

RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

REGULAR COUNCIL

JANUARY 25, 2005

Location: Council Chambers, Municipal Council

Deputy Warden Sampson 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.

The CAO noted that an e-mail had been received from Councillor MacPhee indicating he was unable to attend due to medical reasons.

Items Added to the Agenda

Deputy Warden Sampson indicated that Item #1 on the memo that had been faxed to Councillors indicated that Councillor Beaton wished to add a Proclamation for "Family Literacy Week", but noted that Councillor McNamara will present that item; Warden Cotton wished to add Council Representation on the Airport Committee and Councillor Rankin wished to add the St. Peter's-Sampsonville Water Infrastructure Project.

Deputy Warden Sampson indicated that item #2 listed the names of individuals that were named as Planning Committee Members in the report on the Emergency Measures Plan, for information purposes; and Item #3 indicated that Second Reading consideration of By-Law #20, Taxi By-Law was not on the agenda for this evening's meeting, because the advertisement that contains the 14 day notice had not been placed in time for the January Council Meeting. He indicated the advertisement has now been placed, and the By-Law will be on the agenda for the February 14, 2005 Council Meeting.

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

Review of Minutes: December 13, 2004

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor Johnson that the minutes of December 13, 2004 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Presentations and/or Delegations:

(a) R.C.M.P. (Sergeant Brian London) re: 2003-2004 Action Plan

Deputy Warden Sampson indicated that Sergeant Brian London and Members of the Detachment had planned to attend, but because of the three meeting cancellations, were unable to attend this evening, and will attend a future meeting.

(b) Returning Officer re: Report

The CAO reported that the Returning Officer was unable to attend tonight's meeting due to illness, and would appear at the February Council Meeting.

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 Johnson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that members be appointed to the Advisory Committee and the Planning Committee, with the external representatives being those identified by staff as follows:

Income Assistance	-	Nova Scotia Government (Mike Lester)
Law Enforcement	-	Commanding Officer, Richmond County R.C.M.P. Detachment
Fire Control Services	-	Johannes Strum/Leon LeBlanc
Engineering Services	-	Darrin McLean
Health Services	-	Monica Samson/Marie Noseworthy
Community Services	-	Michael Melnick
Transportation	-	Terry White
Communication	-	Jim Barnes
Public Information	-	Stewart MacDonald
Utilities	-	Darrin McLean
Financial Services	-	Nova Scotia Government (Mike Lester)
Industries	-	Brian O'Neal
Department of Natural Resources	-	Tom Murray

AND FURTHER MOVED that Aliant and Nova Scotia Power be also requested to appoint Members to the Planning Committee;

AND FURTHER MOVED that the same two Councillors be appointed to the Planning Committee and the Advisory Committee, with the Warden approaching individual Councillors to determine who is willing to serve. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor C. Boudreau that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that staff be authorized to purchase the electrical services required to have three community facilities (Louisdale Lions Club Building; St. Peter's Lions Hall; Arichat Parish Hall) wired for potential hook-up to external generators, in the event of prolonged power outages. Motion carried.

In response to a question from Councillor C. Boudreau, Warden Cotton and Councillor Beaton indicated that the three community facilities had been previously contacted and arrangements were made with these facilities.

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Emergency Measures Plan be adopted, as distributed to Councillors. Motion carried.

Councillor C. Boudreau noted that the contact list requires to be updated.

Councillor Martell indicated that some community halls were to be added to the list of community facilities.

The CAO indicated that Municipal Council has appointed a Committee of Council, and they will make the changes as they occur.

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor Rankin that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Solicitor and Mr. Bain be contacted and instructed to proceed as soon as possible with obtaining a Court Order to resolve the dangerous/unsightly premise of Michael Joseph Sampson in Sampsonville. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor Martell that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Richmond Arena be authorized to utilize a portion (i.e. \$36,000) of the \$80,000 grant approved by Council in the current year and past year, for purposes of retiring the mortgage on the Richmond Arena. Motion carried.

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

(b) Strait Area Physician Recruitment Committee

Deputy Warden Sampson provided an update as the Council's representative on the Strait Area Physician Recruitment Committee, briefing Council on the situation that currently

exists in the Emergency Department of the Strait Richmond Hospital, noting that the Emergency Room Doctor left on January 6th to further studies in Edmonton. He indicated the hospital has been very fortunate to have had the services of Dr. Romani from Mulgrave for 2 days per week, but noted that Dr. Romani is leaving for Sri Lanka on a special mission.

Deputy Warden Sampson indicated that two physicians (one from the Mississauga area and the other from the Florida area) recently visited the hospital, met with staff and members of the Strait Area Physician Recruitment Committee, and noted that he is very happy to report that both are very impressed with hospital services, and with what the Strait Area has to offer in terms of working, living and raising a family.

Deputy Warden Sampson noted that there is a process in place whereby the College of Physicians and Surgeons' licensing body has to deal with accreditation of these individuals, and noted that as of today, all of the necessary documentation for one of the physicians had been received by the provincial Department of Health and the Recruitment Officer, and he noted that the College of Physicians and Surgeons were doing their due diligence in getting the accreditation in place as soon as possible. He indicated that he is very hopeful that one of these individuals will be returning to the Strait Area and to the Strait Richmond Hospital in the very near future.

