

RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

DECEMBER 12, 2005

Location: Municipal Office, Arichat

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.

Warden Cotton indicated that Councillor Sampson is unable to attend tonight's meeting because he is attending physician recruitment at Dalhousie.

The CAO indicated that Councillor MacPhee is unable to attend tonight's meeting because of illness and Councillor C. Boudreau is unable to attend tonight's meeting because of work commitments.

Items Added to the Agenda

There are no items to be added to the agenda

Review of Minutes: November 14, 2005

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Beaton that the minutes of November 14, 2005 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Petitions and/or Delegations:

(a) Dundee Water Co-Operative Limited (Carol Rankin) re: Provision of Potable Water System

Mrs. Carol Rankin and Mr. Steve Rankin presented on behalf of the Dundee Water Cooperative Limited.

Mr. Rankin introduced the Cooperative members that were present in the audience.

Mr. Rankin indicated that clean water is a fundamental human right.

Mr. Rankin indicated that 30 + properties have been identified on a three kilometer stretch in Dundee from Cameron Mountain Rd. to the Billard property, at the Cross Roads, that require potable water, with 15-20 more interested.

Mr. Rankin indicated that that these taxpayers have previously examined ways of bringing potable water to homes unsuccessfully.

Mr. Rankin indicated that he drove around the community today and observed the construction of two new homes, both installing peat moss beds, which are very expensive.

Mr. Rankin indicated that there is a problem with wells in Dundee because of gypsum.

Mr. Rankin indicated that water tests were carried out by the Capital District Health Authority Division of Environmental Services on a mountain spring indicating that the Coliform Count was 461 ppm (allowable maximum 100) and E-Coli count was 2 ppm (should be 0).

Mr. Rankin indicated that two additional tests done at St. Martha's Hospital also failed.

Mr. Rankin indicated that their next steps are to investigate sources of funding available to hire an engineering firm to identify sources of potable water to provide for the adequate needs of the Community.

Mr. Rankin indicated that they will be requesting funding from the Municipality as well as manpower and expertise.

Mr. Rankin noted that provincial and federal sources of funding will also be investigated.

Mr. Rankin noted that an engineering study must consider the future needs of the community, including private, commercial and industrial developments.

Mr. Rankin indicated that he would like to thank Councillor McNamara and Councillor MacPhee for the support they have provided.

Mr. Rankin indicated that he, along with other members of the Cooperative, are willing to entertain any questions that Council may have.

In response to a question from Councillor Rankin, Mr. Alfred Sampson, President of the Cooperative, indicated that he believes that there is water on the mountain, however they need the help to direct them to where the water sources may be.

In response to a question from Councillor Rankin, Mr. Alfred Sampson indicated that the Dundee Resort is not a member of the Cooperative, noting that they have two wells of their own.

Mr. Rankin indicated that the Dundee Resort provides water to the Marina and cottages via underwater pipe.

Councillor McNamara indicated that this is a grave situation and the Cooperative has come along way.

Councillor McNamara noted that unsafe water is worse than no water and that she is very supportive of the efforts of the Cooperative and that she hopes that Municipal staff can assist them.

Warden Cotton indicated that once Council accepts the report he hopes that they will be able to provide some assistance, noting that staff will be requested to report and to prioritize the request.

Councillor J. Boudreau indicated that the developing of terms of reference always seems to slow down a project noting that Mr. Rankin outlined some good terms of reference in his presentation, suggesting that these terms be used.

Warden Cotton indicated that he will get a hard copy of Mr. Rankin's presentation.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Deputy Warden Martell that Council accept the presentation of the Dundee Water Cooperative Limited and that their presentation be forwarded to staff for review. Motion carried.

(b) Leaside Transition House (Jacqueline Samson/Marina Martens) re: Services/Grant Request

Jacqueline Samson and Marina Martens were welcomed to the meeting.

Ms. Martens reviewed quotes from some of the women who used the services of Leaside.

Ms. Martens indicating that Leaside has been providing services to women since 1990 and in 1992 the shelter was opened.

