



Regular Council Meeting

September 23, 2025

Location: Richmond Room & Council Chambers

Present: Warden Lois Landry, Councillor Brian Marchand, Councillor Amanda Mombourquette, Councillor Shawn Samson

Staff: Troy MacCulloch, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Danielle Martell, Community Development Coordinator

Regrets: Deputy Warden Brent Sampson

1. Call to Order

Warden Lois Landry called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

2. In Camera

Moved by Councillor Amanda Mombourquette, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson, that the meeting move to an "In Camera" session at 6:31 p.m.

Motion carried.

a) Personnel

Moved by Councillor Shawn Samson, seconded by Councillor Amanda Mombourquette, that the meeting revert to "Regular" session at 6:46 p.m.

Motion carried.

3. Opening Acknowledgement

The Warden reconvened the regular session at 7:00 p.m. and made the following opening acknowledgment:

We are proud to acknowledge that we are gathered today on Unama'ki, the Land of Fog, a part of Mi'kma'ki, the unceded traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq people since time immemorial. We honour and thank the Mi'kmaq for sharing their land and home with us.

4. O'Canada

The Warden asked everyone to stand, if able, for the singing of O'Canada.



5. Roll Call of Councillors

Danielle Martell took the roll call of Councillors.

6. Recommendation from In Camera Session

Moved by Councillor Amanda Mombourquette, seconded by Councillor Brian Marchand, that Council appoint Kate Cave to the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Regional Board and Adam Frederick Pottie to the Inclusive, Diverse, Equitable, Accessible (IDEA) Committee.

Motion carried.

7. Items Added to the Agenda (Approval of Agenda)

Moved by Councillor Brian Marchand, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson, that the agenda be approved.

Motion carried.

8. Review of Minutes – Re:

a) Special Meeting, June 24, 2025

Moved by Councillor Amanda Mombourquette, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson, that the minutes of the June 24, 2025, Special meeting be adopted.

Motion carried.

b) Special Meeting, July 22, 2025

Moved by Councillor Shawn Samson, seconded by Councillor Brian Marchand, that the minutes of the July 22, 2025, Special meeting be adopted.

Motion carried

c) Special Meeting, August 13, 2025

Moved by Councillor Brian Marchand, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson, that the minutes of August 13, 2025, Special meeting be adopted.

Motion carried.

9. Question Period

There were no questions.

10. Committee Reports

a) Committee of the Whole

- i. The Committee discussed the taxi license and taxi driver's license application.

Moved by Councillor Shawn Samson, seconded by Councillor Amanda Mombourquette, that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and approve the taxi license and taxi driver's license application for Willie's Taxi as discussed in camera.

Motion carried.

- ii. The Committee discussed the Recreation Nova Scotia Conference Sponsorship

Moved by Councillor Shawn Samson, seconded by Councillor Amanda Mombourquette, that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and accept the staff recommendation to sponsor the Recreation Nova Scotia Conference at the Silver Sponsor level of \$1,000.00, and be allocated from the Sponsorship Budget.

Motion carried with three (3) in favour and one (1) opposed. (Nay: Councillor Brian Marchand)

- iii. The Committee discussed the Richmond Arena updates as presented in the Administration Operations Report

Moved by Councillor Shawn Samson, seconded by Councillor Brian Marchand, that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and direct staff to investigate all possible funding opportunities for the repairs to the Richmond Arena.

Motion carried.

- iv. The Committee discussed the proclamation request from Josie Robinson, Community Engagement Officer at the Kingston Memorial Community Health Centre, regarding Global Media and Information Literacy Week.

Moved by Councillor Shawn Samson, seconded by Councillor Brian Marchand, that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and proclaim October 24-31, 2025, as Global Media and Information Literacy Week.

Motion carried.

