that there were four outreach offices open one day a month from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Cheticamp, Inverness, St. Peter's and Arichat, which provides access to their services.

Ms. Tobin indicated that the Society is requesting funding in the amount of \$600 from the Municipality to contribute to the cost of the Open House and the Equal Opportunity Employment Fair, and also for client assistance that is not covered under existing or other funders. She noted that the Society has received a cheque for \$600 from Inverness County and the Town of Port Hawkesbury has committed \$600.

A question and answer period followed.

Deputy Warden Sampson indicated he had attended the Open House on December 3rd, and noted he was truly amazed at this very special group of people on the road to recovery, and he commended Ms. Tobin on the great work being done for these individuals.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the presentation from the Inverness/Richmond Society for Persons with Disabilities be accepted as presented and that the funding request be tabled until budget deliberations. Motion carried.

Warden Cotton thanked Ms. Tobin for her presentation.

(c) Johnstown Community Development Cooperative (Wilfred MacNeil) re: Proposal

Warden Cotton welcomed Mr. Wilfred MacNeil and Ms. Louise Campbell to the meeting.

Mr. MacNeil indicated that the Johnstown Community Development Cooperative Ltd. is a not for profit organization established in 1988 under the Societies Act of Nova Scotia. He indicated that they are located on Route 4 on seven acres of land adjacent to the Bras D'Or Lakes, and has operated under objectives established during planning sessions with the St. F.X. University Extension Department in 1988, with these objectives involving:

- Community economic development activities focused on tourism services;
- Public access services to the broader community of the south shores of the Bras D'Or Lakes;
- Specific activities relating to the primary demographic of seniors in the Johnstown and area communities.

Mr. MacNeil indicated that JCDC Ltd. operates under a value system which recognizes that development in our communities must be in keeping with environmental concerns of the Bras D'Or Lakes watershed.

Mr. MacNeil indicated that during its 16 year history, JCDC Ltd. has engaged with the Municipality of Richmond on several occasions. He noted they recognize with appreciation the support, both in financial contributions and tax exemptions, from the Municipality, and noted that JCDC Ltd. has enabled job creation and tourism service through enhanced capacity building projects with the support of the three levels of government and the volunteer efforts of Johnstown and area residents.

Mr. MacNeil noted that JCDC Ltd. is currently reviewing its assets and liabilities with a view to assessing its future as a community economic development enterprise in Richmond County. He indicated that the viability of the former school building which was constructed in 1964 and its negative effects on achieving stated economic development objectives and activities was of significant concern to their Board. He stated that they have embarked on a community engagement process to review its objectives with a view to its future involvement as a public access site in Richmond County.

Mr. MacNeil indicated that the Johnstown Community Development Cooperative Ltd. is requesting input and support from Municipal Council as it develops a new business plan for future activities, with the hope that through the fall and winter of 2004/05, they will engage with County Council and the larger community to achieve possible goals in the following areas:

- Site preparation and renewal of facilities on the JCDC Ltd. property to promote tourism and community services;

- Inclusion in the County of Richmond BRAND project especially relating to the high speed internet service and Community Access Program articulated in the envisioned community network;
- Initiation of a business planning process reflecting the demographic and environmental priorities of Johnstown and area.

A question and answer period followed.

In response to a question from Councillor C. Boudreau, Mr. MacNeil indicated that an interim planning budget will be submitted to Municipal Council prior to budget deliberations.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Rankin that the presentation from the Johnstown Community Development Cooperative Ltd. be accepted as presented and that the grant request be tabled until budget deliberations. Motion carried.

First Reading Approval – to adopt a new Taxi By-Law, as a By-Law of the Municipality (attached as Appendix “A”)

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor J. Boudreau that Municipal Council give approval of First Reading to adopt a new Taxi By-Law, as a By-Law of the Municipality of Richmond, which is attached as Appendix “A”, and proceed to Second Reading approval. Motion carried.

Councillor J. Boudreau noted that the By-Law did not include an application form, but rather just the taxi license and taxi driver’s license.

Councillor C. Boudreau noted that Schedule “A” requests the taxi business name, but does not ask for an individual’s name.

The Deputy Clerk indicated he would prepare an application form that will be used for internal purposes.

Several Councillors noted that taxis from neighboring municipalities were picking up and dropping off individuals in our county, with at least 10-12 occurrences each day to and from the Strait Richmond Hospital. Councillors noted they felt these taxis should be licensed in Richmond County, as well as in Port Hawkesbury, if they pick up passengers in Richmond County, and suggested that the By-Law be enforced, if they refuse to be licensed in our county.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor C. Boudreau that staff be instructed to investigate the taxi process in the Town of Port Hawkesbury and request an interpretation of the regulations set down in their Taxi By-Law, and how they affect the

provider of service from Port Hawkesbury to Richmond County; and further moved that the Deputy Clerk provide the information to Council. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

(a) Committee of the Whole

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

Warden Cotton requested that Deputy Warden Sampson chair the meeting, because he is declaring a conflict of interest because his brother is being recommended to serve on the Richmond Villa Board of Directors as a “Member at Large”, and he left his seat during voting and discussion of this item.

