

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
May 25, 1999

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Tuesday, May 25, 1999, at 5:00 p.m. with Warden MacInnes in the Chair.

Present were:

District #1 - Gerald Yetman
District #3 - Bruce Morrison
District #4 - John Graham MacInnes, Warden
District #5 - Gerald Sampson, Deputy Warden
District #6 - Lawrence Barron
District #7 - David Donovan
District #8 - Robert MacLellan

Also present were:

Brian Trask, CAO
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

Absent was:

District #2 - Shane Toms

CALL TO ORDER

Warden MacInnes called the meeting to order.

AGENDA

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.

A target time for adjournment was set for 8:00 p.m.

MINUTES

The minutes of the May 10 and 17, 1999, Committee of the Whole meetings were presented for approval.

Discussion took place on solid waste management and the proposed test composting site at the Baddeck Landfill. Council agreed to proceed to have this test composting site developed at the landfill. It is to be located in an area where the present staff can monitor same.

It was moved by Councillor Yetman, seconded by Deputy Warden Sampson, that the May 10 and 17, 1999, Committee of the Whole minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Little Narrows Water Extension

The Little Narrows Water Extension was completed last week at a cost of \$15,220.86. It came in approximately \$3,000 less than the estimate. Two additional homes have been connected and the 2" main is ended at Ernest Matheson's property line.

White Point Land Exchange

The documentation regarding the White Point Land Exchange was completed and recorded in the Registry of Deeds on May 13, 1999.

Council must now decide on the price of the lots and what restrictions to be included in the deeds.

Councillor Donovan indicated that the lots should be for residential use only and a dwelling must be erected on the lot within an eighteen month period. There are other restrictions he would like to see included and will forward same to Brian Trask.

Art Pickup will draft the necessary documentation for the sale, including deed form, purchase and sale agreement, etc.

Wayne and Catherine Crawford - Easement Request

The Crawford's have received permission from an adjoining landowner, Jamie Ross, to cross her property to access their property. This has been an ongoing matter. The Municipality hold an easement for the Little Narrows Waterline in this vicinity and it was felt that a supervisor should be on site when the Crawfords are crossing this property to protect the municipality's interest.

It was moved by Councillor Yetman, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that the cost of the necessary

legal work and supervision of the site during the crossing of property be billed to Wayne and Catherine Crawford. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Dan Nicholson, Planner, Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission, regarding the composition and terms of reference for the Baddeck Area Advisory Committee.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Yetman, that the Terms of the Reference for the Baddeck Area Advisory Committee be approved. Motion carried.

Correspondence from Phil MacDonald, Executive Director, Strait-Highlands Regional Development Agency, regarding the restructuring of the Board.

Warden MacInnes indicated that the annual meeting of the SHRDA will be held in June and regular monthly board meetings will not be scheduled during the summer months. This matter is to be tabled and brought to a future meeting.

Correspondence from the Honourable Manning MacDonald, Economic Development and Tourism, regarding the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT) and its implications to municipalities.

Letter from the Honourable Marcel Masse, President of the Treasury Board, concerning negotiations for employees represented by the Public Service Alliance of Canada.

Copy of a letter from the Honourable Kennie MacAskill, Minister of Natural Resources, to Dan Nicholson, concerning the needed improvements to the Baddeck Sewage Treatment Plant. Attached was a letter received on this subject from the Honourable Michel Samson, Minister of the Environment.

Brian Trask advised that further to this matter a letter of offer was received from ECBC approving 50% funding to a maximum of \$27,500 for a study on the Baddeck Sewer System. This offer is valid for a 60 day period. The study is to be completed by January 30, 2000.

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The remaining \$27,500 in necessary funding will be forwarded to budget. The possibility of accessing funding through the Department of Housing and Municipal Affairs is being investigated.

Councillor Morrison requested a copy of this correspondence.

Correspondence from Richard G. Ramsay Management Consultants Inc., enclosing a Proposal for Assessment and Evaluation of Councillor Remuneration for the Municipality of the County of Victoria.

Brian Trask advised that this will be a comprehensive review and will provide comparisons with other similar rural municipalities in the Province. Recommendations will be provided. The associated fees and expenses to conduct the review is \$2,150 plus HST.

Discussion took place on this matter. Deputy Warden Sampson expressed concern that Council would be paying someone to make a decision Council itself should make. He felt that the CAO had the necessary comparative information.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that Richard G. Ramsey Management Consultants Inc.'s Proposal for Assessment and Evaluation of Councillor Remuneration at a cost of \$2,150 plus HST be accepted. Motion carried with Deputy Warden Sampson casting a dissenting vote.