Global Media and Information Literacy Week

October 24-31, 2025

WHEREAS all citizens of Richmond County deserve to feel safe and supported online, no matter their age, class, race, gender, or geography, and

WHEREAS community awareness can help individuals feel empowered in the age of information overwhelm and information pollution; and

WHEREAS artificial intelligence is now rapidly proliferating and interacting with human users online; and

WHEREAS accurate and timely information are crucial for a safe and equitable society; and

WHEREAS misinformation and disinformation negatively impact health outcomes by contributing to social isolation, division, and hate; and

WHEREAS curbing the spread of false information online helps keep citizens of Richmond County prepared during times of crisis; and

WHEREAS fostering online critical thinking and fact-checking skills is an act of care and protection of our communities; and

WHEREAS media and information literacy skills are crucial for maintaining democracy, and trust in Canadian institutions;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that I, Warden Lois Landry, on behalf of Richmond County Municipal Council, do hereby proclaim October 24-31, 2025, as “Global Media and Information Literacy Week” in Richmond County.

- v. The Committee discussed the letter of support request from Jacqueline Gerrior, Economic Development Officer at CDÉNÉ, regarding the Celebration Isle Madame.

Moved by Councillor Shawn Samson, seconded by Councillor Brian Marchand, that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and authorize the Warden to provide a letter of support regarding the Celebration Isle Madame, following a conversation with CDÉNÉ to explore any opportunities to expand or include other Acadian communities in the broader Richmond County area.

Motion carried

Moved by Councillor Shawn Samson, seconded by Councillor Brian Marchand, that Council adopt the Committee of the Whole Report for the month of September 2025.

Motion carried.

b) By-law/Policy Committee

- i. The Committee discussed the Hands-Free Cell Phone Policy.

Moved by Councillor Amanda Mombourquette, seconded by Councillor Brian Marchand, that Council accept the recommendation of the By-law/Policy Committee and repeal the Hands-Free Cell Phone Policy.

Motion carried.

- ii. The Committee discussed the Dundee Hills Development Wastewater Management District By-law, By-law #64.

Moved by Councillor Amanda Mombourquette, seconded by Councillor Brian Marchand, that Council accept the recommendation of the By-law/Policy Committee and proceed with the repeal process of the Dundee Hills Development Wastewater Management District By-law, By-law #64.

Motion carried.

- iii. The Committee discussed the updated appendices of the Comfort Centres Policy.

Moved by Councillor Amanda Mombourquette, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson, that Council accept the recommendation of the By-law/Policy Committee and adopt the following updated appendices to the Comfort Centre Policy: Appendix B: List of MOCR Comfort Centres and Appendix B1: Comfort Centres Map.

Motion carried.

- iv. The Committee discussed the amendments to the Low Income Exemption Program Policy.

Moved by Councillor Amanda Mombourquette, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson, that Council accept the recommendation of the By-law/Policy Committee and adopt the amendments to the Low Income Tax Exemption Program Policy as presented, with the addition of a revision to the policy title by inserting the word “Property” before the word “Tax”.

Motion carried.

- v. The Committee discussed setting the household income threshold and property tax exemption amount for the Low Income Tax Exemption Program.

Moved by Councillor Amanda Mombourquette, seconded by Councillor Brian Marchand, that Council accept the recommendation of the By-law/Policy Committee and set the household income threshold at \$30,000 and the property tax exemption amount at \$200 for the Low Income Tax Exemption Program.

Moved by Councillor Brian Marchand, seconded by Councillor Amanda Mombourquette, that the main motion be amended to add the word “Property” before the word “Tax”.

Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Amanda Mombourquette, seconded by Councillor Brian Marchand, that Council accept the recommendation of the By-law/Policy Committee and set the household income threshold at \$30,000 and the property tax exemption amount at \$200 for the Low Income Property Tax Exemption Program.

Motion carried.

- vi. The Committee discussed the Municipal Fees Policy.

Moved by Councillor Amanda Mombourquette, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson, that Council accept the recommendation of the By-law/Policy Committee and adopt the Municipal Fees Policy as presented.

Motion carried.

