

RICHMOND MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

SEPTEMBER 12, 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 signing of O'Canada.

The CAO completed roll call of Councillors.

Items Added to the Agenda

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Martell that Council approve of the four following items that were distributed, for addition to the agenda:

- (1) Councillor MacPhee re: Rising Gas and Heating Fuel Prices
- (2) Councillor Rankin re: Proclaim Terry Fox Run
- (3) Councillor Johnson re: Grant Request, Fourchu Reunion Committee
- (4) CAO re: Framboise School

AND FURTHER MOVED that Council give unanimous consent to the addition of an acknowledgement, that Councillor Johnson is requesting be added to the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Review of Minutes: (a) June 20, 2005 (Annual Meeting)

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the minutes of June 20, 2005 (Annual Meeting) be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Petitions and/or Delegations

- (a) Theresa MacNeil re: Bras D'Or Lake/UNESCO Biosphere Reserve

Deputy Warden Sampson welcomed Theresa MacNeil to the meeting.

Mrs. MacNeil began by outlining the members of the steering committee, representing a range of volunteer organizations working to protect the Bras D'Or Lake and enhance it's economic potential.

Mrs. MacNeil indicated that the Committee's objective is to have the Bras D'Or Lake and its watershed designated as a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization).

Mrs. MacNeil indicated that she is not approaching Council asking for money but rather to create awareness and perhaps some level of support in the future.

Mrs. MacNeil indicated that the definition of a Biosphere Reserve is "...areas of terrestrial and coastal ecosystems promoting solutions to reconcile the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use" however in simpler language it is an area where land and water resources are used in a way that serves people and still protects the water and surrounding land.

Mrs. MacNeil indicated that there are 459 designated Biosphere Reserve sites in 97 nations, with thirteen being in Canada.

Mrs. MacNeil indicated that the UN couldn't be approached directly from any organization it must go through the government of Canada, noting that the process of the application to the Canadian Government takes approximately 5 months.

Mrs. MacNeil indicated that the designation would promote economic development as well as promote research.

Mrs. MacNeil indicated that this designation is not a way to get new regulations imposed and is not a new level of bureaucracy, noting that its intention is to achieve three basic functions: conservation, sustainable development, and support for education and research.

Mrs. MacNeil indicated that it is her intention as well as that of the steering committee to get as many people informed and asking questions as possible.

Mrs. MacNeil indicated that this designation is an attraction from some types of tourists as well as researchers.

Mrs. MacNeil indicated that the Association of Biosphere Reserves in Canada has put together an 18 page "plain english" document that will be made available later this month, noting that when it is made available she will provide Council with a copy.

In response to a question from Councillor Johnson, Mrs. MacNeil indicated that the designation had no restrictions, noting that the organization must enforce its own restrictions.

Councillor MacPhee thanked Mrs. MacNeil for her prominent work, noting that people must be made aware that just because the area will be designated as a Biosphere Reserve does not mean that the commercial and recreational ability of the lake will be affected, as long as there is no further damage to the biosphere.

Councillor McNamara indicated that the research and increase in tourism as a result of this designation would be very advantageous, noting that she wishes Mrs. MacNeil success with this designation process.

Warden Cotton indicated that with Telile broadcasting the meeting this may help to promote awareness and commended Mrs. MacNeil for what she and the steering committee members are trying to accomplish.

Councillor Rankin thanked Mrs. MacNeil for all of her hard work on this project, noting that he is also involved in efforts to preserving the Bras D'or Lakes, however not on the same level as this project, noting that it is very important to protect such a resource that affects all four counties, further expressing his support for this project.

Mrs. MacNeil indicated that if this designation is successful there would be a huge issue regarding sewage in the Lake.

Councillor J. Boudreau indicated that he is a member of the Wildlife Association, which supports the need to protect and promote to Bras D'Or Lakes, noting that he will stand behind this project 100%.