BUDGET

Brian Trask advised that the debenture payment for the water utilities will kick in this year and the cost for same will be \$153,656. Fire protection will increase by \$27,000 to \$329,837. The Baddeck Sewer Study will possibly cost \$27,500 and to date \$183,800 has been authorized and requested for grants for 1999/2000. The increase in these four categories alone amounts to \$213,691. There has been an approximate \$10,000,000 increase in our uniform assessment figures for this year.

Discussion took place on the Neil's Harbour/New Haven Water System project. There are deficiencies remaining and the system will not be taken over until these problems are corrected. A meeting has been set up with Washburn & Gillis Associates to discuss the County's concerns and hopefully this will be a means to solve the outstanding problems.

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It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Deputy Warden Sampson, that if the outstanding problems remain unsolved after the meeting with Washburn & Gillis Associates, Art Pickup be advised to proceed with legal action. Motion carried.

Discussion took place on the Baddeck Sewer System. It was felt that the County should take a leadership role in this issue. The possibility of writing letters to both levels of government, advising of Council's commitment to this project was discussed. The allocation of funding annually to the Baddeck Sewer upgrading was discussed.

It was moved by Councillor Yetman, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that the preservation of the Bras d'Or Lakes and the Baddeck Sewage Treatment Plant be a priority issue for the Municipality, and money be included in the budget for same. Motion carried.

Brian Trask advised that education costs have not as yet been determined, however, it is felt there will be an increase. To date there is a \$60,000 increase in grant requests over last year. Gary Collins has been hired to develop an emergency plan for the County and there will also be costs associated with basic emergency preparedness that will need to be included in the budget. The increase in fire department funding was discussed.

It was decided to look at the list of grant requests to see where adjustments may be made. The following funding has been previously authorized:

Buchanan Memorial Hospital - \$40,000.00
Baddeck Library - \$5,000
Baddeck Treated Water Storage - \$5,000
Neil's Harbour/New Haven Water - \$20,000

Melvin Burton, Northeast Highlands Shuttle Service, contacted several Councillors and visited the County office. He indicated that the proposed \$500 per month subsidy for his service is insufficient to cover his costs. He requires increased funding or will be forced to discontinue this service. Discussion took place on this matter.

It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that the Northeast Highlands Shuttle Service received a monthly subsidy of \$500 per month for the 1999/2000 fiscal year. Motion carried with Councillor Morrison casting a dissenting vote.

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The list of grant requests was reviewed and adjustments were made as follows:

Amount Requested	Revised Amount
Ski Cape Smokey	\$35,000 \$22,000
S. Highland Village	\$ 1,000 \$ 500
Cabot Trail Relay	\$ 5,000 \$ 5,000
St. Ann's Bay Development	\$ 5,000 \$ 1,500
NH/NH Volunteer Fire Dept.	\$ 5,000 \$ 5,000
District 7 Recreation Committee	\$ 5,000 \$ 3,000
Little Narrows Community Dev.	\$ 1,000 \$ 500
Boularderie Support Group	\$ 1,000 \$ 1,000
(from Recreation/Tourism Budget)	
Northeast Highlands Shuttle Service	\$ 6,000 \$ 6,000
North Victoria Community Centre	\$ 3,000 \$ 3,000
(from Recreation/Tourism Budget)	
Victoria Highland Civic Centre	\$12,500 \$10,000
(\$3,000 from Recreation/Tourism Budget, \$7,000 from County budget)	

Make Work/Nova Scotia Grants \$17,000 \$0
(To be accessed through District Grant funds)
Cabot Sports Field \$ 7,700 \$ 5,000
Ingonish Development Society \$ 1,000 \$ 800
BABTA \$ 3,600 \$ 3,600
(To be referred to Recreation/Tourism budget)
Cape Breton Millennium Project \$ 5,000 \$ 2,500
Ingonish Sidewalks \$10,000 \$10,000
Youth Partnership Program \$ 1,000 \$ 1,000

Brian Trask was advised to rework the figures and present revised figures for the next meeting.

Discussion took place on district budgets. These budget funds are to be used to subsidize students grants if there are same in the districts.

It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that District Grants be set at \$3,000 per district. Those voting in favour of the motion were Deputy Warden Sampson, Councillors Donovan, MacLellan and Barron. Those voting against the motion were Warden MacInnes, Councillor Yetman and Councillor Morrison. Motion carried.

SOLID WASTE

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Brian Trask advised that Robert Dauphinee is the Regional Solid Waste/Resource Coordinator and the County should be utilizing his services more. He will be contacted to meet and assist the County with the solid waste concerns.

Discussion took place on the test composting facility to be located at the Baddeck Landfill.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor Yetman, to proceed to have a test composting facility developed at the Baddeck Landfill and the ICI sector access same on a voluntary basis. Motion carried.

An advertisement is to be placed in the local papers concerning this matter.

Deputy Warden Sampson indicated the possibility of investigating a solid waste facility for northern Victoria County. He indicated he would research same and bring a report to Council.