Ms. Martens indicating the Leaside services are continually changing to meet the needs of the Community.

Ms. Martens reviewed the services they provide.

Ms. Martens indicated that Leaside received over 7,000 calls this year so far (year ending March 2006).

Ms. Martens indicated that approximately 27.5% of their users are from Richmond.

Ms. Martens indicated that they provide counseling and carry out presentations to schools in Richmond.

Ms. Martens noted that 50% of the residents that are on Leaside's Christmas list are from Richmond

Ms. Martens indicated that with today's rising costs, their insurance has gone from \$2,000 to \$10,000 per year over the past few years.

Ms. Martens noted that the bulk of their operating funds come from a provincial grant, noting that they have received no cost of living increase for this grant since 1996.

Ms. Martens indicated that fundraising efforts are increasing and Community Services have indicated that they will not be providing additional funding.

Ms. Martens indicated that they are requesting an annual pledge from Richmond Council of \$5,000.

Ms. Martens indicated that they have not requested money in the past from Richmond, noting that they have received small donations from the Recreation Department.

Ms. Martens indicated that she is aware that Council has been requested to provide funds for many worthy causes and she knows that Council will take this request seriously and consider providing some assistance.

Councillor McNamara indicated that she has had the privilege of serving on the Board of Leaside, noting that it was an awakening for her, expressing that this is an essential service.

Councillor J. Boudreau indicated that, as a former high school councilor, he is a very strong supporter of Leaside.

In response to a question from the CAO, Ms. Martens confirmed that the province has not increased their funding since 1996, noting that all shelters in the province are funded the same way.

Ms. Martens noted that in 2001 the province tried to close Leaside, noting that after the legislature received 1600 letters from resident opposing this, they reconsidered.

In response to a question from the CAO, Ms. Martens indicated that she believes that the reason behind no increase in funding is that there is a perception in the provincial Community Services Department that the service is no longer required, noting that Leaside is not just a shelter, they do a significant amount of outreach work.

The CAO suggested that Council make representation to the Province regarding Leaside's funding.

Councillor Beaton commended Ms. Martens and Ms. Samson on their work, noting that Leaside is an important resource that residents are very fortunate to have, expressing his support for the organization.

Warden Cotton indicated that the UNSM has shown its support against family violence, noting that they have included this as a topic of a workshop for the fall.

Councillor Rankin complimented Ms. Martens on the appropriateness of the name “Leeside” noting that the “Lee” side means the protected side.

In response to a question from Councillor Rankin, Ms. Martens indicated that they strive off “in-kind” donations.

Councillor Rankin suggested that when surplus equipment is being disposed of that they be considered.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Beaton that Council accept the presentation from Leeside Transition House and that their grant request be tabled until budget deliberations. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Deputy Warden Martell that Council have staff write a letter to the Provincial Government to encourage the government to not only continue the funding for Leeside Transition House, but to increase their budget according to the costs of living increases since the last increase in 1996. Motion carried

(c) Development Isle Madame Association (Joel Bowen) re: Request for Funding

The CAO indicated that Development Isle Madame indicated earlier today that they are not ready to make this presentation.

Notice of Motion: - Councillor J. Boudreau: to adopt the Policy on Shredding of Documents, as a policy of the Municipality (attached as Appendix "A")

Moved by Councillor J. Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Council adopt the policy on Shredding of Documents, as a policy of the Municipality. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Warden Cotton presented a verbal report, on behalf of the negotiations, which occurred with a staff committee.

Warden Cotton indicated that staff salary increases were discussed at an “In-Camera” session of the last Committee of the Whole, noting that he has since received a letter from Mr. Stewart MacDonald, the head of the Negotiations Committee, regarding the process, indicating that if the proposal recommended by the Negotiations Committee was not agreed upon by Council that they were not to recommend an alternative, but rather further negotiations should be set up to make alternate recommendations that would be presented to Council for approval.

Councillor McNamara volunteered to sit on the Negotiations Committee.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council approve the formation of a Negotiations Committee whose purpose would be to negotiate staff salary increases and that this Committee be comprised of four Councillors. Motion carried.

