

**RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING - VIDEOCONFERENCE**  
**APRIL 26, 2021**

**Location:** Council Chambers

**Present:** Councillor Shawn Samson, Deputy Warden Michael Diggdon,  
Councillor Melanie Sampson, Warden Amanda Mombourquette  
Councillor Brent Sampson, Don Marchand, CAO

Warden Mombourquette called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM and asked everyone to stand for the singing of O'Canada.

**Roll Call of Councillors**

The CAO took roll call of Councillors.

**Items Added to the Agenda**

Councillor Shawn Samson requested and received unanimous consent to add an item regarding well wishes to local lobster fishermen.

Warden Mombourquette requested and received unanimous consent to add the following:

- Strait Area Chamber of Commerce – Business Nominations
- Richmond Cheer Athletics Club
- COVID Testing sites in Richmond County
- Closure of Municipal Buildings to the Public

Moved by Councillor Shawn Samson, seconded by Councillor Melanie Sampson that the agenda be approved with the items added. Motion carried.

**Review of Minutes:**

**a) March 22, 2021 (Regular Council)**

Moved by Councillor Shawn Samson, seconded by Deputy Warden Diggdon that the minutes of the March 22, 2021 Regular Council Meeting be approved as presented. Motion carried.

**Question Period (Restricted to Items on the Committee of the Whole Report)**  
**(PHONE IN #1 778 907 2071)**

There were no questions.

**Committee Reports:**

- a) Committee of the Whole
- Accessibility Committee;
  - Code of Conduct for Elected Officials

Moved by Deputy Warden Diggdon, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Code of Conduct for Elected Municipal Officials in Richmond County be reviewed by Staff and in consultation with the Solicitor to ensure that it aligns with the new legislative changes. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Diggdon, seconded by Councillor Melanie Sampson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that Warden Mombourquette and Deputy Warden Diggdon be appointed as members of the Richmond County Accessibility Committee. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Diggdon, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson that the Committee of the Whole Report for the month of APRIL 2021 be adopted. Motion carried.

**Motion to Adopt– To adopt the Richmond County Asset Management Policy in order to formalize the municipality’s commitment to the long term sustainability of our infrastructure. This policy provides guidance to Council and staff on identifying priorities, managing risk and meeting its service delivery goals.**

Moved by Councillor Brent Sampson, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson that Richmond Municipal Council adopt the Richmond County Asset Management Policy in order to formalize the municipality’s commitment to the long term sustainability of our infrastructure. This policy provides guidance to Council and staff on identifying priorities, managing risk and meeting its service delivery goals. Motion carried.

**Second Reading Approval - To amend By-Law #29, Capital Cost of Sewer Construction in order to clarify the responsibilities of the Municipality and private property owner as it relates to sewer back-ups and maintenance of building sewer service connections.**

Moved by Deputy Warden Diggdon, seconded by Councillor Brent Sampson that Municipal Council give Second Reading Approval to amend By-Law #29, Capital Cost of Sewer Construction in order to clarify the responsibilities of the Municipality and private property owner as it relates to sewer back-ups and maintenance of building sewer service connections. Motion carried.

**Notice to be Given – To adopt By-Law #66, Private Ways, to clarify the authority as set out in section 29A of the Private Ways Act, RSNS 1989, c 358, amended 2011.**

Moved by Councillor Melanie Sampson, seconded by Deputy Warden Diggdon that Municipal Council give notice that a motion will be introduced at the next Regular Council Meeting to give First Reading Approval to adopt By-Law #66, Private Ways, to clarify the authority as set out in section 29A of the Private Ways Act, RSNS 1989, c 358, amended 2011. Motion carried.

**CAO re:**

a) Eastern District Planning Commission Inter-Municipal Services Agreement;

Moved by Councillor Brent Sampson, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson that the following motion adopted at the May 28, 2018 Regular Council Meeting be rescinded:

Moved by Councillor MacLean, seconded by Councillor Boucher that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and approve the proposed amendment to the Eastern District Planning Commission's Inter-Municipal Services Agreement to add the Town of Antigonish. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Brent Sampson, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson that Council approve the revised Eastern District Planning Commission Inter-Municipal Services Agreement which was amended to include the Town of Antigonish as a permanent member of the Commission effective July 1, 2021. Motion carried.

b) Richmond Compost Pricing;

Moved by Deputy Warden Diggdon, seconded by Councillor Brent Sampson that the compost sale fees be amended as per the proposed pricing fees effective June 1 2021 (attached). Motion carried.

c) Solid Waste Management Facility Tipping Fees;

Moved by Councillor Brent Sampson, seconded by Councillor Melanie Sampson that the tipping fee pricing structure in the Richmond Solid Waste Management Facility Rules be amended, effective June 1, 2021, as recommended by the Director of Public Works (attached). Motion carried.