- vii. The Committee discussed the By-law/Policy Section of the Working List.

Moved by Councillor Amanda Mombourquette, seconded by Councillor Brian Marchand, that Council accept the recommendation of the By-law/Policy Committee and remove Item 21 (Heritage By-law) and Item 22 (Heritage Property Designation Policy) from the Working List.

Motion carried.

- viii. The Committee discussed the Discussion Section of the Working List.

Moved by Councillor Amanda Mombourquette, seconded by Councillor Brian Marchand, that Council accept the recommendation of the By-

law/Policy Committee and remove Item 5 (Roaming Farm Animals) and Item 6 (Animal By-law) from the Working List.

Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Amanda Mombourquette, seconded by Councillor Brian Marchand, that Council adopt the By-law/Policy Committee Report for the month of September 2025.

Motion carried.

c) Planning Advisory Committee

- i. The committee discussed implementing a standing agenda item titled "Review of Action Items".

Moved by Councillor Amanda Mombourquette, seconded by Councillor Brian Marchand, that Council accept the recommendation of the Planning Advisory/Heritage Committee and direct staff to implement a standing agenda item titled "Review of Action Items".

Motion carried.

- ii. The Committee discussed the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture's municipal survey on agriculture in planning.

Moved by Councillor Amanda Mombourquette, seconded by Councillor Brian Marchand, that Council accept the recommendation of the Planning Advisory/Heritage Committee and direct the Director of EDPC to participate in the Municipal Survey on Agriculture in Planning.

Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Amanda Mombourquette, seconded by Councillor Brian Marchand, that the Planning Advisory/Heritage Committee Report for the month of September 2025 be adopted.

Motion carried.

d) Recreation Advisory Committee

- i. The Committee discussed the communication and evacuation plan for the Richmond Arena for snow loads that exceed 24 pounds per square foot

Moved by Councillor Brian Marchand, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson, that Council accept the recommendation of the Recreation Advisory Committee and that staff be directed to prepare a communication

and evacuation plan to address the potential to have to close the arena to the public if the snow load on the roof of the Richmond Arena reaches 24 pounds per square foot (psf).

Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Brian Marchand, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson, that Council adopt the Recreation Advisory Committee Report for the month of September 2025.

Motion carried.

e) Audit Committee

i. The Committee discussed the appointment of auditors

Moved by Councillor Brian Marchand, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson, that Council accept the recommendation of the Audit Committee and send out a request for proposal (RFP) for auditors.

Moved by Councillor Brian Marchand, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson, that the main motion be amended to add the words “ for the term of five (5) years” after the word auditors.

Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Brian Marchand, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson, that Council accept the recommendation of the Audit Committee and send out a request for proposal (RFP) for auditors for the term of five (5) years.

Motion carried.

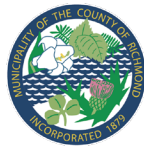
Moved by Councillor Brian Marchand, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson, that Council adopt the Audit Committee Report for September 15, 2025.

Motion carried.

ii. The Committee discussed the financial statements for the year ending March 31, 2025

Moved by Councillor Brian Marchand, seconded by Councillor Amanda Mombourquette, that Council accept the recommendation of the Audit Committee and approve the draft financial statements of the Municipality for the year ended March 31, 2025, as presented, with the non-substantive changes as discussed.

Motion carried.



Moved by Councillor Brian Marchand, seconded by Councillor Amanda Mombourquette, that Council adopt the Audit Committee Report for September 22, 2025.

Motion carried.

f) Fire Protection Services Committee

i. The Committee discussed the Dry Hydrant Policy and Priority List

Moved by Councillor Brian Marchand, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson, that Council accept the recommendation of the Fire Protection Services Committee and direct staff to investigate a Dry Hydrant installation in Cleveland (County Line Road/Riverside Road and Hwy 4 – Southeast side of bridge).

Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Brian Marchand, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson, that Council adopt the Fire Protection Services Committee Report for the month of September 2025.

Motion carried.