Warden Cotton indicated that this Committee would meet in the New Year and those Councillors who would be interested in serving on the Committee should approach him.

Committee of the Whole Report – December 2005

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

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 from the Isle Madame Boat Club be approved, in the amount of \$5,000, with funds being provided from the following:

- \$1,000 from the District #2 Infrastructure Fund for the last fiscal year (2004/05)
- \$3,000 from the District #1 Infrastructure Fund for the last fiscal year (2004/05)
- \$1,000 from the Grant Fund for the current year

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 a letter be written to the MLA thanking him for his efforts and indicating that the organization has not yet submitted a grant request for this project. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the grant request from Halifax Pride '05 be denied. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor Beaton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that an additional grant in the amount of \$5,000 for travel be approved for the Destination Richmond Tourism Co-Op. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that a letter be written to the R.D.A. outlining the issues that the residents of Richmond County encounter with their private water supplies, especially in the summer months and suggesting that this be further explored for a business opportunity. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor Rankin that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that an Adhoc Advocacy Committee be established to include three members of Council and that the first mandate of the Committee be to establish terms of reference for the Committee.

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor Rankin that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and write a letter to Nova Scotia Power, requesting information from them regarding their change in staffing in Richmond County. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Municipality lobby Industry Canada to continue funding for capsites. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor Rankin that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole, and direct staff to amend the grant policy to provide for a March 1st deadline for receipt of grant applications, and further moved that staff also be directed to advertise this date immediately. Motion carried.

Councillor Rankin noted that this will be a change in current policy and that this firm date should be emphasized to the public.

Councillor J. Boudreau indicated that community organizations should be made aware of the firm deadline, perhaps staff could notify each organization that is on the Tourism Departments list.

Moved by Deputy Warden A. Martell, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the municipal interest (one-third) in the 100 acre municipal property on Plumb Island, in District #5, be declared surplus to municipal requirements, and sold for fair market value. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor Beaton that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and provide “support in principle” for a \$24,000 grant to our R.D.A. for their “Local Green Action Plan for the Strait Highlands Region”, with the understanding that the request will be further discussed by Council for final approval, when final details are available. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor Rankin that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and appoint the Director of Recreation to the Board of Cape Breton Pathways, and further moved that minutes of the Board Meetings be distributed to all Councillors. 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 correspondence be

directed to the Chief Operating Officer of Aliant, outlining the disruptions to telecommunications services that occurred on October 10, 2005 and November 16, 2005, and requesting their immediate cooperation, with respect to communicating information promptly to our Emergency Measures Coordinator, regarding disruptions of service in Richmond County. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and authorize the municipal offices to be closed from December 24, 2005 to January 2, 2006 (inclusive). Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and provide an additional grant of \$1,147 (50% of \$2,294) to the Louisdale Cenotaph Committee, with the funding to be taken from the District #6 Municipal Infrastructure Funds for the fiscal year 2004/05. Motion carried.

Councillor J. Boudreau expressed concern regarding the practice of presenting the Committee of the Whole report, indicating that the Councillor reading the report, and therefore making the motions, only receives the report a few minutes before the meeting, and there may be instances of conflict of interest with one of the motions. Councillor J. Boudreau noted that Deputy Warden Martell had declared a conflict of interest at previous Committee of the Whole Meetings, regarding a request for a grant from the Capsite Association, and yet had made a motion at this evening's meeting regarding that Association.

Deputy Warden Martell indicated that he had received the report earlier in the afternoon, and the Capsite motion referred to did not involve municipal funding, but rather an item of correspondence to the federal government, and therefore he did not have a personal problem with the motion.

The CAO indicated that he felt a declaration of conflict of interest was a decision by a Councillor, and not that of Council.

Warden Cotton indicated that if a Councillor had a problem with a motion in the Committee of the Whole Report, then Council could easily arrange to have someone else read that section of the report, and make the relevant motion.

The CAO noted that the Committee of the Whole report represents the vast majority of the work carried out by Council, and that generally the items in the report have been fully debated at previous Committee of the Whole Meetings, but he suggested that Council should review this method, if there are substantial concerns.