Deputy Warden Sampson requested that Councillor Rankin continue presenting the Committee of the Whole report.

Moved by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that Mr. Alex Mombourquette, Mr. Steve MacNeil and Mr. Billy Cotton be appointed as “Members at Large” to serve on the Richmond Villa Board of Directors. Motion carried.

Warden Cotton assumed chairmanship of the meeting.

Deputy Warden Sampson resumed presenting the Committee of the Whole report.

Moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that Mrs. Rosemary Burns and Mr. Brian Marchand be appointed as “Members at Large” to serve on the Planning Advisory Committee. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor J. Boudreau that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that a one year extension for the Solid Waste Collection Contracts, for regular collection, in all three zones be accepted, as recommended by the Director of Public Works, with costs as follows:

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Zone 1 - Richard Doiron	\$63,487.00	\$66,381.45
Zone 2 - Garry Burke	\$67,539.00	\$68,890.00
Zone 3 - Tommy Bona	\$70,361.00	\$74,000.00

Motion carried.

Warden Cotton requested that Deputy Warden Sampson assume chairmanship of the meeting, because he is declaring a conflict of interest regarding the next issue, noting that his wife is an employee of the Louisdale Credit Union and he left his seat during voting and discussion of this item.

Deputy Warden Sampson requested that Councillor C. Boudreau present the next portion of the Committee of the Whole report.

Moved by Councillor C. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Rankin that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the request by the Louisdale and District Volunteer Fire Department for a guarantee of a \$50,000 loan from the Louisdale Credit Union be approved. Motion carried.

Warden Cotton resumed chairmanship of the meeting and requested that Deputy Warden Sampson resume presenting the Committee of the Whole report.

Moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that staff be authorized to enter into a lease agreement with St. Peter's Signs for Bay #5 at the Industrial Mall. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor Martell that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Municipal Office be closed at 4:00 p.m. on December 23, 2004 and re-open for business at 8:30 a.m., January 3, 2005. Motion carried.

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

Correspondence:

- (a) Hon. Michael Baker/Hon. Barry Barnet re: Sunday Shopping Plebiscite – Provincial Compensation

The Deputy Clerk indicated that the Municipality had billed and received \$5,516 from the Province regarding the Sunday Shopping Plebiscite.

- (b) Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations re: St. Peter's-Sampsonville Supply Exploration Study – Request for Provincial Capital Assistance Program (PCAP) Funding

Councillor Rankin indicated there is a deadline of March 31, 2005 for all expenditures and claims to be submitted to the Province.

Warden Cotton indicated he would add this item to a Committee of the Whole Meeting in the near future, for discussion.

In response to a question, Warden Cotton indicated that Municipal Council will appoint a member on the Committee, if the Municipality becomes a funding partner.

(c) Media re: Point Tupper Power Plant

(d) Mr. Michel Samson re: Rental Space

The Deputy Clerk indicated that the MLA is requesting to access the downstairs portion of the office space that he is currently renting at the Industrial Mall, in order to be able to be able to meet with seniors who are unable to climb stairs, and also for additional storage of files and related materials.

Moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor Rankin that staff be instructed to investigate the request from the MLA to rent space in the downstairs portion of the office space he is currently renting at the Industrial Mall; and prepare a report for Council consideration. Motion carried.

(e) Nova Scotia Sustainable Communities Initiative re: Award

(f) Office of the Minister of Public Works & Government Services re:
Acknowledgement

(g) Returning Officer re: Report for the 2004 Municipal Election

Several Councillors noted that problems had been experienced with the enumerations carried out in their districts.

Councillor McNamara indicated that enumerations that had been very well done in her area.

Warden Cotton indicated that the Returning Officer will be making recommendations to Service Nova Scotia for the next municipal election, and should attend a meeting to discuss his report and recommendations.

Moved by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor J. Boudreau that the Solicitor be requested to indicate if the Municipality is permitted to release the list of electors to Elections Nova Scotia; and also that the Returning Officer be requested to attend a future meeting in order to review his report and recommendations. Motion carried.

(h) CBC News Release re: Pit Bulls

(i) Applications for “Member at Large”, Planning Advisory Committee:

- (i) Rosemary Burns
- (ii) Brian Marchand

Previously dealt with.

(j) Applications for “Member at Large”, Richmond Villa:

- (i) Alex Mombourquette
- (ii) Steve MacNeil
- (iii) Billy Cotton
- (iv) Douglas Landry (2)
- (v) Gerry MacDonnell (2)

Previously dealt with.

Items Added to the Agenda

(1) Councillor MacPhee re: Paving, Grand Gully Road

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Martell that the petition from the residents of the Grand Gully Road in River Bourgeois be forwarded to the Department of Transportation requesting that the Department pave this section of road. Motion carried.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

There were no questions.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

There being no further business, Warden Cotton adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.