

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
June 23, 2008

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, June 23, 2008, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Warden Wayne Budge in the Chair.

Present were:

District #1 – Paul MacNeil
District #4 – John Graham MacInnes, Deputy Warden
District #5 – Fraser Patterson
District #6 – Lawrence Barron
District #7 – Wayne Budge, Warden
District #8 – Robert MacLellan

Also present were:

Sandy Hudson, CAO
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

Absent were:

District #2 – Keith MacCuspic (Work related absence)
District #3 – Bruce Morrison (Out of town on vacation)

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Budge called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was presented for approval. It was indicated that Sue Difiore's website presentation will not take place at this meeting.

It was moved by Deputy Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that the agenda be approved with the noted deletion. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MAY 26, 2008 AND JUNE 2, 2008

The Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of May 26, 2008, and June 2, 2008, were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor Barron, that the May 26, 2008, and June 2, 2008, minutes of Victoria County Municipal Council be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Heavy Garbage Collection

The heavy garbage collection conducted in Districts 1, 4 and 5 was very successful. A heavy garbage collection will take place in Districts 6, 7, and 8 next spring.

Dog Control

Terry Hogan has been hired as the Dog Control Officer for northern Victoria. The Dog Control Officer for southern Victoria County is yet to be determined.

Retaining Wall – Court House

A price was received from Morgan's Brook Landscaping for replacement of the retaining wall in front of the Court House. This will involve removing the trees adjacent to the wall and relocating the scrubs to a park area to be developed adjacent to the side of the drug store.

Sandy Hudson advised of the possibility of accessing ½ of the cost from the Baddeck Revitalization Committee's facade funding. It was felt that if funding is received, this work should proceed.

Alderwood

The June 2, 2008, Council meeting concerning the Alderwood roadway was discussed.

It was moved by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that an amended letter be provided to Alderwood indicating Council's agreement with the building of a Class H roadway with a paved surface of 6 meters (19.7 feet). Motion carried.

CRUINNEACHADH NAN GAIDHEAL - "GATHERING OF THE GAELS"

Warden Budge extended the courtesy of Council to Catriona Parsons who was in attendance to make a presentation on *Cruinneachadh nan Gaidheal* (Gathering of the Gaels) to be held at the Keating Millennium Centre, St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, from July 24-26, 2008.

Ms. Parsons thanked Council for the opportunity to appear and made the following presentation to Council (copy attached). She urged Council to attend this event and requested consideration be given to sponsorship of the event.

Warden Budge extended a vote of thanks to Ms. Parsons for her presentation.

It was moved by Deputy Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that each Council member be requested to provide \$100 from their district budget, for a total of \$800, to *Cruinneachadh nan Gaidheal* (Gathering of the Gaels). Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL

Courtesy of the Council was extended to Roy MacDonald, Area Manager, Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, and Keith Bain, MLA – Victoria-The Lakes.

Mr. MacDonald thanked Council for the opportunity to appear. He indicated that he has been in his current position for 8 months and provided background information on his personal circumstances and previous work experience.

Mr. MacDonald indicated that he fully understands what Councillors are faced with when dealing with the public and he stated that it is in his best interest to keep Council and the public happy. Every dollar in the budget he receives is spent and there is no shortage of places to spend it.

Mr. MacDonald is responsible for the area of Inverness North and Victoria County. This is a huge geographic area with 1700 km. of roadways. There are five supervisors under his jurisdiction and the money is divided among them and this pays for wages, equipment, material, etc.

One responsibility that he feels is of utmost importance to him is the responsibility to his workforce and he indicated that he manages the money in the best way possible to ensure his employees are looked after.

Victoria County is a large tourist draw and Mr. MacDonald indicated that he wants to see the roadways looking good and he does intend to push this initiative in the future.

Councillor Patterson questioned on the damage done as a result of the rain storm last September. Mr. MacDonald indicated he is not expected to pay for damage beyond his budget and when the damage reaches a certain point, the province steps in and makes

application for federal funding. It sometimes takes years before the funding is received from the federal government.

Councillor Patterson also questioned on the status of the supervisor position for Boularderie. The former supervisor is on a one year leave of absence that will expire in December, 2008, and until his status is known a permanent placement will not be made. If he resigns, the position will be advertised and filled.

Councillor Barron brought up the matter of the grading of listed gravel roads in the Ingonish area. He feels they should be graded with more frequency. Mr. MacDonald indicated that it is a priority to have all roads graded and dust control applied by the end of June. He will encourage the supervisor to rent grading equipment to get this work done in a timely manner if necessary.

Councillor MacLellan brought up the matter of graveling and ditching of the Meat Cove Road and expressed his gratitude on getting guardrail installed at Bay Road Valley. The condition of the Bay St. Lawrence Road from Cape North to Bay St. Lawrence is a concern, as it is in bad condition.

Mr. MacDonald encouraged Council to speak regularly with the area supervisors on their concerns. He indicated that it does not matter how the information is received, as long as it is received by the Department.

