

RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

MARCH 14, 2005

Location: Council Chambers, Municipal Office

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

Deputy Warden Sampson asked everyone to remain standing in order to observe one minute of silence for the four Police Officers who were killed in the line of duty and also for the late Francis McNamara, a former Councillor, who served in the western portion of our county from 1985 to 1991.

The Clerk took roll call of Councillors.

Items Added to the Agenda

Deputy Warden Sampson indicated Councillor Martell wished to add a District 4 Town Hall Community Planning Report and the Janvrin's Island Community Centre/Request for Tax Exemption; and Councillor Rankin wished to add the Department of Transportation and Public Works Sign Location.

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

Review of Minutes: (a) February 14, 2005 (Regular Meeting)

(b) February 28, 2005 (Special Meeting)

Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that the minutes of February 14, 2005 (Regular Meeting) and February 28, 2005 (Special Meeting) be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Presentations and/or Delegations:

Deputy Warden Sampson welcomed Mr. Darrell Landry to the meeting.

Mr. Landry indicated he was approaching Council in his new capacity as the Regional Coordinator of the United Way of Cape Breton for Richmond and Inverness Counties. He noted that the Sydney Office has located a sub-office in Port Hawkesbury, where he is located. He indicated the United Way has been in existence since 1959, and has raised a total of \$15 million through volunteer work, which has been put into health and social services agencies.

Mr. Landry indicated that his goal is to educate and create as much awareness of the role United Way plays in Cape Breton to as many organizations, associations, businesses and governmental agencies within the Strait/Richmond and Inverness areas. He noted that much is known about the United Way in Sydney, Halifax and many cities across the country, but little is known about the work they do with health and social service agencies in the rural areas.

Mr. Landry indicated that the United Way has been providing financial aid to member and non-member agencies that are committed to building a stronger community for all residents of Cape Breton Island; noting that many of these health and social service agencies are right here in Richmond County (i.e. St. Anne's Community Nursing Care; Richmond County Literacy Council; Strait Richmond Hospital Foundation Board and Palliative Care; Children's Aid Society, etc.).

Mr. Landry indicated the United Way is aimed at employer groups (i.e. EDS, Nova Scotia Power, and noted that the province is involved in province-wide campaigns. He noted that mailouts are sent to retired teachers/civil servants, who participated while working and requesting if they wish to continue their participation.

Mr. Landry indicated that individuals may choose where they wish their donations to go (i.e. Canadian Cancer Society, Strait Richmond Palliative Care, etc.).

Mr. Landry indicated he was not requesting any financial funding this evening, but rather requesting an endorsement/support from Municipal Council, in order to create more awareness.

A question and answer period followed.

In response to a question from Councillor Rankin regarding the overlapping of campaigns with the Strait Richmond Hospital Festival of Trees, requesting if the Strait Richmond Hospital Foundation could go under the umbrella of the United Way, Mr. Landry indicated that he was hopeful that this is what will happen in the future.

In response to a question from Deputy Warden Sampson, Mr. Landry indicated the United Way could not fund an individual, but would refer that individual to the proper organization, because the United Way is required to fund to a charitable organization, not individuals; and he noted there is a good network of agencies.

Deputy Warden Sampson thanked Mr. Landry for attending the Council Meeting and enlightening Council Members regarding the work being done by the United Way.

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

Moved by Warden Cotton, seconded by Councillor J. Boudreau that Municipal Council give Second Reading Approval to adopt a new Taxi By-Law, By-Law #20, as a By-Law of the Municipality (attached as Appendix “A”). Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Rankin that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the proposed By-Law #20, Taxis, be amended to include a provision that an application for a taxi driver’s license must also be accompanied by a “driver’s abstract”, issued by the relevant provincial authority. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

(a) Committee of the Whole

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

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Martell that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and the Deputy Clerk Treasurer and that the municipal insurance tender for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2006 be awarded to MacCoy Insurance, at their low tender bid of \$74,739. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor J. Boudreau that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Municipality enter into the attached Memorandum of Understanding (Appendix “A”), with Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations for cooperation in the development, sharing and distribution of geographic information. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Warden Cotton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the unfunded actuarial liability, currently estimated at \$357,400, be funded over a three year period; and further that the issue of increased contributions to fund the current requirements be decided at a future date, following negotiations with municipal employees. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Martell that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that staff be authorized to enter into a one year lease agreement with Mr. Kelly Embree, for the rental of Bay 2 at the Industrial Mall. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Rankin that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that a grant be provided to Family Treasures Consignment Boutique, to a maximum amount of \$1,420.08, as the difference in their rental payment from Year 1 rates to Year 2 rates, for the period June 1, 2004 to June 1, 2005; conditional that they qualify for this grant in accordance with our grant policy, and also that the money is available from this year's grant funds. Motion carried.

Councillor MacPhee gave notice that he will introduce a motion at the next regular Council Meeting to amend By-Law #13, Dog By-Law, to incorporate the ability to issue summary offence tickets.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor J. Boudreau that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that Mr. Leon LeBlanc be appointed to a three year term as a Director to represent Richmond County with the Fire Service Association of Nova Scotia, with Mr. Cecil Frost acting as an Alternate. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, 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 MacPhee presented the monthly report of the Planning Advisory Committee (copy attached).