It was moved by Councillor Yetman, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that Deputy Warden Sampson be given the authority to act on behalf of the Municipality for obtaining information on a solid waste site for northern Victoria County. Motion carried.

COMMUNITY SERVICES OFFICE SPACE

Brian Trask updated Council on the status of the Community Services Office space. A letter was received from Keith MacMillan, Department of Community Services and the Honourable Kennie MacAskill, MLA, in this regard.

Before proceeding to erect a building, a long term lease would be required from the province. The term of the lease would determine the costs and size of the building.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that a letter be forwarded to Keith MacMillan, Department of Community Services, with copies of Kennie MacAskill, MLA; Department of Justice; and Department of Transportation and Public Works; requesting information on the length of the lease, so we can determine the costs. Motion carried.

THANK YOU

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A thank you was received from Anna Nicholson, Secretary of the Arm of Gold Senior Citizens Group, extending appreciation to Council for the flag raising ceremony and reception held on April 19, 1999, in recognition of the International Year of the Older Person.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #1

Councillor Yetman indicated he attended the annual meeting of the Grand Narrows and District Board of the Trade and brought greetings from the County.

Councillor Yetman commented on the fact that Victoria County was once again the only unit that presented resolutions to the Regional UNSM meeting.

Councillor Yetman indicated that he continues to push for a call centre for Victoria County and made calls as recently as today in this regard.

District #5

It was moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor Yetman, that the balance of the District #5 budget be approved for the District #5 Action Committee. Motion carried.

All Council Members received correspondence from Diversity Publishing supporting the position that the Offshore/Onshore Technologies Association of Nova Scotia (OTANS) has taken on the moratorium against oil and gas exploration on Georges Bank off southwestern Nova Scotia, and believe it will be beneficial for all Nova Scotians if the moratorium ends.

This matter is to lay on the table and brought to a future meeting.

District #7

Councillor Donovan questioned on the hook up to be made to the Neil's Harbour/New Haven Water System. Robert Gwinn has been contacted to do this connection.

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor Yetman, that a letter be forwarded to the Prime Minister, with copies to the appropriate Ministers, expressing Council's concern that an allotment of \$375,000 (75 student jobs) was transferred to the Halifax Metro Region (6%
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unemployment rate) from Cape Breton (22% unemployment rate). Motion carried.

Councillor Donovan brought up concerns with deficiencies in the Neil's Harbour/New Haven Water System. These concerns will be brought forward at the meeting to be held with Washburn & Gillis Associates Ltd.

The White Point Lots will be put up for sale as soon as all the information and documentation is complete.

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Deputy Warden Sampson, that a letter be forwarded to the Resource Recovery Fund Board Inc., requesting that they fund a derelict vehicle program for Victoria County. Motion carried.

Bob Dauphinee is to also be contacted in this regard.

Council will be held in Neil's Harbour on Monday, June 21, 1999, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

District #6

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that \$100 be approved for the Ingonish Beach Volunteer Fire Department from the District #6 budget. Motion carried.

Councillor Barron indicated that he is resigning his position as a member of the Highland Manor Board. Donna Rideout is to be contacted to determine a replacement for Councillor Barron.

District #8

Councillor MacLellan indicated that Melvin MacDonald was hired for two weeks to do a clean up at the Dingwall Transfer Station

District #3

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Yetman, that \$250 be approved for the Knox Presbyterian Church from the District #3 budget. Motion carried.

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It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Deputy Warden Sampson, that a letter be forwarded to the Honourable Clifford Huskison, Minister of Transportation and Public Works, expressing Council's concern of the possible relocation of the mechanical branch from the Baddeck Transportation Depot. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Yetman, that a letter be forwarded to the Honourable Michel Samson, Minister of the Environment, advising that the Municipality has identified the Bras d'Or Lakes and the Baddeck Sewage Treatment Plant as a priority item and have committed funding to same, and are requesting what funding his department may be able to provide, as well as access to any federal government funding. Motion carried.

District #3

Councillor Morrison requested that reservations be made at the Westin Hotel, Halifax, for Councillors for the Annual UNSM Conference to be held in November, 1999. Reservations are to be made from November 2-5, 1999, inclusive.

District #4

It was moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that a letter be forwarded to the Honourable Clifford Huskison, Minister of Transportation and Public Works, with a copy to the Honourable Kennie MacAskill, MLA, requesting the government pursue infrastructure funding to erect a bridge at Englishtown for the economy of northern Victoria County. Motion carried.

IN CAMERA

The Warden announced that Council would move In Camera.

Council returned to Regular Session.

NEXT MEETING

The next Committee of the Whole meeting will be held on Monday, June 14, 1999, beginning at 5:00 p. m.

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ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Councillor MacLellan, the meeting adjourned.

John Graham MacInnes, Warden
Brian E. Trask, CAO