

RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
OCTOBER 25, 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 7:02 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 Melanie Sampson requested and received unanimous consent to add Oily Waste Sites to the agenda.

Councillor Shawn Samson requested and received unanimous consent to add Arena Rates to the agenda.

Warden Mombourquette requested and received unanimous consent to add Cape Breton South Recruiting for Health (CBSRH) Health-Care Provider Awards to the agenda.

Deputy Warden Diggdon requested and received unanimous consent to add Covid Testing to the agenda.

Moved by Councillor Melanie Sampson, seconded by Deputy Warden Diggdon that the agenda be approved with the items added. Motion carried.

Review of Minutes:

a) September 27, 2021 (Regular Council)

Moved by Councillor Shawn Samson, seconded by Councillor Brent Sampson that the minutes of the September 27, 2021 Regular Council meeting be approved as presented. Motion carried.

b) October 4, 2021 (Special Council)

Moved by Councillor Brent Sampson, seconded by Deputy Warden Diggdon that the minutes of the October 4, 2021 Special Council Meeting be approved. Motion carried.

Election of Deputy Warden

The Warden called for nominations for the position of Deputy Warden.

Deputy Warden Diggdon nominated Councillor Melanie Sampson for the position of Deputy Warden.

Councillor Melanie Sampson accepted the nomination.

The Warden called for further nominations, 3 times.

Councillor Melanie Sampson becomes the Deputy Warden for the Municipality of Richmond County.

Question Period (Restricted to Items on the Committee of the Whole Report) (PHONE IN-902-226-9885 see Question Period Details Below)

There were no questions.

Committee Reports

a) Committee of the Whole

- **J-Class Roads**
- **Appointment of a Commissioner (Private Ways)**
- **Strait of Canso Gateway Project**
- **ACTing Collectively Project**
- **Vaccination Policy**
- **CBREN Contribution Agreement**
- **Grant Requests**
- **Taxes owing on properties destroyed by Fire**
- **Temporary Borrowing Resolution**
- **Workplace Wellness Policy**

Moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor Mike Diggdon that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the motion adopted at the October 4, 2021 Special Council Meeting be amended in order to revise the list of roads to be submitted by Staff to the Department of Public Works from the list of nine to the following:

- 1) Lobster Plant Road, Cape Auget – Paving and Culverts
- 2) Langley Lane, Point Tupper - Paving and Culverts

- 3) Sampson's Road, West L'Ardoise - Paving and Culverts
- 4) Marchand Lane, Louisdale - Culverts and Repaving

Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor Brent Sampson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that Mr. John Bain, Director of the Eastern District Planning Commission, be appointed as the Commissioner for the current Private Ways Application. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Municipality of Richmond County provide funding in the amount no greater than \$5,000 to the Strait of Canso Gateway Project contingent on the majority of other municipalities following suit. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor Mike Diggdon that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Municipality complete a Call for Expression of Interest, with the support of the Seniors Take Action Coalition, regarding the ACTing Collectively Project. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor Brent Sampson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that Staff draft a Vaccination Policy for review at a future Policy/By-Law Committee Meeting. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor Mike Diggdon that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Cape Breton Regional Enterprise Network Contribution Agreement Renewal be circulated to Councillors for review and be brought to the October 25, 2021 Regular Council Meeting for approval. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the grant request from the Isle Madame Ifit Centre Society be approved in the amount of \$2,000 with \$1,000 allocated from District Fund #1 and \$1,000 from District Fund #2. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor Brent Sampson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the grant request from Raising the Villages Cooperative Ltd. be approved in the amount of \$2,500 and be allocated from the Type 4 – Regional/Health/General Grant Funds. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor Mike Diggdon that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the grant request from Waterway Economic Development be approved and allocated as follows:

- \$2,500 from the Regional/Health/General Grant Funds
- \$2,500 from District #4
- \$500 from each of the remaining four Districts, 1, 2, 3 and 5, total of \$2,000

Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor Brent Sampson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that taxes in the amount of \$112.60 (2020) and \$186.24 (2021) be written off which represents taxes on the dwelling only from August 21, 2020 to March 31, 2022 for property, AAN 01363808, owned by Michelle Demers Kennedy, which was completely destroyed by fire. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor Mike Diggdon that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that taxes in the amount of \$284.37 be written off which represents taxes on the dwelling only from July 8, 2021 to March 31, 2022 for property, AAN 02499584, owned by Lisa LeBlanc, which was completely destroyed by fire. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor Brent Sampson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the municipality enter into a loan agreement with the lending institution in the amount of \$300,000 for the purpose of the St. Peter's & District Volunteer Fire Department purchasing a 2021 Ford F550 4X4 with a Tri Star 12' custom aluminum rescue body. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and that the Workplace Wellness Policy be forwarded to the Policy/By-Law Committee for review. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor Mike Diggdon that the Committee of the Whole Report for the month of October 2021 be adopted. Motion carried.

b) Fire Services Report (Councillor Brent Sampson)

Moved by Councillor Brent Sampson, seconded by Councillor Mike Diggdon that staff investigate how to enact Recommendation #39 from the Fire services review which reads as follows.