Mr. MacDonald was questioned as to how many supervisors there were in Victoria County and he indicated three – one in Boularderie, one in Baddeck, and one in Cape North. He indicated that to date he has followed the former area manager's formula based on the kilometres of roads; however, now that he has been on the job for awhile, he has formed his own opinions and will be making some changes in the future.

Warden Budge indicated that the north of Smokey area is not being treated as equally as the southern part of the County. The equipment they have is not satisfactory and with the population being about ½ of the total of the County, he felt this area is not getting its fair share.

Deputy Warden MacInnes expressed his concern that the North River and North Shore areas are the last roads to receive patching. Mr. MacDonald indicated that the supervisor has been told to have this work completed.

Concern on the winter snow plowing of the North Shore area was also discussed. Mr. MacDonald indicated that he is working with the supervisor to have a plan for better service in this area in place for the next winter season. An alternate type of snow removal equipment is being considered for servicing this area and Smokey Mountain.

Deputy Warden MacInnes questioned when the Gaelic road signs for North River Bridge, Breton Cove and Goose Cove would be erected. Mr. MacDonald indicated that the sign crew have been out fixing and erecting signs since April and he would check on the signs in question.

When the lines would be painted on the highways was questioned and Mr. MacDonald advised that there are two units that work throughout the province. One of the field outfits arrived in Baddeck today and he would contact the manager to find out the painting schedule.

Deputy Warden MacInnes also mentioned the brushcutting in his area and when it would be completed. Mr. MacDonald advised that the brushcutter began work in May and is presently located in the Cheticamp area. There is one machine shared among the five supervisors.

Councillor MacNeil expressed appreciation for the patching recently completed in his area. He expressed concern on the condition of the roads in his district especially the Washabuck Mountain road. It was indicated that the road at Estmere is also in bad condition. Mr. MacDonald indicated that once roads get to a certain point, they are difficult to maintain with maintenance funding and they become a capital project. This area needs capital funding.

Councillor MacNeil also indicated that brushcutting has not been done on the main roads in his district as yet. He also expressed concern on the plowing of the back roads in his district. Mr. MacDonald indicated that the current contractor will be back again this year, but must have 2 dedicated operators to look after these roads. The work must be completed in a timely manner.

Councillor MacNeil also mentioned that the back roads in his district, especially the Cain's Mountain Road, need gravel.

The paint that is used to do the lines of on the roads was discussed. Whether there was a different paint available that would last more than one year was discussed. Mr. MacDonald indicated that there are a number of issues with regard to the centre line painting; however, this is out of his jurisdiction and he is powerless to act.

Further discussion took place with Mr. MacDonald and he was extended a vote of thanks for appearing and being forthcoming with the information provided.

Keith Bain, MLA, indicated that one of the biggest challenges discussed in Caucus is the capital projects to be completed provincewide. More money is required in RIM funding and local road maintenance. Consideration is been given to private

investment. Mr. Bain indicated that in our lifetime we are never going to see the roads maintained in the way they should. Costs are just too great.

Warden Budge extended Council's appreciation to the gentlemen for the information provided.

RECESS

Warden Budge announced that Council would recess for a 10 minute coffee break.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #5

Councillor Patterson questioned on the street light allocation for this year and how street lights paid through district budgets will be dealt with. Sandy Hudson indicated that if street lights are currently being paid through district budgets, the 2 street light allotment will cover these lights.

It was moved by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor Barron, that if necessary, the cost of two street lights be paid for from District #5 budget funds. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that \$1,500 be approved from the District #5 budget for the Big Bras d'Or Ferry Wharf Restoration Society. Motion carried.

District #6

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that \$3,000.00 be approved from the District #6 budget to the Smokey Recreational Society for recreation programs for youth. Motion carried.

Councillor Barron brought up the matter of an emergency exit for the MacKrous Subdivision. At present if an emergency were to occur, there is only one way out of this subdivision. An adjacent landowner has given permission to use his land at the northeast corner of the subdivision to build an exit to the Cabot Trail. Councillor Barron requested that Barry Campbell, EMC, look into this matter with regard to emergency measures and any possible funding for an additional exit.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that Barry Campbell, EMC, and Robert Dauphinee, Director of Public Works,

investigate the costs and location of an emergency exit for the MacKrous Subdivision, Ingonish. Motion carried.

Councillor Barron indicated that people on fixed income in his district are having difficulty recycling properly due to the cost of the blue and green bags required for recycling. They cannot afford the cost of the bags out of their limited income.

Sandy Hudson will speak with Robert Dauphinee and the contractor in this regard to see what can be done.

District #8

Councillor MacLellan brought up the matter of doing preliminary study work for water in Bay St. Lawrence and the Cape North and South Ridge Road areas. Bay St. Lawrence is the first of these projects on the infrastructure priority list. Discussion took place.

It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that a feasibility study for water for Bay St. Lawrence be undertaken. Motion carried.