Moved Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Martell that Council accept the recommendation of the Planning Advisory Committee and give First Reading Approval to the Central Richmond Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-Law, as attached; and further moved that Council establish a Public Hearing date of 6:30 p.m., April 11, 2005 at the Municipal Office Council Chambers. Motion carried.

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

Correspondence:

(a) Mr. Wayne Bona re: Nova Scotia Sustainable Communities Initiative

The CAO noted he had been approached by Mr. Bona, who is a member of the Nova Scotia Sustainable Communities Initiative for the Bras D'Or Lakes indicating the Municipality has not been represented since Mr. Robert MacDonald, Economic Development Officer, left his employment with the Municipality, and he requested that the Municipality appoint an individual to attend meetings. He noted that Mr. Bona has provided a copy of the Cape Breton Field Team Roles and Focus Areas (copy attached).

Councillor J. Boudreau indicated this was more of an RDA initiative, and he noted that the Nova Scotia Sustainable Community's report, which had been done through Dalhousie University, with nine consultations held across the province had not been well received; and he recommended that the R.D.A. staff person attending this Committee could report back to Council.

The CAO noted that Karen Malcolm from the R.D.A. attends meetings, and Blaine Gillis also attends on occasion.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that the local Sustainable Communities Committee be advised that the R.D.A. staff that attend these meetings represent the Municipality; and further moved that the Strait-Highlands R.D.A. be requested to provide a report from their staff who attend the Sustainable Community Meetings. Motion carried.

(b) Richmond Academy re: Scholarships

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Johnson that the Municipality continue to provide scholarships to the Richmond Academy, as in past practice. Motion carried.

(c) Skateboarding Park Committee re: Request for Municipality to Assume Land Ownership/Liability Insurance for Former Tennis Court

The CAO indicated that Councillor C. Boudreau had brought this matter to a Committee of the Whole Meeting several weeks ago, and he indicated that staff is presently gathering information on these two issues.

Moved by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Martell that this matter be referred to the Committee of the Whole Meeting, for ongoing investigation. Motion carried.

(d) Cape Breton Island Pathways Association re: Financial Request

Moved by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Warden Cotton that a grant in the amount of \$1,000 be given to the Cape Breton Island Pathways Association, with the decision being made at a later date as to whether the funds will be taken from the Municipal Grant Fund or the Municipal Infrastructure Fund, if funds are available from this year's budget. Motion carried.

(e) Richmond County Senior's Expo re: Grant Request

(f) Camp Rankin re: Grant Request

(g) Point Tupper Heritage Association re: Grant Request

(h) Lakeside Community Centre re: Grant Request

- (i) Wallace MacAskill Yacht Club re: Grant Request
- (j) Eastern Regional Help Line re: Grant Request
- (k) Oceanview Wildlife Museum Society re: (i) Grant Request
(ii) Request for Tax Exemption
- (l) Lakeside Community Association re: Request for Tax Exemption

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Martell that the grant requests from the Richmond County Senior's Expo; Camp Rankin; Point Tupper Heritage Association; Lakeside Community Centre; Wallace MacAskill Yacht Club; Eastern Regional Help Line; Oceanview Wildlife Association; and the requests for tax exemptions from the Oceanview Wildlife Museum Society and the Lakeside Community Association be referred to the Committee on budget deliberations. Motion carried.

Items Added to the Agenda

(1) Councillor Martell re:

- (i) District 4 Town Hall Community Planning Report

Councillor Martell indicated he had held a meeting with District #4 residents, and was providing a copy of his report to Council, for information purposes, in conjunction with the strategic planning sessions; and he invited Councillors to contact him if they had any questions.

Deputy Warden Sampson commended Councillor Martell on his initiative in identifying the needs and establishing priorities, with Council hopefully meeting some of these targets.

- (ii) Janvrin's Island Community Centre/Request for Tax Exemption

Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded by Councillor J. Boudreau that the request for tax exemption from the Janvrin's Island Community Centre be referred to the Committee on budget deliberations. Motion carried.

(2) Councillor Rankin re: Department of Transportation and Public Works re: Sign Location

Councillor Rankin informed Council that the Tourist Operators have indicated that the Department of Transportation & Public Works had erected a sign directing traffic heading for the Newfoundland Ferry to take Highway 105.

Warden Cotton indicated that as far as distance factors, there is no difference between taking Highway 105 or Highway 104 and Route 4 to travel to the Newfoundland Ferry, and he indicated that motorists should not be encouraged to take a preferred route.

Moved by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that WHEREAS the Department of Transportation and Public Works has erected a sign identifying the Newfoundland Ferry is accessible by taking Highway 105;

AND WHEREAS the southern route, Highway 104 and Route 4 also allows the traveling public to reach the Newfoundland Ferry;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation and Public Works be asked to erect a sign giving motorists the choice in traveling to the Newfoundland and Labrador Ferry. Motion carried.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

There were no questions.

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

There being no further business, Deputy Warden Sampson adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.