

**VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**  
**January 18, 2010**

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, January 18, 2010, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Warden Bruce Morrison in the Chair.

Present were:

District #1 – Paul MacNeil  
District #2 – Keith MacCuspic  
District #3 – Bruce Morrison, Warden  
District #4 – Merrill MacInnis  
District #5 – Fraser Patterson, Deputy Warden  
District #6 – Larry Dauphinee  
District #7 – David Donovan  
District #8 – Robert MacLellan

Also present were:

Sandy Hudson, CAO  
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

**CALL TO ORDER**

Warden Morrison called the meeting to order.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was presented for approval. Councillor MacLellan indicated a change to the agenda to allow a presentation on behalf of the North Victoria Community Centre by Brother MacKinnon in place of the Theatre on the Hill presentation which was cancelled for this evening.

**It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that the agenda be approved with the noted change. Motion carried.**

**THE GAELIC COUNCIL OF NOVA SCOTIA**

Courtesy of Council was extended to Caroline Cameron, The Gaelic Council of Nova Scotia, who made the following presentation to Council (copy attached).

The question was raised as to how many Gaelic speakers there are in Scotland and it was estimated that there are 30,000 people who speak the language in Scotland.

The prevalence of Gaelic speakers in Victoria County was questioned and Ms. Cameron indicated that it is known that there are 500 fluent Gaelic speakers in Nova Scotia at present. There is no accurate data on the numbers by County but she estimated that the majority would be in Inverness and Victoria Counties.

Ms. Cameron indicated that this was her first presentation to area Councils. She indicated that the immersion approach is the best approach for learning the Gaelic language. The number of tutors available to teach the language was discussed. Teaching Gaelic in rural communities was questioned and discussed.

Ms. Cameron advised that additional information and contact information is available on their website, [www.gaelic.ca](http://www.gaelic.ca).

Along with the Gaelic College, a number of universities are now promoting the Gaelic language – CBU, St. FX, St. Mary's, etc. A number of high schools now have Gaelic programs, including Rankin School of the Narrows at Iona, and schools in Antigonish, Inverness and Halifax. The Nova Scotia Highland Village is also considering the possibility of online Gaelic studies.

Ms. Cameron indicated that there are no more than 10 Gaelic teachers in the Province.

Ms. Cameron outlined the plans for the Forum Series which is an annual international gathering that will strengthen the capacity of the cultural community. This event would be held annually during Gaelic Awareness Month in May. The Forum Series is to be held from 2011 and 2016. She indicated that a smaller version of this series will be held in May, 2010.

The amount of financial commitment being requested from the County was questioned and Ms. Cameron indicated there was no specific amount in mind. The Municipality's support of the organization and its activities would be important.

**It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that The Gaelic Council on Nova Scotia's presentation be endorsed and Victoria County offer support for the work of the association. Motion carried.**

Ms. Cameron was extended a vote thanks for her report and was excused at this time.

**NORTH VICTORIA COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Kenneth “Brother” MacKinnon who was in attendance to make a presentation on behalf of the North Victoria Community Centre.

Mr. MacKinnon outlined plans for an extension and location of an ice plant at the North Victoria Community Centre. An application is being submitted to ECBC and Nova Scotia Health Promotion and Protection (NSHPP) for funding. The total project is in excess of \$400,000.00 and \$150,000.00 is being requested from both ECBC and NSHPP. Mr. MacKinnon advised that the North Victoria Community Centre have \$45,000.00 in the Bank and another \$45,000.00 In Kind and are requesting \$50,000.00 from the Municipality.

**It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that the Municipality provide a letter of support indicating a commitment of \$50,000.00 towards the upgrade and expansion to the North Victoria Community Centre contingent on funding being received from other funding partners. Motion carried.**

Mr. MacKinnon was excused at this time.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NOVEMBER 30, 2009**

The minutes of the November 30, 2009, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

**It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of November 30, 2009, be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**Water Meters – Little Narrows**

Councillor MacNeil questioned on the status of the installation of water meters in Little Narrows.

Sandy Hudson advised that to his knowledge, the installation of meters was completed by the end of December, 2009.

**Neil’s Harbour/New Haven Water**

Sandy Hudson advised that a letter was received from the Honourable Ramona Jennex, Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, advising that the

Department will contribute 50% of the eligible costs, up to a maximum of \$20,000.00 towards the cost of a groundwater source investigation study for the Neil's Harbour/New Haven Water Utility.

**Street Lights**

Sandy Hudson advised that he spoke with Ken Paruch, Nova Scotia Power, as a follow up to Council's letter concerning an inventory of street lights and he advised that they cannot do a complete inventory, but will go back through their records as far as they can and provide some information on street lighting.

**Fishing Industry**

Councillor Donovan questioned whether anything had been done to incorporate the fishing industry into the ICSP and Strategic Plan. Sandy Hudson indicated he mentioned this matter to both Stantec and Dalhousie for inclusion in the plans.

