

**VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**  
**May 6, 2002**

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, May 6, 2002, beginning at 5:30 p.m. with Warden Gerald Sampson in the Chair.

Present were:

District #1 – Dan E. MacNeil  
District #2 – Shane Toms  
District #3 – Bruce Morrison, Deputy Warden  
District #4 – John Graham MacInnes  
District #5 – Gerald Sampson, Warden  
District #6 – Lawrence Barron  
District #7 – Wayne Budge  
District #8 – Robert MacLellan

Also present were:

Brian Trask, CAO  
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

**CALL TO ORDER**

Warden Sampson called the meeting to order.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA/TIME TO ADJOURN**

**It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Deputy Warden Morrison, that the agenda be approved as presented and the time to adjourn be set at 7:30 p.m. Motion carried.**

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the April 22 and April 30, 2002, sessions of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

**It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the Council minutes of April 22 and April 30, 2002, be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**Finewood Flooring & Lumber Ltd.**

The Clerk read a letter from Solicitor Pickup with regard to the takeover of the roadway leading to Finewood Flooring & Lumber Ltd.

**It was moved by Councillor Toms, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that a letter be forwarded to Finewood Flooring & Lumber Ltd. outlining Solicitor Pickup's comments regarding the roadway and a copy of this letter be forwarded to Councillor Toms. Motion carried.**

**Letters**

Brian Trask advised that the following letters were forwarded after the last Council meeting, however; no replies have been received to date.

- Letter to the Minister of Transportation requesting a meeting with regard to the ferry fare issue and the closure of the Baddeck Mechanical Branch.
- Letter to BABTA regarding the possibility of the Municipality of the County of Victoria hosting the Annual UNSM Conference in 2004.
- Letter to the Department of Transportation requesting that the "controlled highway" designation be removed in the Port Bevis/South Haven area.

**Smoking Cessation Committee**

Warden Sampson advised that Gwynn Shaw attended one meeting of the Smoking Cessation Committee and tendered her resignation due to the travel involved.

**STAFFING – BADDECK LANDFILL AND CAPE NORTH TRANSFER STATION**

Brian Trask advised that the assistant worker at the Cape North Transfer Station is working out very well and is close to the hours required for Union status. Occupational Health & Safety prevents only one worker from being on the site.

One of the spare workers at the Baddeck Landfill has recently had surgery and with the additional summer volumes and the cover required for vacations, two additional workers would be required for the summer months.

These matters will be forwarded to the Solid Waste Management Committee for recommendations.

**JOE LEGGE – CAPE BRETON BURN CAMP**

Courtesy of Council was extended to Joe Legge, Chairman of the Cape Breton Firefighters Burn Care Society.

Mr. Legge was in attendance regarding the Atlantic Burn Camp to be held at the Cape Breton Bible Camp, New Campbellton, from August 18-25, 2002. All monies for this camp are realized through fundraising efforts. This year is the 5<sup>th</sup> annual camp and it is hoped that the site of this year's camp will become the permanent home for the camp.

The Atlantic Burn Camp is for burn survivors from 6 to 17 years of age. Approximately 45 to 50 campers from all over the Atlantic Provinces come to the camp. There is a support staff of 60 to 65 people. This camp is a chance for these children to rebuild their self-esteem and be with children who have the same problems.

Mr. Legge is himself a 25-year burn survivor and he knows first hand what these children face on a daily basis. The camp gives them the opportunity to be themselves and is based on fun. There is minimal counseling involved in the camp.

Insurance costs have skyrocketed this year. It is estimated that the insurance will cost in the vicinity of \$9,000 to \$10,000 for the one-week camp. This insurance is required for taking the children off-site and there are plans for fishing tours, etc. during the camp.

Warden Sampson then presented Mr. Legge with a cheque for \$200 from his district budget to assist with the camp.

Mr. Legge was extended a vote of thanks for his presentation.

### **NOVA SCOTIA POWER INC.**

Courtesy of Council was extended to Dan Muldoon and Alan Sullivan, Nova Scotia Power Inc.

Mr. Sullivan indicated that they were in attendance concerning their rate increase case that is now before the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board. The last time general power rates changed in Nova Scotia was 1996.

The reason for the rate increase is very simple. Costs are beyond NSPI's control. The biggest factor is the cost of imported coal. With the closure of the coalmines in Cape Breton, the majority of the coal used by NSPI is imported. Coal prices have risen sharply and at the same time the Canadian dollar is weak, adding costs to a fuel budget increasingly dominated by import fuels.

Nova Scotia Powers' projected average fuel cost will be \$30.98/mW.h, an increase of approximately 20% over 2001 levels. This increase represents a \$76 million increase in fuel costs. This is far beyond what NSPI can absorb without an adjustment to customer rates.

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At the rate hearings, NSPI will put forward all its cost projections, and show how these factors have caused a need for new rates. NSPI do not seek changes lightly, as they know there will be an impact on customers. Under the proposed new rates, a typical residential power bill could increase \$6 to \$8 monthly.

Mr. Sullivan indicated that NSPI are now looking at wind power and will be installing two wind turbines in the not so distant future. The areas being considered for the turbines are in the areas of Inverness County, Amherst and Meteghan.

Dan Muldoon advised that as a result of the delay in the URB decision regarding the NSPI's rate increase request, a number of prudent management decisions have had to be made. NSPI has deferred all capital projects, which has resulted in a change in staffing. Of the 33 linemen in the Sydney Region, 14 have been impacted by a temporary layoff and the remaining work force has been realigned. This lay off can be for no more than a 6-month period.

The floor was then opened to discussion and questions.

