

RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

NOVEMBER 14, 2005

Location: Council Chambers, Municipal Office

Deputy Warden Martell 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 Clerk indicated that Warden Cotton was attending a UNSM presentation to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board and Councillor Johnson is ill and they will not be attending tonight's meeting.

Items Added to the Agenda

Deputy Warden Martell indicated that Councillor Sampson wished to add Housing Services (information attached), and Councillor Rankin wished to add Eastern Counties Regional Library Book Campaign, Co-Housing and Lights for Life Campaign.

Councillor McNamara indicated that the Co-Housing item and the Lights for Life Campaign item had been communicated to staff by Councillor Rankin, but that in fact these were items that she wished to add to the agenda.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Rankin that the Items Added be accepted as amended. Motion carried.

Review of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the minutes of October 11, 2005 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Petitions and/or Delegations

- (a) Johnstown Community Development Cooperative re: Feasibility Study -
Terms of Reference

Deputy Warden Martell welcomed Wilfred and Betty MacNeil, who addressed Council on behalf of the Johnstown Community Development Co-Op.

Mrs. MacNeil introduced the Chairperson of the Johnstown Seniors Group, and also the District #10 Fire Chief, who were in the audience.

The delegations advised that their Development Co-Op building (the former Johnstown School) has recently been vacated, because of deterioration of the building. The Co-Op representatives indicated that they were pleased to report that the \$60,000 mortgage has been reduced to \$17,000. The group has initiated a Community Planning Committee which has consulted the broader community, and now has a plan for proceeding. They hope to consolidate community groups and volunteers in one building.

The delegation requested a \$20,000 grant from Richmond Council, to assist the group with hiring consultants to arrive at a business plan, that will include an evaluation of the building, and providing a capital plan and an operating plan.

The Chairperson then opened the meeting to a question period by Councillors.

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the presentation and grant request from the Johnstown Community Development Cooperative be tabled and referred to Committee of the Whole for deliberations on grant requests. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Martell thanked Wilfred and Betty MacNeil for their informative presentation.

Notice of Motion - Deputy Warden Martell: to adopt the "Councillors District Activity Fund" Policy, as a policy of the Municipality, attached as Appendix "A".

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Rankin that Council adopt the "Councillors District Activity Fund" Policy, as a policy of the Municipality. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Rankin that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that staff be authorized to proceed with awarding the contract for the C&D site at the low bid received in the amount of \$146,700, plus \$28,040 for contingency, and that staff be authorized to permit the contractor to commence work immediately, because of the lateness of the construction season and the impending changes to provincial regulations. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Beaton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and authorize staff to procure a temporary borrowing resolution and also long term financing in the amount of \$1,750,000; for the purposes of financing the improvements to the solid waste management facility that have been authorized during the current year. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Janvrin's Island Community Centre be provided a grant of 50% of their expenses, to a maximum of \$10,000, and that this amount be taken from the District #4 Municipal Infrastructure Fund for the last fiscal year. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Rankin that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that a grant in the amount of \$5,000 be given to the Lakeside Community Centre, to be taken from the District #8 Municipal Infrastructure Fund for the last fiscal year. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that a grant in the amount of \$1,000 be given to the Dr. Kingston Memorial Clinic, to be taken from the District #9 Municipal Infrastructure Fund for the last fiscal year. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Rankin that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the grant request from Camp Rankin be approved in the amount of \$1,000 and that this amount be taken from the District #8 grant fund. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the grant request from the Louisdale Cenotaph Committee be approved at a rate of 50% of total costs, to a maximum of \$9,500 and that these funds be taken from the District #6 grant fund. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Beaton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the grant request from the Rocky Bay Athletic Club be approved in the amount of \$6,000 and that this money come from the District #3 Municipal Infrastructure Fund for the last fiscal year. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Rankin that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the grant request from the MacAskil House Museum in the amount of 50% of total costs to a maximum of \$1,200 be approved and that funds be taken from the District #8 Municipal Infrastructure Fund for the last fiscal year. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the grant request from the Inverness-Richmond Society for persons with disabilities be approved in the amount of \$400. Motion carried

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Rankin that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the grant request from the Richmond County Community Access Society be tabled until it is determined what other municipal units provide for support to CAP sites and also the Richmond County Community Access Society be contacted regarding their need for the whole \$20,000 dollars or if a reduced amount would be adequate for it's intended purpose. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Rankin that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the grant request from the Arichat Recreation Commission for a skateboard park be approved in the amount of \$5,000. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Municipality provide funds to the Richmond Arena for their shortfall for this coming winter season, in the amount of \$14,000; and also provide a grant for 50% of the costs of a facilities audit and the development of an operations/business plan and that these grants be utilized from the \$44,000 that the Municipality has allocated for the Richmond Arena in the past years. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Beaton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that Provincial and Federal representation be made on behalf on the Richmond County Early Childhood Education Association (RCECEA), informing the appropriate federal and provincial departments of the severe financial difficulty being encountered by the local day care, and requesting assistance for their business operations. Motion carried.

