

**RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**DECEMBER 10, 2007**

Location: Council Chambers, Municipal Office

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

Warden Boudreau noted that the Richmond County District R.C.M.P. had released a telemarketing advisory encouraging citizens to be vigilant when it comes to telemarketing frauds and scams, and copies were available this evening.

The Clerk took roll call of Councillors.

The CAO indicated that Councillor MacPhee was unable to attend, due to a death in his family.

Items Added to the Agenda

Warden Boudreau indicated that Councillor Cotton wished to add the Building Canada Fund; he wished to add recognition of effort put into the Boundary Review Hearing, by our Municipal Solicitors; the CAO wished to add unsightly and dangerous premises/summary offence tickets, the Christmas office closure, Police Advisory Board, acceptance of Councillor Beaton's resignation and ratification of Councillor Sampson's requested appointment, and information from the Solicitor regarding legion grants; and Deputy Warden Rankin wished to add an application by East Richmond Education Centre Home & School Association for funding under the Councillors' District \$3,000 Fund.

Review of Minutes: November 13, 2007

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Beaton that the minutes of November 13, 2007 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Petitions and/or Delegations:

(a) Island Community Justice Society (Heather McNeil) re: Program Overview

Warden Boudreau welcomed Ms. McNeil to the meeting.

Ms. McNeil gave a brief overview of the Island Community Justice Society Program.

A question and answer period followed.

Warden Boudreau thanked Ms. McNeil for her presentation.

(b) Returning Officer (Request from Council to Appear)

The CAO indicated that Mr. Bobby Sampson was unable to attend, due to family health issues, in a hospital outside the province.

Notice of Motion – Deputy Warden Rankin: to adopt a policy establishing a Halloween Curfew of 8:00 p.m., as a policy of the Municipality of Richmond (attached as Appendix “A”)

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Municipal Council adopt the Halloween Policy, as a policy of the Municipality, as attached in Appendix “A”. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

(a) Committee of the Whole

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

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Destination Richmond Tourism Cooperative be the tourism group selected to appoint the industry representative for the Management Committee of the Destination Cape Breton Project. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor Martell that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and establish the position of Physical Activity Coordinator for Richmond County and proceed with the hiring process for this position once formal confirmation is received from the Province. Motion carried.

The CAO indicated that the Director of Tourism, Recreation & Culture advised that he has received formal approval for the position.

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that correspondence be sent to Mr. Bob Earle of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, indicating that the Municipality has no interest in acquiring the surplus highway right-of-way, 2741 Highway 247, Lower L’Ardoise (PID 75196220). Motion carried.

Councillor Martell declared a conflict of interest with regard to the grant request from Development Isle Madame, indicating he is an employee of DIMA, and he left his seat during voting on the item.

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor Boudreau that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the following grant requests be approved:

- \$200 to the Richmond County Early Childhood Education Association with funds to be taken from the Councillors' District Activity Fund - \$3,000 for District #1;
- \$50 to Development Isle Madame Association with funds to be taken from the Councillors' District Activity Fund - \$3,000 for District #1;
- \$750 to the Arichat Community Development Association with funds to be taken from the Councillors' District Activity Fund - \$3,000 for District #1;
- \$25,000 to the Holy Guardian Angels Parish with funds to be taken from the Municipal District Fund - \$17,000 for District #9.

Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor Sampson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that \$75,000 be committed to the Kingston Medical Clinic for their new facility, noting that \$25,000 will come from the current year's budget and the remaining \$50,000 commitment will be determined in next year's budget deliberations. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that Council make representation to our MP, the Federal Minister for Nova Scotia, the Provincial Minister of Transportation and our Provincial MLA requesting that priority be given to upgrades to Route 4, between St. Peter's and Sydney. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that Whereas a Kidney Specialist has carried out a study which indicates that the highest incidence of kidney disease in Nova Scotia is found in Richmond County; therefore be it resolved that a letter be written to the Minister of Health requesting that he provide additional dialysis machines, and additional trained staff, to Richmond County, to deal with the high rate of kidney disease. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor Martell that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that a letter be written to Nova Scotia Power, expressing concern with the lengthy power delays during the recent severe storm, and inquiring if sufficient staff are located in the Richmond County area, and also inquiring if sufficient maintenance and upgrading is carried out to the Nova Scotia Power infrastructure in Richmond County; and further that Nova Scotia Power be requested to improve their communication regarding the length of power outages in Richmond County. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor Johnson that the monthly report of the Committee of the Whole be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

(b) Adhoc Salary Negotiations Committee

Warden Boudreau indicated he wished to report on behalf of the Council Adhoc Salary Negotiations Committee, "In-Camera".

Correspondence:

(a) Hon. Richard Hurlburt re: Nuclear Energy Development

The CAO noted that this matter had been brought forth by the Strait Area Mayors and Wardens Committee.

(b) Hon. Chris d'Entremont re: Licensed Practical Nurse Program

The CAO noted that this matter had been brought forth by the Strait Area Mayors and Wardens Committee.

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor McNamara that a letter of thanks be sent to the Minister of Health, the Hon. Chris d'Entremont, thanking his department for offering a two year Licensed Practical Nurse Program to begin January, 2008 at the Strait Richmond site of the Nova Scotia Community College. Motion carried.

(c) Hon. Jamie Muir/UNSM President Robert Wrye re: Memorandum of Understanding

(d) Carol Whitfield, Parks Canada re: Thank you

(e) Cape Breton Crime Stoppers Association re: Thank you

(f) Canadian Cancer Society re: Amendment to Provincial Smoke Free Places Act

Moved by Councillor McNamara, seconded by Deputy Warden Rankin that a letter be written to the Provincial Government, indicating that Richmond Municipal Council strongly supports the government's action for proposed legislation regarding an amendment to the Provincial Smoke Free Places Act, which follows the leadership of the Town of Wolfville, to provide protection to Nova Scotian children from second hand smoke. Motion carried.

