

RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

FEBRUARY 14, 2005

Location: Council Chambers, Municipal Office

Warden Cotton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and the meeting observed the singing of O'Canada.

The CAO took roll call of Councillors.

Items Added to the Agenda

Warden Cotton indicated that there were three items to be added, which were Warden Cotton re: Richmond Tourism Co-Op Municipal Representative; Councillor J. Boudreau re: Petit De Grat School; and Councillor Johnson re: Grant Request, District #10 Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the agenda be approved, with the addition of the items noted. Motion carried.

Review of Minutes: January 25, 2005

Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded by Councillor Beaton that the minutes of January 25, 2005 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Presentations and/or Delegations:

(a) R.C.M.P. re: 2003-04 Action Plan

Corporal Paul Vickers addressed Council, indicating that Sergeant Brian London had recently been transferred. Corporal Vickers noted that the R.C.M.P. action plan had previously been distributed, and he reviewed the staffing complement for the Richmond County Detachment, and their strategic goals (6) and their strategic focus (4).

Corporal Vickers also noted that the statistics during the past year had also been distributed.

A question and answer period followed.

Corporal Vickers noted substantial increase in drunk driving infractions, noting that this was partly as a result of increased enforcement.

Councillors thanked Corporal Vickers and the Detachment for the services provided, particularly with regard to the amalgamation of the local detachments into a Richmond County Detachment, and the improved services that have resulted.

(b) Returning Officer re: Report

Warden Cotton welcomed Mr. Bobby Sampson

Mr. Sampson reviewed his recommendations to Service Nova Scotia for improvements to the Municipal Elections Act. He also suggested that Council improve the description for the boundary between District #1 and District #3 in the Pondville area.

Mr. Sampson also indicated that the provincial plebiscite on shopping had caused enormous stress to election day officials, who were extremely overworked. He also noted that there difficulties with enumeration in some municipal districts.

Following a question and answer period, Councillors noted the quality service provided by the staff who worked on the election, particularly the individuals who operated the voting polls.

Moved by Council Rankin, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Council accept the report of the Returning Officer. Motion carried.

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

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Municipal Council adopt the Taxi By-Law, which was distributed as Appendix “A”.

Councillor C. Boudreau indicated that an application for a Taxi License had been included with the Taxi By-Law, at the meeting that considered First Reading approval, and he inquired if the By-Law that was attached as Appendix “A” was identical to that which had been presented at the previous meeting.

The CAO indicated that he was not present at the meeting referred to, and he suggested that the adoption of the By-Law be tabled, if in fact a portion of the By-Law was missing that had been presented for First Reading Approval.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Second Reading Approval be tabled, so that staff can investigate if the By-Law presented to this meeting is identical to that presented to the prior meeting, at which First Reading Approval was given. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

(a) Committee of the Whole

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

Moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor Rankin that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that a letter of support be sent to the Prime Minister, and our MP, for the efforts of MP Cuzner in attempting to obtain an annual federal tax credit of \$1,000 as minimal compensation for volunteer firefighters. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the firm of David Smith Inc. be appointed as municipal auditors for a three year period, commencing April 1, 2005. Motion carried

Councillor Martell declared a conflict of interest, because his wife is employed by one of the firms that has bid on the contract, and he left his seat during discussion and voting on this item.

Moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that group medical benefit coverage be obtained for Councillors, as presented by the Deputy Clerk, at an annual cost of \$12,036. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that in accordance with the Letter of Intent of September 15, 2004 (the "Agreement") between the Municipality of Richmond (The "Municipality") and Access Northeast Energy Inc. ("ANEI"), the Municipality hereby consents to the assignment of the Agreement by ANEI to Bear Head LNG by operation of the amalgamation of ANEI, Bear Head LNG Inc. and 3091698 Nova Scotia Company pursuant to the Order of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia dated 29 September 2004, the assignment being recognized effective as from the date of amalgamation. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor Beaton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Municipality of Richmond approve of the funding proposal submitted by the Strait-Highlands R.D.A. and further moved that Richmond express the willingness to consider the formula in Option 1, as a concession to the Town of Port Hawkesbury (this would save the Town approximately \$3,300 or 10%, as compared to the other option). 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 the Minister of Environment and Labour be requested to expedite his report on disposal of construction debris and the definitions of construction debris and a strategy for construction debris; in order to attempt to rationalize the current proposal to bury inert materials such as furniture in expensive second generation landfills; and further moved that the Resource Recovery Fund Board and the Provincial Committee of Chairs of Solid Waste Regions be copied. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Warden be authorized to appoint three Councillors to an Adhoc Communications Committee, with the first task of the Committee being to recommend terms of reference to Council. Motion carried.

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

(b) Planning Advisory Committee

Councillor McNamara presented the monthly report of the Planning Advisory Committee (copy attached), noting that only three members attended the first meeting, causing the meeting to be cancelled due to a lack of a quorum.

The CAO noted that the Planning Advisory Committee had severe difficulties with this issue during the past two years.

Councillor McNamara indicated that the Committee would attempt to meet again, and will report back to Council, if difficulties continue.

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

Correspondence:

(a) Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations re: 2005 CAP Assessment Roll

In response to an inquiry, the CAO indicated that the cost of the capped assessment would be approximately \$30,000, that would be added to the expenditures and tax rates for the coming fiscal year.

(b) Hon. Scott Brison re: Arichat Post Office Building

Councillor C. Boudreau indicated that a meeting has been established with representatives of the Public Works Department for March 2, 2005.

(c) Department of Transportation & Public Works re: Cost Shared Paving of J Class Subdivision Streets 2005-06

(d) Village of St. Peter's re: St. Peter's Medical Centre

Moved by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Johnson that this item be tabled and that the request for a tax exemption from the St. Peter's Medical Centre be referred to budget deliberations. Motion carried.

(e) Eastern Counties Regional Library re: Funding Announcement

(f) Strait Area Interagency re: National Family Violence Awareness Week

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Rankin that Richmond Municipal Council proclaim the week of February 13-19, 2005 as "National Family Violence Awareness Week". Motion carried.

(g) Elizabeth David re: Relay for Life

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor C. Boudreau that the request of the organization for "Relay for Life" that has requested use of the municipal parking lot, be referred to staff, to determine if they have any type of insurance coverage, and what the implications would be. Motion carried.

Items Added to the Agenda

(1) Warden Cotton re: Richmond Tourism Co-Op Municipal Representative

Warden Cotton indicated that he was resigning as Municipal Representative on the Richmond County Tourism Co-Op, and he requested that he be provided authority to appoint a replacement.

Moved by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Richmond Municipal Council authorize the Warden to appoint a replacement member to represent Council on the Richmond County Tourism Cooperative Board. Motion carried.

(2) Councillor J. Boudreau re: Petit De Grat School

Councillor J. Boudreau noted that the Petit De Grat School had been abandoned for a number of years, and he requested that staff take steps to dispose of the building.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Municipal Council instruct staff to investigate the options for divestiture of the former Petit De Grat School, and further moved that staff be authorized to carry out any public announcements required to commence the divestiture process. Motion carried.

(3) Councillor Johnson re: Grant Request, District #10 Fire Department Ladies

Auxiliary

Councillor Johnson indicated that she did not have the grant request, but would provide it to staff later.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the grant request of the District #10 Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary be tabled to budget deliberations.
Motion carried.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

There were no questions.

Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded by Councillor Johnson that the meeting adjourn.
Motion carried.

There being no further business, Warden Cotton adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.