

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
July 7, 2008

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, July 7, 2008, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Warden Wayne Budge in the Chair.

Present were:

District #1 – Paul MacNeil
District #2 – Keith MacCuspic
District #3 – Bruce Morrison
District #4 – John Graham MacInnes, Deputy Warden (Late Arrival)
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

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Budge called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JUNE 23, 2008

The minutes of the June 23, 2008, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the June 23, 2008, minutes of Victoria County Municipal Council be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Councillor Barron questioned on whether any work had been done for the requested fire exit at the MacKrous Subdivision. Robert Dauphinee and Barry Campbell will investigate this matter in the next couple of weeks.

The heavy solid waste collection has been completed in Districts 1, 4 and 5. \$10,000.00 was budgeted and any expenditure over this amount is to be shared among the three districts out of the district budget funds.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2008 –
MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF VICTORIA**

Courtesy of Council was extended to Grant Burgess, C.A., Grant Thornton LLP Chartered Accountants, who presented the Draft Non-Consolidated Financial Statements for the Municipality of the County of Victoria for the year ended March 31, 2008.

Mr. Burgess indicated that the statements are in draft form, and when other necessary information becomes available, the consolidated statements will be completed. As a result, he requested that the draft statements presented be returned to him at the end of the presentation.

Mr. Burgess then reviewed the draft financial statements in detail with Council. He reported that the Municipality ended the year with an operating surplus of \$131,219.00, based on a total budget of approximately \$8,600,000.00.

Mr. Burgess indicated that overall collections are good; however, an aggressive collection should continue to drive the receivables down even further. There is a tax sale planned for September and this is a useful method to collect outstanding taxes. Having regular tax sales should be a priority. Title problems prevent some properties from being put on tax sale and properties must be searched prior to being put on tax sale.

The cost of street lighting was questioned at last year's financial statement presentation as to where Victoria County fit in relation to other rural municipal units with regard to street lighting costs. Mr. Burgess indicated that street lighting accounts for 4.4% of assessed taxes and on checking with other rural municipalities, the cost of street lighting ranges from 1.7 to 2.6%.

A general discussion took place and Mr. Burgess answered various questions related to the draft financial statements.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the draft financial statements for the Municipality of the County of Victoria for the year ended March 31, 2008, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Warden Budge extended a vote of thanks to Mr. Burgess for his presentation and he was excused at this time.

RECESS

Warden Budge advised that Council would recess for 10 minutes.

MUNICIPAL ANTENNA SITE PROCEDURE

Courtesy of the meeting was extended to Tom Wilson. Mr. Wilson indicated that Mac Fuller, Seaside Communications was also in attendance regarding the Municipal Antenna Site Procedure matter.

Mr. Wilson indicated that he has reviewed both the Eastern District Planning Commission's Municipal Antenna Site Procedure and the Industry Canada document on Antennas. He is recommending that the Municipality go with the Planning Commission's procedure with three changes. The changes were reviewed with Council.

Mr. Wilson indicated that these changes will take the emphasis away from the Municipality and place the responsibility of the process on the applicant. The Municipality will receive copies of the information on the process from the applicant.

Mr. Wilson indicated that adopting this procedure will speed up the process. Industry Canada's procedure takes up to 120 days and the recommended procedure takes from 30 to 40 days.

Discussion took place. Mr. Wilson indicated that this will not affect us in our present Broadband phase. It will come into play in the provincial rollout for Broadband and will involve people missed in our first three phases.

Inverness and Richmond Counties have already approved the Municipal Antenna Site Procedure document.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Barron, that that the amended Municipal Antenna Site Procedure document be approved for Victoria County. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from the Honourable David Morse, Minister of Natural Resources, regarding Council's endorsement of the Crowdis Mountain Snowmobile Club's application to the Off-Highway Vehicle Infrastructure Fund.
2. Copy of the Board Policy Discussion on Populations Changes in the Cape Breton District Health Authority from Norman Connors, Chair of the Cape Breton District Health Authority Board.

3. Letter from Roy MacDonald, Area Manager, Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, in reply to various issues related to summer maintenance of Baddeck streets and other concerns throughout the County.
4. Correspondence from Alan Latourelle, CEO, Parks Canada, in reply to Council's letter regarding the area of selection for recruiting staff to work at the Cape Breton Highlands National Park.
5. Letter from the Northern Victoria Coalition requesting support in principle from Council, conditional on all funding requirements being successfully met, for the Coalition's application to the Eco Trust Program for support of energy efficiency infrastructure improvements to Coalition buildings. No financial support is being requested from the Municipality as the Coalition is currently able to contribute the 20% municipal contribution required by the Eco Trust Program.

It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that Victoria County Municipal Council provide a letter of support in principle, conditional on all funding requirements being met, for the Northern Victoria Coalition's application to the Eco Trust Program. Motion carried.