(g) CAO/Deputy Clerk re: Knights of Columbus Hall Tax Exemption

Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded by Councillor Cotton that notice be given to amend By-Law #56, to reflect the name change from the Knights of Columbus Hall to the Acadiaville Community Centre Society. Motion carried.

(h) St. Anne Community & Nursing Care Centre re: Property Taxes

Moved by Councillor Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Johnson that a letter be written to the Minister of Health requesting funding, in addition to the current approved budget, to cover property taxes for the St. Anne Community & Nursing Care Centre facility, who have been assessed as taxable by the Provincial Assessment Department, and who have expressed concern that their budget does not include funding for this essential item. Motion carried.

(i) Solicitor/Council Recorder re: Legion Eligibility for Grants

The CAO indicated this item would be reviewed “In-Camera”, due to Solicitor/Client confidentiality.

#### Items Added to the Agenda

(1) Councillor Cotton re: Building Canada Fund

It was the consensus of Council Members that this item be referred to a future Committee of the Whole Meeting, for discussion; and also that the Transportation Project be placed on the agenda for the January Meeting of the Strait Area Mayors and Wardens Committee, to request if the Mayors and Wardens Group wish to move forward with the Transportation Project, and also requesting if the four units involved, wish to provide the \$125,000 funding requested for this project from their budgets.

(2) Warden Boudreau re: Recognition of Effort Put into the Boundary Review Hearing, by our Municipal Solicitors

Warden Boudreau requested that Deputy Warden Rankin assume chairmanship of the meeting.

Moved by Warden Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Martell that Whereas the process leading to the UARB Hearing, regarding district boundaries in Richmond County, was a difficult and deeply concerning matter;

AND WHEREAS the success of the County application regarding district boundaries saved County Council from the monumental task of reshaping those boundaries;

AND WHEREAS the application was based on the demonstrated wishes of the citizens of Richmond County and did in fact gratify the desire of the citizens;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Municipal Council, for the Municipality of the County of Richmond, hereby recognize and profoundly acknowledge the distinguished professional service provided, in this matter, by Council Solicitors Lorne MacDowell and Lindsay MacDonald and signal the key role they played in producing the most positive outcome possible for Council and the County. Motion carried.

Warden Boudreau resumed Chairmanship of the meeting.

(3) CAO re:

(i) Unightly & Dangerous Premises/Summary Offence Tickets

Moved by Councillor Beaton that Municipal Council request that the District Planning Commission move forward as quickly as possible to implement a system of summary offence tickets for unsightly and dangerous premises, due to the many problems faced by the Municipality with dangerous and unsightly premises.

Councillor McNamara indicated that she objected to the motion being brought directly to Council, because she felt the Planning Advisory Committee should first review the issue.

Moved by Councillor Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Johnson that the matter of issuing summary offence tickets for unsightly and dangerous premises be referred to the Planning Advisory Committee for their recommendation. Motion carried.

(ii) Christmas Office Closure

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Deputy Warden Rankin that Municipal Council authorize the closure of the Municipal Office in Arichat from December 24, 2007 until January 2, 2007 (with office to re-open for regular hours on this day). Motion carried.

(iii) Police Advisory Board; Acceptance of Councillor Beaton's Resignation and Ratification of Councillor Sampson's Requested Appointment

Moved by Councillor Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Johnson that Municipal Council accept the resignation of Councillor Beaton on the Police Advisory Board and appoint Councillor Sampson as his replacement. Motion carried.

(iv) Information from Solicitor re: Legion Grants

The CAO indicated that this item will be reviewed "In-Camera".

(4) Deputy Warden Rankin re: Application by East Richmond Education Centre Home & School Association for funding under the Councillors' District \$3,000 Fund

Councillor Boudreau declared a conflict of interest indicating he is employed at the East Richmond Education Centre, and he left his seat during discussion and voting on this item.

Moved by Deputy Warden Rankin, seconded by Councillor Johnson that this item be tabled until a proper application, and recommendations from staff, etc. are received.

### Fifteen Minute Question Period

Mr. Richard Burt commended Municipal Council in their attempts to obtain a second dialysis machine and encouraged Municipal Council to continue the pursuit of attempting to find out why Richmond has the highest incidences of kidney disease.

Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded by Councillor Cotton that the meeting move to “In-Camera” session at 8:20 p.m.

Warden Boudreau reconvened the regular meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Warden Boudreau indicated that Councillor Boudreau had kept minutes for the portion of the “In-Camera” session that did not have any staff in attendance.

Moved by Councillor Beaton, seconded by Councillor McNamara that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the “In-Camera” Committee and that the recommendation of the Council Adhoc Negotiating Committee be accepted, and that Council authorize the increases to staff compensation, as per the agreement reached by the Adhoc Committee and Staff:

1. 3% salary increase January 1, 2008, and 3% increase January 1, 2009;
  2. Improvement in retirement benefit as follows:
    - 10 years of service to 15 years of service - 6 weeks;
    - 15 years of service to 20 years of service - 8 weeks;
    - 20 years of service to 25 years of service - 12 weeks;
    - 25 years of service and above - 25 weeks;
  3. Increase in Public Works week-end “call out” rate from \$125 to \$130
- Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Deputy Warden Rankin that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the “In-Camera” Committee and that the Solicitor and staff be authorized to approach the provincial government (Service Nova Scotia), with a request that the Municipal Government Act be amended to provide specific authority for municipal grants to branches of the Royal Canadian Legions in Nova Scotia. Motion carried.

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

There being no further business, Warden Boudreau adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.