Mrs. MacNeil thanked Councillor J. Boudreau for the support of the Wildlife Association.

In response to a question from Deputy Warden Sampson, Mrs. MacNeil indicated that presentations have been made to CBRM and Victoria and she hopes to present to Inverness as well.

In response to a question from Councillor Martell, Mrs. MacNeil indicated that she doesn't believe that there are any big challenges because there are no big objections to this project, noting that when CBC comes back on air she hopes to do some promotion on information morning as well as with other media.

Councillor Martell commended Mrs. MacNeil on her volunteer efforts.

Councillor C. Boudreau indicated that he has not had a lot of opportunity to participate in activities on or around the Bras D'Or Lakes, noting that recently he participated in a staff boat cruise on the Bras D'or Lake indicating that many of the staff were amazed that this was a salt water lake, further noting that he sees the designation as helping other efforts in improving and preserving the Lake.

In response to a question from the CAO, Mrs. MacNeil indicated that after a few more meetings of the steering committee and some public relations efforts the application will be submitted to the government by the end of this year, hoping to see results perhaps by this time next year.

Mrs. MacNeil welcomed any further suggestion that Council may have.

Councillor Rankin indicated that he had been present at other presentations regarding the future of the Bras D'Or Lakes noting that people, as a result, feared effects on fishing, boating and cottage life, noting that this presentation clearly indicated that there would be no threat to this.

In response to a question from Councillor J. Boudreau, Mrs. MacNeil indicated that the Unimagi Institute is supportive of this designation.

Deputy Warden Sampson thanked Mrs. MacNeil for educating Council on this project, noting that he hopes that Telile's presence will help promote awareness and commended Mr. MacNeil on her volunteer efforts, noting that Council will do what they can to support the application.

Committee Reports

Councillor MacPhee presented the Committee of the Whole report for the month of September 2005.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor J. Boudreau that Council accept the recommendation of the Director of Public Works and the Committee of the Whole and that the tender for the construction of the solid waste transfer station be awarded to W.A. Latimer General Contracting Ltd., at their low tender bid of \$1,058,370.80, plus HST. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that senior staff and related resources review the Jeff Stanley report, proposed policies and proposed processes, and prepare a report for Council on a manner of implementing the policies and processes for grant requests and municipal infrastructure requests. Motion carried.

Councillor Rankin indicated that he would like to make note that Mr. Jeff Stanley's company is Rural Links.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Municipality enter into an agreement with Internetworking Atlantic Inc., for the operation and maintenance of the fiber optic network and infrastructure in Point Tupper. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Rankin that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the CAO and Deputy Clerk be authorized to act as signing officers for the Richmond Housing Corporation solely for the construction project of the new Richmond Villa, and that staff also be authorized to carry out the accounting and financial administration functions for this construction project. Motion carried.

Councillor Martell declared a conflict of interest, regarding the issue of the Petit De Grat School, because his employer is involved in the business planning, and he left his Council seat during discussion and voting of this item.

Councillor Beaton declared a conflict of interest, because his son is employed for one of the proponents involved in the business plan, and he left his seat during discussion and voting of this item.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor J. Boudreau that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that any further action on disposal of the former Petit De Grat School be postponed until a proposal is received from the Joint Committee comprised of Development Isle Madame Association and Centre La Picasse concerning their plans for the future use of this building. Motion carried.

Councillor Martell and Councillor Beaton re-joined the meeting.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Council accept the recommendation of the Deputy Clerk and the Committee of the Whole and that the draft "Municipal Peacetime Emergency Management Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement" be adopted as presented, and included as part of our Emergency Measures Plan. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Rankin that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that a letter be written to the Department of Transportation requesting a 50 km speed zone in North Side St. Peter's, from Pepperell Street to Sampsonville. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor C. Boudreau that the Committee of the Whole Report for September 2005 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

(a) Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia re: Indiscriminate Camping

The CAO indicated that TIANS is requesting support to ask the Province to enforce it's own legislation that indicated that permitting indiscriminate camping directly contravenes the Tourism Accommodations Act.