Councillor J. Boudreau gave notice that he will introduce a motion at the next regular Council Meeting to adopt the Policy on Shredding of Documents, as a policy of the Municipality (attached as Appendix "B").

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Rankin that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and the recommendation of the Vested Property Clerk and that the Framboise School be sold to the successful tender, Jeanette and Edie Strachan, in the amount of \$5,100. Motion carried.

Councillor Rankin indicated that this school was the last operating "sunshine school" in the County, noting that it only seems appropriate that Jeanette and Edie Strachan be awarded the tender because their father built the school.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and the recommendation of the Deputy Clerk Treasurer and that Bay #2 at the Industrial Mall be rented to Bras D'Or Physiotherapy Limited. Motion carried

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Rankin that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the current municipal by-laws be reviewed, with respect to the practice of recovering 100% of the net municipal cost from the property owners who receive municipal infrastructure such as water, sewer, etc.; and further moved that staff be directed to provide Municipal Council with amended draft by-laws that would provide that the Municipality will recover 25% of costs of studies and 50% of net capital costs, for major municipal infrastructure projects; from the property owners directly receiving the benefit. Motion carried.

Councillor J. Boudreau indicated that Council is making wonderful strides in putting the needs of the residents of Richmond County with such efforts as this.

Councillor McNamara it is great that Council is providing essential services to residents at minimal costs.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the current priority order in our budget of capital projects be retained for the three year period 2006/07 to 2008/09, as follows:

- #1 - Sampsonville Water (approximately \$3 million)
- #2 - Evanston Sewage Treatment Plant (approximately \$2 million)
- #3 - Arichat Pumping Stations (approximately \$700,000)
- #4 - Evanston Valve Replacement (approximately \$190,000)
- #5 - Back-up Power Supply for the Arichat Water Treatment Plant (approximately \$75,000)
- #6 - Building at Petit De Grat Sewage Treatment Plant (approximately \$70,000)

Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and of the Director of Public Works and that the following collection contracts be awarded:

Zone 1 – Rene Lavandier	-	\$90,375.00
Zone 2 – Gary Burke	-	\$97,646.38
Zone 3 – Tommy Bona	-	\$119,000.00

Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Rankin that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and of the Director of Public Works and that a deadline of January 1, 2006 be established for enforcement of the new Solid Waste By-Law and that immediate action be taken to advise residents. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and request that R.D.A. staff prepare a monthly report for Council, which will provide Richmond Council with an update on activities of the R.D.A. in Richmond County, and further moved that any activities that require confidentiality be submitted as an attachment, with the understanding that Richmond Council will treat the confidential information as such (i.e. will not release any confidential information). Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Rankin that the Committee of the Whole Report for the month of November 2005 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Correspondence

(a) Department of Transportation and Public Works re: New Highway 104 Port Hastings to Port Hawkesbury

The CAO indicated that the original proposal has met opposition in Port Hastings and the Department of Transportation are now working on a revised proposal, noting that they are willing to meet with Council to review this work.

The CAO indicated that it would be useful to know the impact on the revised proposal on the Point Tupper Industrial Park, and the Joint Industrial Park.

In response to a question from Councillor J. Boudreau, the CAO indicated that Council could meet with the Department of Transportation as part of the meeting with the Joint Development Commission or could request a meeting directly, however no request for a meeting has been initiated.

Councillor Rankin and Councillor J. Boudreau expressed that it would be important to meet with the Department of Transportation before the final draft of the revised proposal is approved.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Rankin that Council request a meeting with the Department of Transportation as soon as possible to discuss with them the revised plans for the New Highway 104 by-pass and access from Port Hastings to Port Hawkesbury. Motion carried.

(b) Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations re: Summary Offence Ticket Schedules

The CAO indicated that these Summary Offence Ticket Schedules are for the Dog By-Law, noting that perhaps staff should review other by-laws of the Municipality and investigate where it would be appropriate to be able to issue infractions.

In response to a question from Councillor Rankin, the CAO indicated that that it was suggested at the last meeting that perhaps infractions should be issued for offences under the Solid Waste By-law.

Councillor J. Boudreau indicated that Council should issue a press release indicating the Summary Offence Ticket Schedules for the Dog By-Law.