District #1

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that \$1,000.00 be approved from the District #1 budget for the 60th anniversary of the Iona Legion. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that Council provide a letter of support for the extension of the recreation field at the Rankin School of the Narrows. Motion carried.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that social assistance recipients are finding it more difficult to make ends meet as the allowance they receive does not go as far as it used to with the increases in a number of costs.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that a letter be forwarded to the Honourable Judy Streach, Minister of Community Services, requesting consideration be given to an increase in the amount of assistance issued to social assistance recipients. Motion carried.

District #7

The \$5,000.00 funding request from the North Highlands Community Organization was discussed.

It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that \$1,500.00 be approved from both the District #7 and #8 budgets for the North Highlands Community Organization and the remaining \$2,000.00 be provided by the Municipality. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that \$1,500.00 be approved from the District #7 budget to assist the Neil's Harbour/New Haven Development Association with signage. Motion carried.

Warden Budge indicated that Warr Road in his district always washes out. The road is 1/10 of a km and the cost to repair it with crushed asphalt is approximately \$2,000.00. The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal may cover these repairs, but if not Warden Budge indicated he would do so from his district budget.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that if necessary, the cost of \$2,000.00 for repairs to Warr Road be approved from the District #7 budget. Motion carried.

Warden Budge advised that he met with the coalition consisting of the North Highlands Community Organization, Bay St. Lawrence Community Centre and Northern Victoria Community Centre recently on a number of issues.

It was moved by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that a letter be forwarded to Premier Rodney MacDonald requesting that the Northern Victoria Community Centre be included on the eligibility list for funding under the Rink Revitalization Program. Motion carried.

Concern was also expressed by the coalition on the status and the future direction of economic development within the County.

It was moved by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that a letter be forwarded to the organizations outlining the status of and future direction for economic development within the County. Motion carried.

Warden Budge outlined the Provincial Eco Trust Program and indicated that if an energy audit of our facilities is completed, the Municipality will be eligible for funding under this program. Once the Municipality qualifies, any organization within the Municipality can qualify under our umbrella to access funding to upgrade their facilities.

It was moved by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the Municipality begin work on an energy audit for the Municipality. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

MUNICIPAL ANTENNAE SITE PROCEDURE

A copy of the Municipal Antennae Site Procedure document was presented and Sandy Hudson advised that Tom Wilson is recommending that this matter be postponed until the next Council meeting when more information is available.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that the Municipal Antennae Site procedure be postponed until the July 7, 2008, Council meeting when more information is available. Motion carried.

BORROWING RESOLUTIONS

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that a \$750,000.00 borrowing resolution through the Municipal Finance Corporation be approved for the Municipality. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that a borrowing resolution in the amount of \$170,250.00 through the Municipal Finance Corporation be approved for the Village of Baddeck. Motion carried.

BADDECK MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE TRANSFER STATION BUILDING

Sandy Hudson presented a plan for an extension to the Baddeck Transfer Station Building to house additional office space. This will provide for office space for the Director of Public Works and the Education Program Coordinator to be hired. The estimated cost is \$80,000.00 and should be eligible under our present agreement with regard to gas tax funding.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that the expansion of the Baddeck Municipal Solid Waste Transfer Station building to accommodate more office space be undertaken. Motion carried.

RETAIN WALL – COURT HOUSE

A price of \$28,000.00 was obtained from Morgan's Brook Landscaping for the Court House retaining wall. Discussions have begun to access ½ of the costs from the Baddeck Revitalization Project.

It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Councillor Barron, that Sandy Hudson be authorized to look after the installation of the Court House retaining wall. Motion carried.

BORROWING RESOLUTION

Sandy Hudson indicated that he would like to negotiate a borrowing resolution with the East Coast Credit Union in the amount of \$3 million dollars to pay our \$1.2 borrowing, finance the Baddeck Transfer Station expansion and the balance of the Little Narrows Water System extension.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that Sandy Hudson negotiate a borrowing resolution with the East Coast Credit Union for \$3 million dollars for a 10 year period, interest only payments and the gas tax revenue be applied annually to this loan when received. Motion carried.

LETTER OF CONGRATULATIONS

Councillor Morrison requested that a letter be forwarded to Dianne Grant in recognition of the nursing award she recently received.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that Dianne Grant be forwarded a letter of congratulations on receiving a nursing award. Motion carried.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council will be held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, July 7, 2008, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

A date for the next Community Development Committee will be set at Council on July 7, 2008.

SILVER DART ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Discussion took place on the Silver Dart Anniversary Committee. An application is in the process of being submitted for funding under the Heritage Canada Historical Anniversaries Program. The Municipality's contribution to the centennial celebrations was discussed.

It was decided to wait until the next Council Session on July 7, 2008, when Councillor Bruce Morrison is present to discuss this matter further.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION

A listing of revision locations and dates for the October Municipal Election was presented to each Council member for their information. Sandy Hudson, Returning Officer, requested that the Council members spread the word about these revision sittings.

IN CAMERA

The meeting then moved In Camera

Council returned to regular session.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor Barron, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Wayne Budge, Warden

A. W. (Sandy) Hudson, CAO