Councillor McNamara indicated that this is an issue across the nation and that not permitting this would probably not be helping tourism.

Councillor MacPhee indicated that over the summer months he has read many articles regarding this issue and has observed both pro's and con's, noting that since reading this article of correspondence he has observed this happening in peoples driveways, on

beaches (noting that the campers on the beaches often helped to keep the beaches clean) and that he recognises that the camping industry wants to make money however he is opposed to supporting TIANS at this time, noting that TIANS and operators should be made aware of the issues that Council has with preventing this practice.

Councillor Rankin expressed his support for the prevention of indiscriminate camping, noting that the operators put a lot of money into their campgrounds, further noting that he believed that indiscriminate camping would not pertain to individuals in private driveways and that enforcing these regulations would prevent such instances as illegal dumping of sewage.

Councillor C. Boudreau indicated that he is not overly in favour or opposed to providing support to TIANS on this issue at the moment, noting that more information is needed as to what is meant by “indiscriminate camping”, noting that there may be effects on tourism considering the fact that there are no campgrounds on Isle Madame.

Councillor Beaton indicated that he would not be supporting TIANS efforts to prohibit indiscriminate camping, noting that there is no campground on Isle Madame and he hates to see campers leave the Island because of the lack of formal accommodations.

Councillor J. Boudreau indicated that he will support TIANS efforts to prohibit indiscriminate camping, noting that during the Congress Mondiale he witnessed campers in parking lots and along the seashore when they could be camping in St. Peter’s, making use of their facilities, and being shuttled to activities.

Councillor MacPhee indicated that he has a copy of a position paper from the TIANS website that he will make available to Councillors.

Warden Cotton indicated that this summer he witnessed much of this practice in his area when weddings took place and hopes that enforcing the Tourism Accommodations Act would not prevent this.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Beaton that this item be tabled until Council receives and reviews more information on the pros and cons of indiscriminate camping. Motion carried

(b) Ideal Concrete Ltd. re: Road Name and Civic Address Number

The CAO indicated that the request from Ideal Concrete must be approved by Council then forwarded to the DPC and DOT for approval.

In response to a question from Councillor J. Boudreau, the CAO indicated that Ideal Concrete is the only resident on that road.

Warden Cotton indicated that Ideal Concrete built the road.

Councillor McNamara indicated that Ideal Concrete should be informed that they must approach the DPC for a civic address.

In response to a question from Councillor Rankin, the CAO indicated that this road is not a J-class road, it is unlisted.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council approve the request from Ideal Concrete to name their newly constructed road “Ideal Drive” and that the request be forwarded to the District Planning Commission and Department of Transportation for their approval. Motion carried.

(c) West Side Petit De Grat Residents re: Request for Road Name Change

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Martell that Council approve the road name change request and that it be forwarded to the District Planning Commission and Department of Transportation for their approval. Motion carried.

Councillor C. Boudreau indicated that in his district there are road names appearing and he is unsure where they are coming from, noting that he believes these changes are being made to suit 911, noting that the proper procedures are not being followed to have these road name changes.

The CAO confirmed that road names should have Council and DPC approval before being changed by DOT.

In response to a question from Councillor Rankin, Councillor J. Boudreau indicated that the DPC approves road name changes and it should be brought to their attention that Council should be informed of any road name changes.

Councillor McNamara indicated that the DPC requires Council approval before they make a road name change, noting that it should be looked into whether the DOT is changing these names without the approval of the DPC.

The consensus of Council was that letters be written to the District Planning Commission and the Department of Transportation, to determine the rationale underlying the road name changes that are occurring without community and Council consent.