6. Letter from Dave Parkinson, Chair, Cabot Trail Relay Association, thanking Council for their sponsorship and looking forward to continued support in the future.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #5

Councillor Patterson submitted a petition for a road name change in his district. This petition will be forwarded on to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal and the Eastern District Planning Commission for their approval prior to coming to Council for approval.

Councillor Patterson indicated that a public meeting was held in his area with representatives from the RCMP regarding the break and enters in the area. Break and enters are up significantly in District #5, as well as District #1 and #4. Councillor Patterson indicated that Staff Sgt. Thompson requested support from the Municipality for their application to acquire an additional member under the Street Crime Program.

It was moved by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that Council provide a letter of support for the RCMP's application to acquire an

additional member for Victoria County under the Street Crime Program. Motion carried.

District #6

Councillor Barron requested that a meeting be set up with representatives from ECBC concerning the Smokey Recreational Society's rink project. Councillor Barron indicated that Keith Bain, MLA, advised that he would attend this meeting.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that a meeting be set up with ECBC to discuss the Smokey Recreational Society's rink project application. Motion carried.

Warden Budge indicated that he would be out of town from July 13 to 25, 2008. Sandy Hudson will attempt to set up this meeting for Friday, July 11, 2008 or for late in the week of July 21, 2008.

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 Iona Soccer Club to assist with the field extension. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that \$1,000.00 be approved from the District #1 budget for the Washabuck Community Centre to assist with upgrades. Motion carried.

Councillor MacNeil requested that an order be placed for a street light to be located at 4613 Washabuck Road, Washabuck.

District #2

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspic, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that \$1,500.00 be approved from the District #2 budget for the Middle River Volunteer Fire Department for renovations. Motion carried.

District #3

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that \$2,000.00 be approved for the Bras d'Or Yacht Club for wharf repairs from the District #3 budget. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Barron, that an order be placed for a street light to be located on a pole at the Parkinson residence, 10 MacLeod Street, Baddeck. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that a letter be forwarded to Roy MacDonald, Area Manager, Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal requesting an update on the flooding issue at St. Michael's Parish Hall, Baddeck. Motion carried.

Councillor Morrison indicated that the Silver Dart Centennial Committee is making application to Heritage Canada for up to \$200,000.00 in funding for activities during the 2009 centennial. They require financial support from the Municipality if the application is approved.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that Victoria County Municipal Council provide a commitment of \$10,000.00 for the Silver Dart Centennial Committee's application to Heritage Canada for funding. Motion carried.

District #4

Deputy Warden MacInnes indicated that since the last Council meeting, the Gaelic signs that remained for his district were erected and the centre lines on the highways were painted.

Deputy Warden MacInnes advised that 20 plus years ago an active snowmobile club in his district built trails and erected bridges, one of which is located at Little River. This bridge is in a state of disrepair and he questioned where he should go to see what can be done. The bridge should be removed.

Deputy Warden MacInnes was advised to contact both the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal as it appears to be located on highway right-of-way and the Department of Natural Resources as it spans the river. Contact can also be made with the Nova Scotia Snowmobile Association to see if they have any interest in same.

District #7

Deputy Warden MacInnes assumed the Chair.

It was moved by Warden Budge, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Natural Resources expressing appreciation

for the extra patrols that are being done in Northern Victoria County. Motion carried.

Warden Budge reassumed the Chair.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION REVISION SITTINGS

The listing of revision locations and dates for the October Municipal Election was distributed to each Council member for their information. Residents can attend any of the revision sittings and Council was requested to spread the word about the revision sittings.

RETAINING WALL – COURT HOUSE

Work began on the retaining wall in front of the Court House. One end of the wall was removed and work began today to have the trees cut down. One tree was cut and the work was then shut down by the Village.

The tree roots are pushing the existing wall out and if not removed will do the same to the new wall. It is municipal property and discussion took place as to what jurisdiction the Village had to halt the work.

An application for façade funding is to be submitted and a meeting is to be set up with the Village to discuss this issue. Councillor Morrison will arrange the meeting with the Village. Warden Budge, the CAO and Councillor Morrison will attend.

MEETING – DIANE WHALEN

Sandy Hudson advised that he will be meeting with Diane Whalen, Liberal Critic for Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Affairs, on Thursday, July 10, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. Two issues he will address at the meeting are the 25% commercial tax rebate issue and the assessment cap.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council will be held on Monday, August 18, 2008, at 6:00 p.m. following the Victoria County Municipal Broadband Committee.

At that meeting it is anticipated that Sue Difiore will be ready to present the new website. She again encountered computer problems preventing her from attending tonight's meeting.

NEW FERRY – ENGLISHTOWN

The new ferry – *Torquil MacLean*, has been put into service in Englishtown. Deputy Warden MacInnes advised that extensions are required for the ramps to enable truck traffic to enter and exit the ferry.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Patterson, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Wayne Budge, Warden

A. W. (Sandy) Hudson, CAO