

RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

OCTOBER 11, 2005

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 Clerk took roll call of Councillors.

Items Added to the Agenda

Warden Cotton indicated that Deputy Warden Sampson wished to add the U.N.S.M. Conference.

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

Review of Minutes: (a) July 4, 2005 (Special Meeting)
(b) September 12, 2005 (Regular Meeting)

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Beaton that the minutes of July 4, 2005 (Special Meeting) and September 12, 2005 (Regular Meeting) be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Nominations/Appointment – Deputy Warden (1 year term)

Warden Cotton opened the floor to nominations for the position of Deputy Warden.

Councillor Rankin nominated Councillor MacPhee
Councillor Beaton nominated Councillor C. Boudreau
Councillor J. Boudreau nominated Councillor Martell

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor Rankin that nominations cease. Motion carried.

Warden Cotton asked each Councillor nominated if they accepted the nominations, and they each indicated they accepted.

Warden Cotton appointed Mr. Digout and Mrs. Doyle as scrutineers.

Warden Cotton announced the results of the ballot as follows:

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|---------|
| Councillor Chuck Boudreau | - | 4 votes |
| Councillor Alvin Martell | - | 4 votes |
| Councillor Joseph MacPhee | - | 2 votes |

Warden Cotton indicated that Councillor MacPhee's name would be deleted from the vote, and indicated that a second vote would be held between Councillor Martell and Councillor C. Boudreau.

Warden Cotton announced the results of the second ballot as follows:

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|---------|
| Councillor Chuck Boudreau | - | 5 votes |
| Councillor Alvin Martell | - | 5 votes |

Warden Cotton called a five minute recess at 7:15 p.m., in order to allow the two candidates to leave the room and discuss the matter.

Warden Cotton reconvened the meeting at 7:20 p.m. and Councillors proceeded with a third vote.

Following receipt of the vote results from the Scrutineers; Warden Cotton declared Councillor Martell elected Deputy Warden for 2005/2006.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Councillor Martell's election be accepted unanimously and that the ballots be destroyed. Motion carried.

Warden Cotton congratulated Councillor Martell and indicated he was looking forward to working with him over the next year.

Deputy Warden Martell thanked Municipal Councillors for their support and indicated he will be certainly be doing extra work in the coming year to ensure that the best possible decisions are made for Richmond Municipal Council.

Warden Cotton thanked Councillor Sampson for the great relationship and support during the past year and for the top-notch representation given to Municipal Council.

Petitions and/or Delegations

(a) Inverness-Richmond Society for Persons with Disabilities

Warden Cotton welcomed Stacy MacNeil to the meeting.

Ms. MacNeil addressed Council indicating that the Inverness-Richmond Society for Persons with Disabilities is a not for profit organization funded by Service Canada who assists persons with disabilities enter or re-enter the workforce; access information for educational upgrading and are also a referral source to help resolve barriers for persons with disabilities.

Ms. MacNeil indicated that December is Disability Month and December 3rd is International Day of the Disabled, and she noted that IRSPD is planning to celebrate this day with clients, community members and employers at an Open House to be held at their office on December 2, 2005 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and she extended an invitation to Municipal Councillors to attend the Open House. She indicated achievement awards and certificates of accomplishment will be presented at the Open House, along with certificates of appreciation recognizing employers as equal opportunity employers.

Ms. MacNeil indicated that IRSPD has had many changes in 2005, with the Executive Director leaving her position and the hiring of Darrell Landry as the new Job Development/Job Coach. She noted that she too was taking over a new responsibility with the combining of the Executive Director position and her own duties as a Financial Officer.

Ms. MacNeil indicated there were presently 11 active Board members, with five Board members being from Inverness County, three from Port Hawkesbury and three from Richmond County. She noted they are still looking for more Board members and she requested Councillors to contact her if they become aware of anyone interested to serve on the Board.

Ms. MacNeil noted that IRSPD seems to be dealing with more education/upgrading clients, most of whom have learning disabilities, since Mr. Landry was hired in July. She also noted that there are presently 28 active clients, 15 of whom are from Richmond County, 8 from Inverness County and 5 from Port Hawkesbury.

Ms. MacNeil indicated that IRSPD has requested a grant from Municipal Council in the amount of \$400 to help the organization assist these clients in their struggles to find employment or educational upgrading.

A question and answer period followed.

In response to a question from Councillor Sampson, Ms. MacNeil indicated that funding was solely funded from Service Canada and she noted the last contract had ended on September 2, 2005 and they have secured a new contract on September 5, 2005 in the amount of \$157,000 for 19 months, which is the total operating budget. She noted there were no other sources of revenue.

In response to a question from Councillor McNamara regarding funding provided to a local musician, Ms. MacNeil indicated that no direct dollars was provided to him from IRSPD.

In response to a question from Councillor Rankin, Ms. MacNeil indicated that the three Board members from Richmond were Mr. Wayne Bona, Mr. Richard MacIntosh and Mrs. Madaline Libbus.

In response to a question from Councillor Beaton regarding accessible transportation, Ms. MacNeil indicated there were many barriers regarding transportation. She noted that a needs assessment survey taken in 2003 indicated that 41% of the clients who participated had concerns with transportation barriers and 96% of the clients had barriers for employment.

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Deputy Warden Martell that Municipal Council accept the presentation from Inverness-Richmond Society for Persons with Disabilities and that their grant request be referred to Committee of the Whole for further grant deliberations. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

(a) Committee of the Whole

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

Deputy Warden Martell gave notice that he will introduce a motion at the next regular Council Meeting to adopt the "Councillors District Activity Fund" policy, as a policy of the Municipality (attached as Appendix "A").