11. First Reading, Re:

a) Repeal of By-law 64 - Dundee Hills Development Wastewater Management District By-Law

Moved by Councillor Brian Marchand, seconded by Councillor Amanda Mombourquette, that Council give first reading approval of By-law Number R-100, Repeal of By-law #64 – Dundee Hills Development Wastewater Management District By-law.

Motion carried.

12. New Business, Re:

a) Growth and Renewal of Infrastructure Development (GRID) funding application

Moved by Councillor Brian Marchand, seconded by Councillor Amanda Mombourquette, that Council support an application to the Province's GRID program for the Louisdale Water Distribution System Renewal Project at a total cost of \$500,000, with 50% proposed to be funded by the Utility Depreciation Fund and 50% through the GRID program.

Motion carried.

- a) Richmond Water Utility Source Water Protection Advisory Committee
Moved by Councillor Brian Marchand, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson, that Council approve the re-establishment of the Source Water Protection Advisory Committee, the draft terms of reference, and the advertising for two members of the public to join the committee.

Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Amanda Mombourquette, seconded by Councillor Brian Marchand, that Council refer the Committees Policy to the By-law/Policy Committee to update the Committees Matrix by including the Source Water Protection Advisory Committee.

Motion carried.

13. Correspondence

- a) Action Required:

- i. Email from Celeste Gotell, Community Outreach Coordinator, Seniors Take Action Coalition of Richmond County, Re: National Seniors Day proclamation request

Moved by Councillor Brian Marchand, seconded by Councillor Amanda Mombourquette, that Council approve the National Seniors Day proclamation request.

Motion carried

National Seniors' Day

October 1, 2025

WHEREAS October 1st is Canada's National Seniors' Day and the UN International Day of Older Persons. It is a day to recognize the accomplishments and contributions of seniors. Seniors are a significant and diverse demographic, one in four Canadians, and

WHEREAS, approximately 46% of the population of Richmond County are 55 years and older; and

WHEREAS, the seniors of Richmond County have contributed immensely to the life and vibrancy of our community through their wisdom, experience, resilience, and countless hours of volunteer work; and

WHEREAS, older adults serve as vital community leaders, caregivers, and mentors, enriching our lives and fostering intergenerational connections; and

WHEREAS, the Seniors Take Action Coalition of Richmond County, along with their many partners - seniors clubs, the Dr. Kingston Community Health Centre, Richmond River Roots, Telile Community Television, and others - are committed to promoting an age-friendly Richmond County and healthy communities that support seniors' wellness; and

WHEREAS, it is our collective responsibility to ensure all seniors can live with dignity, independence, and security in a caring community;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that I, Warden Lois Landry, on behalf of Richmond County Municipal Council, do hereby proclaim October 1, 2025, as "National Seniors' Day" in Richmond County. And I urge all residents to recognize and honor the invaluable contributions of our senior residents.

b) For Information Purposes

- i. Government of Nova Scotia Fall 2025 agencies, boards, and commissions recruitment campaign
- ii. Letter from Mayor Rod Gilroy, Municipality of Cumberland, to the Honorable Minister John Lohr, and to the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities regarding strong mayor powers
- iii. MOCR letter of support for the application of the Seniors Take Action Coalition for their project Supporting Healthy Aging
- iv. Senior Take Action Coalition 2024-2025 Annual Report

14. Unfinished Business

- a) Action Item 505: Letter from Rose Merrick, Chair of the River Bourgeois Community Services Society, regarding a request for MOCR to provide funding in the yearly budget for the power/base lights at the River Bourgeois Lighthouse Moved by Councillor Amanda Mombourquette, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson, that Council refer the request to the By-law/Policy Committee for further consideration, whether to develop a new policy or amend the Street Lights Policy.

Motion carried.



15. Review of Action Items

a) Action Items List

For information only.

16. Items Added to the Agenda

n/a

17. Question Period

Mitch Benoit approached Council.

18. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Chairperson

Recorder