The CAO indicated that this has been done however he will look into doing more advertising.

(c) Municipality of the County of Cumberland re: Fair & Equitable Funding Final Report

The CAO indicated that in addition to the correspondence from Cumberland expressing their support of the Rural Caucus concerns regarding the Fair and Equitable Funding Final Report he has received correspondence from another municipal unit expressing their support.

Moved by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor J. Boudreau that Council that a letter of support be written to the U.N.S.M. Rural Caucus expressing the Municipality's support for the Rural Caucus position on the Fair and Equitable Funding Final Report. Motion carried.

(d) U.N.S.M. re: Rural Caucus Questions

For information.

(e) Voluntary Planning re: Participation in Heritage Consultations

The CAO noted that Voluntary Planning Heritage Strategy Task Force has set up community meetings to get input from the public, however there is no meeting scheduled in Richmond County.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Rankin that a letter be sent to Voluntary Planning indicating that Richmond County is an area rich in culture and heritage and expressing Council's displeasure with the fact that there are no meeting scheduled in the County, suggesting that a meeting in Richmond be included. Motion carried.

In response to a question from Councillor J. Boudreau, the CAO indicated that he will inform members of the Heritage Committee of the meeting schedule.

(f) Canadian Union of Postal Workers re: Closure of Post Offices and Plants

Deputy Warden Martell expressed the importance of keeping post offices open, noting that closures have had negative impact on communities.

Councillor Rankin indicated that post offices are an integral part of our communities, noting that in addition to closures Canada Post will be facing another threat, noting that UPS is challenging Canada Post for mail delivery under the Free Trade Agreement.

Councillor J. Boudreau indicated that he supports the motion however he gets irate when the Union takes a stand when there are closures and job loss slated for upper Canada, questioning where was the union when there were local closures in Richmond.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor McNamara that;

WHEREAS Canada Post is reviewing its entire postal network and has announced plans to close a mail sorting plant in Quebec City as the very first step in its review.

WHEREAS the government appears to support Canada Post's plan to close the plant in Quebec City, beginning in December 2005, which would eliminate 302 jobs.

WHEREAS the government is allowing Canada Post to close rural post offices in spite of a moratorium on post office closures in rural and small towns.

WHEREAS our public postal network connects communities throughout this vast land, helping us to overcome differences and distances.

WHEREAS our public postal network plays a key role in our social and economic life by providing jobs and the infrastructure that healthy communities need thrive and businesses need to grow.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Municipality of the County of Richmond write to John McCallum, the Minister responsible for Canada Post and request that the federal government instruct Canada Post:

1. to stop the closure of the mail sorting plant in Quebec City and proposed closures in other locations.
2. to consult with the public, postal unions and other major stakeholders to develop a uniform and democratic process for making changes to the Canada Post's network.
3. to maintain, expand and improve our public postal network.

Motion carried.

(g) Office of the Prime Minister re: Acknowledgement

For information.

(h) Office of the Premier re: Acknowledgement

For information.

(i) Cape Breton Pathways re: Board Representative

The CAO indicated that Cape Breton Pathways is looking for the Municipality to provide the name on an ex-officio board member that will serve on the Municipality's behalf.

The CAO indicated that other municipal units have their Recreation staff involved.

Councillor Rankin indicated that Mr. Boudreau assisted Cape Breton Pathways with their start-up, noting that the Recreation Directors that serve from other municipal units serve as an integral part of the Board.

The CAO indicated that he will speak to the Recreation Director, Mr, Boudreau, and request his input of this issue.

(j) Department of the Environment re: Amended Standards for Gravel Pits

The CAO noted that the Department of the Environment has removed the requirements for small gravel pits, noting that anything less than 5 acres does not require a permit, noting that they are seeking input from municipal units on all pits.

It was the consensus of Council that this item be referred to the Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission as well as the Strait Highland RDA for feedback.

Councillor J. Boudreau indicated that the Director of Public Works should be asked to speak about this issue with his network of colleagues and provide Council with feedback.

(k) Mr. Michel Samson re: Arichat Community Development

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Rankin that the request for funding for repairs to the sign entering Arichat be referred to the Committee of the Whole for deliberations. Motion carried.

(l) Proud Halifax Pride '05 re: Grant Request

The CAO indicated that Proud Halifax Pride is requesting a donation for pride week 2006 and they hope the Municipality could be a major sponsor.

The CAO noted that he is unaware that the Municipality has ever funded activities in Halifax, noting that grant money has been spent for this year.

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Sampson that this item be referred to the Committee of the Whole for budget deliberations. Motion carried.