Discussion took place on the revenue generated by the Wreck Cove Hydro Plant. The gentlemen could not give an answer without investigating. Also the assessment of the Wreck Cove Hydro Project was discussed. The current assessment for Wreck Cove is \$800,000, and it was questioned as to why this plant is not assessed at the fair market value. Mr. Sullivan indicated that the tax structure regarding same is instituted by the province and the money paid by NSPI for taxation, is distributed by the province. NSPI do not determine how this money is distributed to the municipal units.

The effect on local service with the lay off of two workers was questioned. Mr. Muldoon indicated that the service would be maintained at its present level. NSPI can draw for any other part of Cape Breton Island if the manpower is needed in this area. Mr. Muldoon indicated that NSPI is proud of their safety record and staff. They have a well-trained, highly skilled workforce.

What should happen if NSPI rate increase request is not successful was discussed. This would definitely pose a challenge to NSPI and the operations would have to be looked at from one end to the other.

Mr. Sullivan indicated that any specific questions that they did not have answers for today, could be forwarded to them and they will be investigated and the appropriate information would be forwarded. NSPI's website is a user-friendly site and there is a section where streetlight outages can be reported. The NSPI website is [www.nspower.ca](http://www.nspower.ca).

Following further discussion, Mr. Muldoon and Mr. Sullivan were extended a vote of thanks for their presentation and they were excused at this time.

**RECESS**

Warden Sampson announced that Council would recess for 5 minutes.

**CAPE BRETON BURN CAMP**

**It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Deputy Warden Morrison, that financial assistance for the Cape Breton Burn Camp be referred to this year's budget discussions. Motion carried.**

**DUE DATES – INTERIM AND FINAL TAX BILLINGS**

**It was moved by Councillor Toms, seconded by Councillor Barron, that the due date for the interim tax billing be July 1, 2002, and the due date for the final tax billing be November 1, 2002. Motion carried.**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Letter from Louis Digout, CAO – Richmond County, advising that the date for the Regional UNSM Meeting has been set for June 20, 2002, in Richmond County.
2. Letter from the Honourable Angus MacIsaac, Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, advising that the request from PCAP funding for the Baddeck Sewer cannot be committed at this time and will be held on file for future consideration in the event program budget changes permit.
3. Correspondence from Premier John Hamm with regarding the increase in provincial ferry fares.
4. Letters regarding the Assessment Services Division of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations from Jerry Blumenthal, President – UNSM and the Honourable Angus MacIsaac, Minister.
5. Copy of a letter to Mayor Billy Joe MacLean, Town of Port Hawkesbury, from the Honourable Ron Russell, Minister of Transportation, regarding Highway 104.
6. Copy of a letter to the Honourable Angus MacIsaac, Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, outlining Council's opposition to the

proposed amendment to the *Municipal Government Act* regarding water property.

**GUARANTEE – BADDECK SEWER**

Brian Trask presented a resolution requesting that the Municipality of the County of Victoria guarantee the principal and interest of debentures of the Village of Baddeck, in the amount of \$750,000 for the Baddeck Sewers.

**It was moved by Deputy Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that the resolution guaranteeing the principal and interest of debentures of the Village of Baddeck in the amount of \$750,000 for the Baddeck Sewers be approved. Motion carried.**

**NOTICE OF MOTION/NEW BUSINESS**

**District #4**

Councillor MacInnes reported on the Association of Police Boards Conference he, Councillor Budge and Brian Trask attended in Truro.

**District #3**

Deputy Warden Morrison requested that a letter be forwarded to Sgt. MacKenzie, RCMP, and Charlie MacDonald, Department of Transportation, concerning vehicles parked along Chebucto Street that obstruct the view of vehicles trying to exit from Jones Street, Cameron Street and Prince Street.

**It was moved by Deputy Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Barron, that a letter be forwarded to the Honourable Jamie Muir, Minister of Health, commending his initiative in the introduction of non-smoking regulations in the Province. Motion carried with Councillor MacInnes casting a dissenting vote.**

**District #7**

**It was moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Councillor Barron, that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Transportation requesting that armour stone be placed in two sections of roadway in the New Haven area. Motion carried.**

**District #8**

**It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that Ed Carey investigate the cost of extending the Dingwall Water to the South**

**Ridge Road area and water samples be collected and transported to determine the cause of contamination of the dug wells in this area, the cost of the water samples to be borne by the residents. Motion carried.**

**District #5**

Warden Sampson brought up a complaint he received from a resident of the St. Ann's Bay area concerning raw sewage entering the Bay. It was felt that this resident should address his/her complaint with the Department of the Environment.

Warden Sampson brought up the topic of a heavy garbage pickup. He suggested that arrangements be made with the garbage contractor to drop of a trailer at a central location in the district and residents can take their heavy garbage to this trailer. The cost is to be investigated.

**It was moved by Deputy Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Budge, that any Council Member wishing to conduct a heavy garbage pickup in their district be permitted to do so and their district budget funding cover the cost.**

**Those voting in favour of the motion were Councillors Toms, Budge, Barron, MacLellan and Deputy Warden Morrison.**

**Those voting against the motion were Warden Sampson and Councillors MacInnes and MacNeil.**

**Motion carried.**

**VICTORIA COUNTY WEBSITE**

**It was moved by Deputy Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Toms, that on recommendation of the Victoria County Community Economic Development Committee, \$4,000 be approved for the upgrading of the Victoria County Website and \$1,000 be approved the upgrading of software, from the 2002/2003 Community Economic Development Budget. Motion carried.**

**ADJOURN**

**There being no further business, on motion of Councillor Barron, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.**