(d) Henry Paint Street Residents re: Fireworks Display, Canso Causeway 50th

The CAO indicated that the residents of Henry Paint Street were displeased with recent firework displays put on for the 50th Anniversary of the Canso Causeway, noting that there were smouldering and burning debris from fireworks casings raining down over

residences as well as the heritage church/museum and the residents were kept busy watching for and stomping out the embers.

The CAO indicated that the Municipality did not give permission for this fireworks display to be held in Richmond.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that the parties responsible for the fireworks display be contacted, and provided a copy of the complaints from the residents of Point Tupper, and further moved that the responsible organizations be requested to provide information on their licenses, insurance and approvals. Motion carried.

- (e) Recovery House re: Grant Request
- (f) L'Ardoise Jolly Club re: Grant Request

The CAO reviewed both grant requests.

Deputy Warden Sampson indicated that work is being done to find other funding partners for the proposed Elder-Links Centre, noting that when they have a clear definition of where the funding will come from then they will approach Council for a formal commitment and an amount.

Councillor MacPhee indicated that the L'Ardoise Jolly club is a significant member and larger contributor to the Richmond County Seniors Club.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Rankin that Council refer the grant request from Recovery House to the Committee of the Whole and the grant request from the L'Ardoise Jolly Club to the Infrastructure Fund for budget deliberations. Motion carried.

In response to a question from Councillor J. Boudreau, the CAO indicated that he will seek information on what other municipalities contribute to Recovery House.

Items Added to the Agenda

- (1) Councillor MacPhee re: Rising Gas and Heating Fuel Prices

Councillor MacPhee indicated that with the rising fuel prices the government is making money on the HST, noting that the government has said that they have plans to help residents cope with the increased expense, however nothing has yet been done.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor Martell that Richmond County Council approach the Federal and Provincial governments requesting they take action/initiative to help relieve the burden on residents affected by the rise in fuel process. Motion carried.

Warden Cotton indicated that the Federal Finance Minister has made a verbal commitment to set up a task force to investigate the rising prices, noting that the Provincial government should be approached regarding the tax issue.

(2) Councillor Rankin re: Proclaim Terry Fox Run

Moved by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that:

WHEREAS the Terry Fox Run is celebrating it's 25th year of operation in both Canada and Richmond County and;

WHEREAS the run has always been supported by the citizens of Richmond County with runs in schools and communities;

THEREFORE be it resolved that Richmond County proclaim Sunday, September 18th as Terry Fox Run Day and urge all citizens to participate like Valma Poirier of Poirierville, who organized the run on Isle Madame for years, Martina Landry and Bertha Burke from Sampsonville who have participated for all 25 years and Jean Penny of St. Peters who has consistently been one of the top fundraisers in Nova Scotia.

Motion carried.

(3) Councillor Johnson re: Grant Request, Fourchu Reunion Committee

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor C. Boudreau that the grant request from the Fourchu Reunion Committee be tabled until further grant deliberations. Motion carried.

(4) CAO re: Framboise School

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Council accept the recommendation of the Vested Property Clerk and that the former Framboise School be sold by tender, according to Municipal Policy. Motion carried.

Councillor Johnson noted that the community is not interested in taking over the facility, however she is aware of two interested parties.

(5) Councillor Johnson re: Acknowledgement

Councillor Johnson indicated that there are four local residents that will be participating as members of the Junior Women's Surf Team in a competition being held in California, noting that they have filled out an application and will be applying for a grant from the Recreation Department to cover the shortfall in the expenses requires to attend this competition.

Moved by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Council write letters to the four members of the Junior Women's Surf Team and well as their coach expressing Councils support for their participation in the upcoming competition in California.
Motion carried.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

There were no questions.

Deputy Warden Sampson thanked Warden Cotton for allowing his to chair tonight's meeting, noting that this will be the last meeting he will chair as Deputy Warden and further thanking Council for their cooperation and assistance during his term as Deputy Warden.

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

There being no further business Deputy Warden Sampson adjourned the meeting at 8:32 p.m.