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor Beaton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the funds remaining from the infrastructure district fund be released immediately. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that Municipal Council proceed with the cleanup of the dangerous and unsightly premise of Michael Joseph Sampson, in accordance with a Court Order obtained August 23, 2005, and award the contract to T. Sampson and Sons at their low bid of \$17,100 + tipping fees + HST. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor Rankin that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that a letter be written to Public Works and Government Services Canada indicating that the Municipality is not interested in acquiring the surplus property identified as the former Marine Navigational Aid, in Lower L'Ardoise. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that municipal funding be approved in the amount of 25% of the cost of the Tourism Co-Op business plan, to a maximum of \$4,032. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor Rankin that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that municipal funding be authorized to provide for 40% of the cost of the position of a Co-Ordinator for the Tourism Co-Op, for a one year term. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor C. Boudreau that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the grant request from the Isle Madame Historical Society in the amount of \$1,000 be approved. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor Rankin that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the grant request from Cape Breton Pathways in the amount of \$2,000 be approved. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the grant request from the R.O.C. Centre be approved in the amount of \$1,000/year per student from Richmond County, to a maximum of \$10,000/year for the remainder of the term of the current council (3 years), conditional on the Solicitor indicating that the municipality is permitted by the MGA to fund this project. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor J. Boudreau that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the grant request for the Atlantic Canada Storytelling Festival be approved in the amount of 50% of their operating loss, to a maximum of \$3,500. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the grant request from the Strait Richmond Hospital in the amount of \$5,000 be approved. Motion carried.

Councillor McNamara noted that the monies involved for the grant to the Strait Richmond Hospital was to cover the cost of the garden established at the hospital in celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Strait Richmond Hospital.

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor Rankin that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Solicitor be requested to draft a by-law which would provide Municipal Council with the authority to provide partial property tax exemptions, in accordance with the Provincial Statutes, to day cares that are owned by “not for profit” organizations. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that WHEREAS the Council of the Municipality of the County of Richmond has approved the construction of a new nursing home in St. Peter's, to replace the current Richmond Villa;

AND WHEREAS the Nova Scotia Housing Development Corporation (NSHDC) has offered loan financing to the Richmond Housing Corporation for the said project;

BE IT RESOLVED, in accordance with the requirements of the Municipal Housing Corporations Act, S.N.S. 1989, c304, as follows:

The Council for the Municipality of the County of Richmond approves acceptance by the Richmond Housing Corporation of loan financing by standard charge mortgage offered by the NSHDC on the terms and conditions set out in the letter dated 18 July 2005 from the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services attached as Exhibit "A" to this resolution.

Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor McNamara 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).

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that Council accept the recommendation of the Planning Advisory Committee and that the Municipality be asked to clean up the illegal dump site just outside of Port Hawkesbury, as well as the two sites in Point Tupper and once these areas are cleaned up, that proper signage be put in place to deter any further dumping; and further moved that the access to the dumpsite be blocked off in order to eliminate access from the highway. Motion carried.

In response to a question, Councillor MacPhee indicated access was a simple little road from the main highway into a larger site, and he noted that items such as furniture, mattresses and building supplies have been disposed of recently on this site.

The CAO indicated that Mr. Bain has been appointed as the Administrator of Dangerous and Unsightly Premises, and will be requested to investigate to determine who owns the property and also attempt to determine which individuals have been dumping these material, and provide a report for Council.

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

(c) Adhoc Communications Committee

Councillor MacPhee presented a report from the Adhoc Communications Committee, indicating the Committee wished to have Council provide a mandate, as recommended by the Committee (copy attached).

Moved by Councillor MacPhee, seconded by Councillor C. Boudreau that Council accept the recommendation of the Adhoc Communications Committee and that the mandate of the Adhoc Communications Committee be as follows:

1. To promote positive Council activities as reflected through the work done by the various Council Committees along with positive Council/Staff initiatives and to advance such activities on local media;
2. To define and initiate a process whereby Council will activate its own media releases to be published in internal and external media sources;
3. To research and recommend to Council improvements in the County web page;
4. To study and recommend enhancements to internal E communication for use by Councillors and staff.

Motion carried.

Correspondence:

(a) Region of Queens Municipality re: Assessment Management Board

(b) Wallace MacAskill Yacht Club re: Thank You

The CAO indicated the correspondence thanked Municipal Council for the funding given them for their sailing school programs and he outlined some of the activities offered by the Club.

Warden Cotton indicated that Mr. Barry MacNeil had requested to speak and would do so under the fifteen minute question period.

Items Added to the Agenda

(1) Councillor Sampson re: U.N.S.M. Conference

Councillor Sampson indicated he had attended the U.N.S.M Conference held during the past week, and wished to acknowledge that Warden Cotton was elected the new President of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities, and congratulated him on his election. He noted this is the second time that a Warden from Richmond County holds that position,

and he indicated that Warden Cotton has earned a lot of respect from the Rural Caucus and the U.N.S.M. Executive as a whole, and noted this position is poised by strong leadership.

Warden Cotton indicated he is very pleased with his new position of representing municipalities across the province, noting that the U.N.S.M.'s biggest challenge will be dealing with fair and equitable funding.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

Mr. Barry MacNeil indicated although he is a resident of Port Hawkesbury, his heart lies in Richmond County.

Mr. MacNeil indicated he was Vice-Chair of the Inverness Richmond Society for Persons with Disabilities, and wished to indicate his support for their grant request.

Mr. MacNeil indicated he also wished to thank Municipal Council, the CAO and the Deputy Clerk for all their help and support with the grant funding received for the Wallace MacAskill Yacht Club Disability Sailing Program. He noted this program was very successful and each dollar will go back to the youth of Richmond County and he noted the program is open to anyone and all disabled persons interested in the program.

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

There being no further business, Warden Cotton adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.