Deputy Warden Sampson noted that the physician from Florida, who was born in Montreal was extremely pleased about having an Acadian community nearby and extremely enjoyed his tour of the municipal building, and meeting staff; and also his tour of Centre La Picasse on January 11th. He noted the physician was joined by the Strait Area Physician Recruitment Committee, the Doctor on staff and Warden Cotton that evening.

Deputy Warden Sampson indicated he wished to publicly thank Yvon Samson and Janine LaCroix for being extremely helpful and encouraging and also for the great showmanship they gave to this physician.

Councillor McNamara commended Deputy Warden Sampson and the Committee for the great work being carried out in recruiting a physician to the Strait Area.

Correspondence:

(a) Leader of the Opposition re: Business Occupancy Tax

The CAO indicated this correspondence was in response to our correspondence asking the three political parties to support the elimination of the business occupancy tax.

(b) Municipality of Annapolis County re: In-Camera Discussions of Municipal Council

Warden Cotton indicated this item will be on the agenda for the next Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities Executive Meeting.

(c) Richmond County Literacy Network re: Request for Letter of Support

Councillor Beaton declared a conflict of interest indicating that he is presently working on project for the Richmond County Literacy Network, and he left his seat during voting and discussion of this item.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Rankin that Richmond Municipal Council provide a letter of support to the Richmond County Literacy Network for their community-based transportation service proposal. Motion carried.

(d) Application for “Member at Large” on the Planning Advisory Committee

(i) Mark Cavanagh

Moved by Warden Cotton, seconded by Councillor J. Boudreau that Mr. Mark Cavanagh be appointed as a “Member at Large” to serve on the Planning Advisory Committee. Motion carried.

In response to a question from Councillor McNamara inquiring if a Committee Member, who has been named as having an unsightly premise, is eligible for appointment, the CAO indicated that Municipal Council could develop a policy whereby the policy would apply to everyone, including Committee Members.

Items Added to the Agenda

(1) Councillor McNamara re: Proclamation for “Family Literacy Week”

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Martell that Richmond Municipal Council declare the week of January 23-29, 2005 as “Family Literacy Week” and further moved that January 27, 2005 be declared as “National Family Literacy Day”. Motion carried.

(2) Warden Cotton re: Council Representation on Airport Committee

Warden Cotton indicated that no one had approached him regarding the Council appointee on the Airport Committee, therefore this appointment had not been made at the November 8th Council Meeting, and he requested Councillors who were interested in serving on this Committee to let him know as soon as possible.

Moved by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor C. Boudreau that Warden Cotton be authorized to appoint a Council representative to serve on the Airport Committee. Motion carried.

(3) Councillor Rankin re: St. Peter’s-Sampsonville Water Infrastructure Project

Councillor Rankin indicated that Sampsonville and St. Peter's were attempting to get together on a production well to share the water supply that was found previously in the Sampsonville area. He noted the Village has applied to both the Province and the Municipality to cost-share in the development of a second study in order to determine if the water they found in the first study is enough to support both St. Peter's and Sampsonville. He indicated the letter previously sent to the Municipality requested that Municipal Council take part in the study financially.

The CAO indicated that the approach had been made to Municipal Council after the Village of St. Peter's had secured funding from the Province, asking Municipal Council to also contribute one third. The CAO indicated the question had been asked if Council had the authority to provide a grant to a Village Commission, and reported that the only authority Municipal Council has is the authority given under the Municipal Government Act and other provincial legislation. He noted this item had been discussed at the last Committee of the Whole Meeting, and it noted that there is no authority to provide grants to Village Commissions. He indicated the Committee looked at several things, namely that the time is short; the funding received from the Province is for this fiscal year; and also the Province indicates that their accounting regulations do not permit the carry-over of funds to another fiscal year and March 31 is firm. He noted that the Municipal Engineer has contacted the engineering firm that will be carrying out the work and they indicated that 8-9 weeks is required to complete the work, therefore there is still time if the work was to start by February 1st.

The CAO indicated that the community of Sampsonville already has a public water supply that supplies water to approximately 100 homes and he noted that Municipal Council has been aware of their coliform problem for several years, and he noted that Municipal Council has already expended funds to try to resolve these problems in a manner by expending those funds as the commencement of a public water utility which is the only authority Municipal Council has to provide water services to individuals. He noted there is already work in progress for a new utility and he noted that Municipal Council would have the authority to levy an area rate, if the utility didn't go forward. He suggested that Municipal Council establish this as an account for the community of Sampsonville that will be considered to be work in progress for capital projects to be assumed by a utility for the community of Sampsonville.

Moved by Councillor Rankin that Richmond Municipal Council approve the expenditure and support the system for the St. Peter's water supply study for the utility that has yet to be named and set up.

Warden Cotton indicated this matter had been tabled indefinitely at the last meeting, and this item would have to be removed from the table prior to dealing with it.

Councillor Rankin withdrew his motion.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Warden Cotton that the motion that previously tabled the request from the Village of St. Peter's to budget deliberations be dealt with this evening. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Richmond Municipal Council give support to the development of a groundwater supply for the communities of Sampsonville and St. Peter's and approve funding for this purpose to the lessor of a maximum of \$33,175, or one-third of the actual cost, and with the funding being conditional on completion of the study by March 31, 2005; and further moved that the municipal expenditure be allocated to work in progress for a proposed utility to serve the community of Sampsonville. Motion carried."

Fifteen Minute Question Period

There were no questions.

Moved by Councillor C. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Beaton that the meeting adjourn at 7:50 p.m. Motion carried.