**RECESS**

Warden Morrison advised that Council would recess for 10 minutes.

**C & D MATERIALS**

Sandy Hudson advised that the stockpiles of construction and demolition (c & d) materials at both the Baddeck and Dingwall sites is becoming a concern. The Department of Environment wants the Municipality to inform them by Friday of this week, on the plan to handle these materials.

It has been approximately 6 years, since these materials were chipped. An estimate of cost to complete both sites is \$125,000.00 to \$150,000.00. Sandy Hudson indicated that there is already \$90,000.00 included in the budget for this work.

It was felt that if the materials are chipped, then both sites can begin to start segregating materials being brought on site. Sandy Hudson indicated that he is recommending that the c & d materials at both sites be chipped by the end of March, 2010.

Discussion took place on buying a chipper and it was indicated that the cost is prohibitive, with such a machine costing between \$600,000.00 and \$700,000.00.

**It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Councillor MacCuspig, that the Municipality engage the services of a contractor to deal with the c & d materials at both the Baddeck and Dingwall sites. Motion carried.**

**CUPE NEGOTIATIONS**

Sandy Hudson advised that the current CUPE contract expires on March 31, 2010, and negotiations on a new contract will begin within the next week to 10 days.

Representatives on the bargaining unit from CUPE include the National Representative from Sydney, the CUPE Local 2694 President and 2 Union members. Sandy Hudson negotiated the last contract for the Municipality.

Council felt that there should be Council involvement on the Negotiating Committee.

**It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that Warden Morrison, Deputy Warden Patterson and Councillor Dauphinee, join the CAO as Council's representatives on the Negotiating Committee. Motion carried.**

**EXCUSED**

Councillor MacLellan was excused at this time.

**2010-2011 BUDGET**

Sandy Hudson questioned Council on the 2010-2011 budget as to whether they have any suggestions or direction in how to proceed when planning the budget.

Council felt that the budget should be developed using the existing tax rates as a starting point. Extra Budget Committee meetings will be held when the budget framework is ready.

**GAELIC COLLEGE**

Sandy Hudson advised that the first phase of the Gaelic College expansion project has been approved and is now underway and as a result they are requesting release of the funding committed from the Municipality.

**It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that the funding allocated for the Gaelic College expansion project in the amount of \$50,000.00 be released - \$25,000.00 now and the remaining \$25,000.00 when required. Motion carried.**

**NORTH HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION**

A letter was received from Rob MacDonald, Chairman of the North Highlands Community Organization, requesting a \$12,000.00 operating grant for 2010 and \$20,000.00 in capital assistance from the gas tax funds for energy efficiency renovations of their Culture Centre.

Sandy Hudson advised that the gas tax funding has been allocated, but the Organization can apply for funding under the ecoNova Scotia Program now that the Municipality has completed its Category 1 Inventory and Audit.

This matter will be held in abeyance until more information is received.

**BADDECK LIONS CLUB CURLING BONSPIEL**

The Baddeck Lions Club will be holding a curling bonspiel to raise funds for the Kidston Island Beach Project on January 30, 2010. Any Council members interested in participating are to advise Sandy Hudson as soon as possible.

**FUTURE MEETING DATES**

Discussion took place on the proposed dates for the February Council meetings. Council is to meet on February 1, 2010 and February 15, 2010, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

A meeting of the Victoria County Municipal Community Development Committee will be held on Wednesday, February 10, 2010, at 5:00 p.m.

**HAITIAN RELIEF FUND**

Correspondence was received from Lloyd Hines, Warden of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough, encouraging Nova Scotia municipalities to provide funding to the Haitian Relief Fund.

**It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that \$1,500.00 be provided to the Haitian Relief Fund through the Canadian Red Cross Society. Motion carried.**

**YARMOUTH CAT FERRY**

Correspondence was received from Keith Bain, MLA, concerning the Yarmouth Cat Ferry, concerning the continuance of the ferry service in 2010.

**It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that the Municipality support the resolution to maintain the CAT ferry service at Yarmouth in 2010. Motion carried.**

**IT SUPPORT**

Sandy Hudson advised that 5 municipal units are interested in pursuing a study to look into an alternative to their current IT support and have written to the Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations concerning funding towards the cost of a study.

These municipalities want to ensure there is a backup should something happen to their current IT provider.

**It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that the Municipality participate in the IT support undertaking study. Motion carried.**

**DISTRICT CONCERNS**

**District #5**

Deputy Warden Patterson indicated that he received an email concerning a Population Forum to be held at the Old Orchard Inn on February 9, 2010, that is of interest and he and the Warden will be attending this event.

**District #6**

Councillor Dauphinee questioned on the status of the employee hiring for the solid waste management collection service.

Sandy Hudson advised that the job descriptions for the positions are currently being developed and an advertisement will be placed in the newspaper shortly.

The collection commences on May 1, 2010. Robert Dauphinee visited the factory where the collection vehicles are being built and everything appears to be on schedule.