**Warden Mombourquette re:**

a) 2021 Census of Population;

Moved by Councillor Brent Sampson, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson that the following resolution be approved:

Be it resolved that:

The Council of the Municipality of the County of Richmond supports the 2021 Census, and encourages all residents to complete their census questionnaire online at [www.census.gc.ca](http://www.census.gc.ca). Motion carried.

b) Lyme Disease Awareness Month;

Moved by Councillor Melanie Sampson, seconded by Councillor Brent Sampson that the following Proclamation be approved:

**WHEREAS** Lyme disease is a serious illness caused by the bite of a black-legged tick infected with the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi*; and

**WHEREAS** black-legged ticks carrying a variety of diseases or illnesses can now be found in all parts of Nova Scotia; and

**WHEREAS** awareness, education and practicing preventative measures, such as daily tick checks and proper tick removal, can help reduce your chances of contracting tick borne diseases;

**THEREFORE**, be it resolved that I, Warden Amanda Mombourquette, on behalf of the Municipality of the County of Richmond do hereby proclaim May 2021 as “Lyme Disease Awareness Month”.

Motion carried.

c) Volunteer Week

For information purposes.

d) Tax Roll Maintenance

Moved by Deputy Warden Diggdon, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson that Staff be directed to develop a strategy moving forward in order to investigate, update and maintain the Assessment Tax Roll considering Best Practices of other municipalities. Motion carried.

e) Raising/Lowering of Flags on Municipal-Owned Property

Moved by Deputy Warden Diggdon, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson that Raising/Lowering of Flags on Municipal-Owned Property be moved for discussion and policy creation to the By-Law/Policy Committee Meeting. Motion carried.

f) Action Items

Moved by Deputy Warden Diggdon, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson that Staff investigate Best Practices of other municipalities regarding Action Item lists created from Committee of the Whole and Council Meetings and if these Best Practices include disbursement to Council or placement on meeting agendas. Motion carried (Nay: Councillor Brent Sampson).

## **Correspondence – Action Required**

a) The Friends of St. John`s Arichat Society re: Funding Request;

Moved by Councillor Shawn Samson, seconded by Deputy Warden Diggdon that the request from the Friends of St. John`s Arichat Society be moved to budget deliberations. Motion carried.

b) Raising the Villages re: Funding Request;

Moved by Deputy Warden Diggdon, seconded by Councillor Brent Sampson that the request from Raising the Villages regarding a funding request be moved to budget deliberations. Motion carried.

c) Strait Richmond Housing Matters re: Support

It was the consensus of Council that Warden Mombourquette send a letter to Shawn Luker, Director for the Cape Breton Island Housing Authority, regarding seven (public) seniors complexes located throughout Richmond County that have had several units and have remained empty for extended periods of time, and others that are in need of upgrades. Motion carried.

## **Items Added to the Agenda**

Councillor Shawn Samson extended well wishes to the local fishermen regarding the commencement of the lobster fishing season.

Warden Mombourquette – Items Added as follows:

### **1) Strait Area Chamber of Commerce – Business Nominations**

For information Purposes.

### **2) Richmond Cheer Athletics Club**

Congratulations – For information purposes.

### **3) COVID Testing sites in Richmond County**

Moved by Councillor Melanie Sampson, seconded by Councillor Brent Sampson that Warden Mombourquette send a letter to the Nova Scotia Minister of Health and Wellness regarding Covid testing sites being available in Richmond County. Motion carried.

### **4) Closure of Municipal Buildings to the Public**

Moved by Councillor Brent Sampson, seconded by Deputy Warden Diggdon that as part of a collective effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the health and wellness of residents and employees being the main priority, the municipality the Richmond County Municipal Building

will be closed to the Public, effective immediately, for a 2 week period and will be re-evaluated at that time. Motion carried.

**Question Period (Restricted to the remainder of the Agenda following the COW Report)**  
**(PHONE IN #1 778 907 2071 – see Question Period Details Below)**

Mr. Robbie Fougere asked a question.

**“In Camera” Session (Legal)**

Moved by Deputy Warden Diggdon, seconded by Councillor Brent Sampson that the meeting move to an “In Camera” Session at 8:50 p.m.

Moved by Councillor Melanie Sampson, seconded by Councillor Brent Sampson that the meeting move to Regular Session at 10:16 p.m.

Moved by Councillor Melanie Sampson, seconded by Deputy Warden Diggdon that Council accept the In Camera recommendation regarding an employee matter. Motion carried. (Nay: Councillor Brent Sampson).

**Adjournment**

Moved by Councillor Brent Sampson, seconded by Councillor Melanie Sampson that the meeting be adjourned.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:17 p.m.

CLERK:

CHAIRPERSON

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_