(m) Correctional Service Canada re: Proclamation of Restorative Justice Week 2005

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the Municipality proclaim November 13th to November 20th, 2005 Restorative Justice Week 2005. Motion carried.

Items Added to the Agenda

(a) Councillor Sampson re: Housing Services

Councillor Sampson indicated that he has received correspondence from the Department of Community Services, Housing Services outlining the funding allotment for Richmond County.

Councillor Sampson noted that the Seniors Secretariat Report release on November 7th indicates that there will be more funding for housing repairs announced.

Councillor Sampson indicated that he received information today indicating that an order of Council approved on Friday will move the maximum household income for seniors only from \$19,000 to \$22,000.

Councillor Sampson noted that this should also be changed for families, not just seniors, noting that this is issue that requires priority.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor J. Boudreau that a letter be written to the Hon. David Morse acknowledging and expressing appreciation for the \$2 million earmarked in Nova Scotia for home repair programs and further move that it be requested that the housing income level for families be included in the eligibility for the funding. Motion carried.

(b) Councillor Rankin re: Eastern Counties Regional Library Book Campaign

Councillor Rankin indicated that ENCANA is matching all donations made under this campaign, requesting that the Municipality provide a donation on \$500 for this campaign.

Moved by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor McNamara that the request for a donation to the Eastern Counties Regional Library Book Campaign be referred to the Committee of the whole for deliberations. Motion carried.

(c) Councillor McNamara re:

(i) Co-Housing

Councillor McNamara indicated that she attended a workshop in Halifax regarding Co-Housing, noting that she has provided each Councillor with a copy of the information she received.

Councillor McNamara indicated that she believed that this was not a concept that would work in Richmond because of the availability of land, however it is a very interesting subject.

In response to a question from Deputy Warden Martell, Councillor McNamara indicated that this type of housing is used for seniors and low income families in other parts of Canada.

In response to a question from Deputy Warden Martell, Councillor McNamara indicated that co-housing is developed from existing building as well as from new construction.

(ii) Lights for Life Campaign

Councillor Rankin declared a conflict in interest indicating that he is an employee of the Strait Richmond Hospital Foundation, and removed himself from discussions.

Councillor McNamara indicated that the annual Lights for Life Campaign has begun and she is requesting that the Municipality support this cause by providing a donation of \$1,000 noting that a lighted Christmas tree will appear outside of the hospital in the name of the Municipality to recognize the donation.

Deputy Warden Martell noted that requests for grants are normally referred to Committee of the Whole for deliberation, and in fact, several requests have been dealt with in this manner, earlier in this meeting.

Councillor Boudreau inquired if Council has the authority to approve a grant at the current meeting. The CAO indicated that the amount of uncommitted grant funds was greatly diminished, but that Council had authority to expend the remaining grant funds.

The Chairperson indicated that he did not have a problem with the grant request, but he felt that Council had previously agreed that any funding items that are added to the agenda should be referred to Committee of the Whole for proper discussion and deliberation.

Councillor McNamara indicated that the Municipality has provided a donation to this initiative in the past, and she felt that the grant request should be dealt with immediately.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Beaton that Council provide a donation to the Lights for Life Campaign in the amount of \$1,000. Motion carried.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

Mr. Doug Landry thanked Council on behalf of the Lakeside Community Centre, Camp Rankin, MacAskill House Museum and Sampsonville Residents for what Council has done for each of these groups.

In response to a question from Mr. Tommy Bona, solid waste hauler, the CAO indicated that on January 1, 2006 the new Solid Waste By-Law, including the use of clear bags will be enforced, suggesting that Mr. Bona is a contract municipal representative regarding this service, and he should contact his supervisor, the Director of Public Works if he requires further information on the implementation.

Ms. Patty Cave indicated that Industry Canada has announced that this will be the last year that they will be providing funding for CAP sites in Canada, noting that she is unsure if correspondence would be required however she is requesting that Council write a letter to Industry Canada to represent the CAP sites and object to the elimination of funding.

The CAO indicated that he had met with Industry Canada in the spring and at the time they were not sure where the funding would come from for CAP sites, noting that he believes that it is very important to make representation to Industry Canada in this issue.

Councillor J. Boudreau indicated that if correspondence were submitted it would definitely move this forward.

Ms. Cave indicated that she will submit correspondence to Council regarding this issue.

Ms. Gloria Hill wished to thank Council on behalf of the Janvrins Island Community Center for the grant that Council has provided.

Ms. Cave indicated that that this in the 10th Anniversary of CAP in Canada and there will be a celebration held in Halifax on November 29th and 30th, noting that Mrs. Norma Boudreau will be attending on behalf of Richmond County.

Adjournment

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

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.