**District #6**

Councillor Dauphinee updated Council on the status of Ski Cape Smokey. The poma lift is up and running and equipment has been licensed and serviced. 400 to 450

volunteer hours have been devoted to cleaning the hill and minor maintenance of the building. The next expenditure is insurance and Councillor Dauphinee indicated this will  
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cost approximately \$7,000.00, of which he is requesting the Municipality pay one-half. This request is dependent on the ski hill opening.

**It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that the Municipality contribute up to a maximum of \$3,500.00 towards the cost of insurance for Ski Cape Smokey if the ski hill becomes in a position to open and operate for the ski season. Motion carried.**

Discussion took place. Council felt it would be beneficial for the Board of Ski Cape Smokey to provide Council with an update on their plans.

#### **District #5**

Deputy Warden Patterson indicated that he received an email on the new Canadian version of the monopoly game that is being developed. There is a competition for the top 20 place names for the game board and Cape Breton is currently positioned at number 47. He encouraged Council members to vote for Cape Breton.

#### **District #7**

Councillor Donovan indicated that he had some high speed internet issues which he would bring to the Broadband Committee on Wednesday, January 20, 2010.

#### **District #4**

Councillor MacInnis expressed concern on the distribution of highway road salt in his area.

**It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal requesting that they look into locating a permanent salt structure in District #4. Motion carried.**

Councillor MacInnis expressed concern on the lack of physicians servicing Baddeck and area. Both doctors are extremely busy since the 3<sup>rd</sup> doctor left the area. It was indicated that the same applied to the northern area, as they too have lost a doctor and are operating with two at present.

**It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor MacCuspig, that John Malcom, CEO of the Cape Breton District Health Authority, be contacted**

**to express Council's concern on the shortage of permanent physicians in both the southern and northern area of Victoria County. Motion carried.**

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Councillor MacCuspig indicated that there is a physician locating in Hunters Mountain, who will be working four days per week in Waycobah First Nation. Discussion is being held with the Baddeck doctors on providing some assistance to them.

Councillor MacInnis also questioned on whether there was any interest in meeting with other area Councils. The possibility of hosting a meeting in the spring was discussed and was referred to the CAO.

Councillor MacInnis questioned on the insurance coverage for Councillors. Sandy Hudson indicated that it is possible to get coverage, with limitations and Cory Cox will be sending documentation that requires information from Council members interested in participating.

**District #2**

Councillor MacCuspig presented a request from Jonathan Saul, President of the Victoria Highland Civic Centre, requesting assistance in the amount of \$25,000.00 towards the cost of installation of new boards and glass. This is a \$100,000.00 plus project and assistance is being requested from ECBC and NSHPP.

**It was moved by Councillor MacCuspig, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that \$25,000.00 be included in the 2010-2011 budget for the Victoria Highland Civic Centre upgrades dependent on funding being received from other funding partners. Motion carried.**

Councillor MacCuspig questioned on the matter of derelict vehicles. The legislation for removal of derelict vehicles is contained in the dangerous and unsightly premises section of the *Municipal Government Act*.

**It was moved by Councillor MacCuspig, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that staff investigate the development of a policy or by-law with regard to derelict vehicles. Motion carried.**

**District #1**

Councillor MacNeil questioned on the effect the RCMP's loss of the contract to provide service in Wagmatcook would have on Victoria County. Discussion took place on this matter.

Staff Sgt. Thompson is to be invited to Council to provide an update on the status of the RCMP service in Victoria County with the loss of the contract to provide service to Wagmatcook.

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Councillor MacNeil brought up the matter of street lights. An increasing amount of calls are being received from residents for street lights. Inverness County have a street lighting policy and it was felt that one should be developed for Victoria County.

**It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that investigation be undertaken on developing a Street Lighting Policy for Victoria County. Motion carried.**

**District #3**

**It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal requesting that the culvert at the old Bay School, Baddeck Bay, be repaired or replaced. Motion carried.**

**It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that a letter of congratulations be forwarded to Jessica Wong who recently won a gold medal at the Women's Under 22 hockey MLP Cup in Germany. Motion carried.**

A letter was circulated requesting financial assistance for the Jackie MacAulay Memorial Hockey Tournament at the Victoria Highland Civic Centre this coming weekend.

**It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that a letter of congratulations be forwarded to "Cape Breton Island" on achieving 1<sup>st</sup> place in Leg 5 of the around the world boat race. Motion carried.**

**It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that a letter of congratulations be forwarded to Chandler MacKinnon on his gold medal win at the 2010 World Taekwondo Federation Canadian Junior National Championships in Halifax. Motion carried.**

**CONTROLLED ACCESS HIGHWAY DESIGNATION**

The correspondence received from the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal concerning the controlled access highway designation is to be referred to the February 15, 2010, Council meeting.

**ADJOURN**

**There being no further business, on motion of Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor MacCuspig, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.**

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**Sandy Hudson, CAO**

**Bruce Morrison, Warden**