#39 GA Recommends that funding for the fire departments should come from the general taxation rate. The rational is that fire-emergency services benefits everyone in the county and everyone should pay an equal amount. Motion carried.

Second Reading Approval – to Amend By-Law # 50, Municipal Emergency Management By-Law in order to make the following changes:

- Amend “repeal and replace” provision (section 12) to read All Emergency Measures By-Laws passed previously by the Municipality of the County of Richmond or a predecessor municipal unit are hereby repealed.**
- add “for approval” to section 4(3) (b) and to 5.3(b).**
- 4 (2) changed to a majority of Council.**
- 5, typographical error, Section 5**
- 5(c) Changed to EMC advises the CAO/Clerk on the duties required by employees, servants and agents during emergency events.**

- **Step 2, 1st reference to section 5. Letter switched under subsection 5(3) and**
- **Reference changed to s.5 (3) (c)**
- **S.2 changed definition to the “municipal emergency management advisory committee”.**
- **Definitions list re-ordered alphabetically.**
- **Clause 2(N) changed to “State of Emergency Forms Regulations” and citation is Order in Council 2008-211, N.S. Regulation 225/2008 (effective April 22, 2008). References to the old regulation name changed throughout the by-law.**

Moved by Councillor Shawn Samson, seconded by Councillor Mike Diggdon that Second Reading Approval to Amend By-Law # 50, Municipal Emergency Management By-Law in order to make the following changes:

- Amend “repeal and replace” provision (section 12) to read All Emergency Measures By-Laws passed previously by the Municipality of the County of Richmond or a predecessor municipal unit are hereby repealed.
- add “for approval” to section 4(3) (b) and to 5.3(b).
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- Definitions list re-ordered alphabetically.
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Motion carried.

CAO re:

- a) Destination Cape Breton Member at Large (Richmond County Representative);

Moved by Councillor Brent Sampson, seconded by Councillor Mike Diggdon that Cindy Walker be appointed as the representative for the Municipality of Richmond County on the Destination Cape Breton Association Board of Directors. Motion carried.

- b) CBREN Inter-Municipal Agreement;

Moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor Brent Sampson that the Warden move forward with signing the CBREN Inter-Municipal Agreement for the Cape Breton Regional Enterprise Network. Motion carried.

- c) Upland Planning and Design Studio re: Mandatory Planning

It was the consensus of Council that the CAO reach out to Upland Planning and Design Studio to extend an invitation to present at a Special Council scheduled on November 1st. Council.

Warden re:

- a) One Year in Review

For information purposes.

- b) National Veterans' Week

For information purposes.

- c) Rink Revitalization Program

Moved by Councillor Shawn Samson, seconded by Councillor Mike Diggdon that Staff confirm the timeline of the program and investigate the opportunity to offset the municipalities planned yearly

Review of Action Items

- a) September 27, 2021 Regular Council
- b) October 4, 2021 Special Council

Items Added to the Agenda

Oily Waste Sites

For information purposes.

Arena Rates to the agenda

For information purposes.

Cape Breton South Recruiting for Health (CBSRH) Health-Care Provider Awards

For information purposes.

Covid Testing to the agenda

It was the consensus of Council that the CAO gather information from the Recreation Manager regarding Covid protocols being used at the Richmond Arena, in addition to information regarding an individual situation regarding a youth registration for a recreation program and email Municipal Council with the information.

Question Period (Restricted to the remainder of the Agenda following the COW Report) (PHONE IN 902-226-9885 – see Question Period Details Below)

There were no questions.

“In Camera” Session (Personnel Matters/Contract Negotiations)

Moved by Councillor Shawn Samson, seconded by Deputy Warden Sampson that the meeting move to an “In Camera” Session at 8:18 p.m. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Brent Sampson, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson that the meeting revert back to Regular Session at 10:43 p.m. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Diggdon, seconded by Deputy Warden Sampson that the Warden reach out to Municipal Affairs to inquire on the Warden`s ability to solicit legal advice AND FURTHER MOVED that the Warden proceed, if allowable, as instructed by Municipal Affairs, on the hiring a legal human resources professional to develop a 3 month performance management plan. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Mike Diggdon, seconded by Councillor Brent Sampson that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

CLERK:

CHAIRPERSON