Moved by Deputy Warden Martell, seconded by Councillor J. Boudreau that Council accept the Committee of the Whole Report for the month of December 2005. Motion carried.

Planning Advisory Committee Report – December 2005

Councillor McNamara presented the monthly report of the Planning Advisory Committee (copy attached).

Councillor McNamara indicated that the Committee has scheduled one meeting since the last Council Meeting.

Councillor McNamara indicated that the Committee received an excellent presentation regarding unsightly premises and illegal dumping issues. The Planning Commission assembled a group consisting of a representative of the Port Hawkesbury R.C.M.P. Detachment, a representative of the Richmond County R.C.M.P. Detachment, a representative of the Department of Environment and Labour, a representative of the Department of Transportation and Public Works, the Municipal Engineer and of course John Bain, who is our Administrator of Dangerous and Unsightly Premises.

Councillor McNamara noted that unfortunately, the Committee received this presentation, without the benefit of a quorum, and therefore no Planning Committee Meeting was held; however the presenters were excellent.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Rankin that Council accept the Planning Advisory Committee Report for the month of December, 2005, as presented. Motion carried.

In response to a question from Warden Cotton, Councillor McNamara indicated that not having a quorum at Planning Advisory Committee Meeting is an issue and she would like to discuss this further with him.

Councillor McNamara indicated that she also wanted to report that she recently attended a meeting of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women in Halifax, noting that there were approximately 30 participants.

Councillor McNamara indicated that she presented on the municipal perspective of planning for an election, which seemed very well received.

Councillor McNamara indicated that there were many great presenters and topic included ethics in politics and conflicts of interest.

Councillor McNamara indicated that one presenter, Professor Margaret Hope, presented on how to prepare speeches and present in an effective manner.

Councillor McNamara indicated that Professor Hope is one of the 41 accredited public speakers in Canada.

Councillor McNamara indicated that it usually costs \$10,000 to have Professor Hope to speak, noting that this year, thanks to the Cabinet and the Honourable Carolyn Bolivar-Getson covering the shortfall in costs, Professor Hope was retained as a presenter.

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor J. Boudreau that a letter be written to the Honourable Carolyn Bolivar-Getson thanking her and the Cabinet for their moral and financial contributions and further move that a letter be written to the Advisory Council on the Status of Women thanking them for the excellent session/presentations that they arranged. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

(a) Statistics Canada re: 2006 Census

The CAO indicated that the next census will be taking place on May 16th, 2006, noting that he hopes that Councillors recognize this and encourage their residents to participate.

(b) U.N.S.M. re: Intervention Status, Stora Enso

The CAO indicated that the U.N.S.M. correspondence advises that they have made application for intervenor status, in the matter of the application by Stora Enso to the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia, which is directed at the Provincial Assessment Department and the Municipality of Richmond County.

(c) Brooke Taylor, MLA re: Bill No. 275, Off-Highway Vehicle Act

The CAO indicated that since this correspondence was received, it has been amended by the legislature and new legislation was adopted last week.

(d) Lunenburg County Truckers Association re: Quarries/Pits

For information

(e) Municipality of the District of West Hants re: Fair & Equitable Funding

Warden Cotton indicated that he will make Council aware of progress on this issue, noting that it will be discussed at a UNSM meeting on Friday.

(f) Royal Canadian Legion re: "Lest We Forget" Flag

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Deputy Warden Martell that Council support the request by the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #150 and that the "Lest We Forget" flag be flown during "Veteran's Weeks", one week before Remembrance Day, and that correspondence be forwarded to the Royal Canadian Legions Branch #150 indicating Council's support. Motion carried.

(g) Richmond Academy re: Scholarship Program

For information

Items Added to the Agenda

There were no Items Added.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

There were no questions.

Warden Cotton indicated that he would like to wish everyone in attendance, as well as those in the listening audience via Telile, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, on behalf of Council and Staff of the Municipality.

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

There being no further business, Warden Cotton adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.