

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
August 23, 2010

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the North Shore & District Volunteer Fire Department Hall, Indian Brook, on Monday, August 23, 2010, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Warden Bruce Morrison in the Chair.

Present were:

District #1 – Paul MacNeil
District #2 – Keith MacCuspic (Late Arrival)
District #3 – Bruce Morrison, Warden
District #4 – Merrill MacInnis
District #5 – Fraser Patterson, Deputy Warden
District #6 – Larry Dauphinee
District #7 – David Donovan

Also present were:

Sandy Hudson, CAO
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

Absent was:

District #8 – Robert MacLellan (Due to Illness)

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Warden Morrison called the meeting to order and presented the agenda for approval. He advised that due to a delay with regard to computer programming, the financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2010, have not been completed and will not be presented tonight.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that the agenda be approved with the noted change. Motion carried.

CAPE BRETON PARTNERSHIP

Courtesy of the meeting was extended to Keith MacDonald, Executive Director, Cape Breton Partnership.

Mr. MacDonald then made a presentation on the Cape Breton Partnership (copy attached). The Cape Breton Partnership was established four plus years ago and is broadly representative of Cape Breton's private sector with over 160 investors. The purpose of the Partnership is to instill ownership, confidence and pride to enhance

prosperity in Cape Breton and the Strait Region. Their vision is to increase prosperity by mobilizing private sector energy, expertise and resources.

Mr. MacDonald advised that the organization has a core staff complement of five, with additional contracted staff involved as projects, etc. arise. There is a 20 member Board of Directors and Mr. MacDonald indicated that Curt Hussey and Sue Phelan from Victoria County are members of the Board.

The operational funding was outlined and he provided Council with an outline of the focus of the Partnership to date. Mr. MacDonald outlined the accountability process, the challenges and the steps they foresee to make Cape Breton better.

The investor levels in the Cape Breton Partnership were explained. Mr. MacDonald outlined the prosperity focus and business attraction collaboration and investment readiness to Council.

The question arose as to whether Destination Cape Breton Association was an investor in the Cape Breton Partnership. Mr. MacDonald advised they were not an investor but the two organizations team up on various projects from time to time.

Councillor MacInnis advised that for the first time in the history of the lobster fishery, positive things are beginning to happen and he outlined what is envisioned.

The question was raised as to what Nova Scotia Business Inc. (NSBI) does for Cape Breton and Mr. MacDonald advised that the Chairman of the Cape Breton Partnership Board was recently appointed to serve on the Board of NSBI, which should help relations and investment in Cape Breton.

A general discussion took place and various questions were raised and addressed.

Warden Morrison extended a vote of thanks to Mr. MacDonald for his presentation.

RECESS

Warden Morrison announced that Council would recess for 10 minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – AUGUST 9, 2010

The minutes of the August 9, 2010, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of August 9, 2010, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Marketing Levy

No further update. CBRM's solicitor was to revamp the proposed by-law and forward same to the solicitors of the participating municipalities for review.

Highland Manor

Kevin MacNamara, Deputy Minister of Health, visited Highland Manor on August 13, 2010. He assured the Board that the department would assist the Board in acquiring a consultant to find out what is necessary to satisfy the Fire Marshal's report. On a long term basis, he indicated that the Home would be reassessed for future expansion or replacement, whatever is felt to be appropriate. As far as the consolidation of services between Highland Manor and Buchanan Memorial Hospital, the Deputy Minister did not really address this issue. It was felt, however, that any consolidation would probably see the services for both sites being done from Highland Manor and not the Hospital.

New Haven Waterline Extension

Robert Dauphinee has been asked to investigate this.

Roadside Graffiti

There has been no response to date to the letter forwarded regarding graffiti on the roadsides in Victoria County.

Cabot Trail Writers Festival

The request for financial assistance for the Cabot Trail Writers Festival was discussed. Gary Walsh has requested to appear before the September 13, 2010, session of Council, so a decision on funding will be deferred until after the presentation to Council.

Engine Brake

A reply has not been received from the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal regarding the request for a "No Engine Braking" sign in Ingonish.

Solid Waste Collection Helper

Councillor Donovan questioned on the status of the hiring for the Solid Waste Collection Helper position. The position is going to be offered to the next qualified candidate and investigation is being undertaken on the travel aspect of this position for the days the solid waste collection is undertaken in the north of Smokey area.

POLICY REVIEW

Street Lighting Policy

The proposed Street Lighting Policy was presented. The maximum of two street lights per municipal district is to be per year and revised in the policy to reflect same. Also it was indicated that there are times when a higher wattage street light is required. The policy is to indicate that the installation of lights, *if possible*, shall be the 100 watt low pressure sodium level or a more energy efficient light if available. This will allow for an increased wattage in certain circumstances. The installation of lights in a district must be approved by a motion of Council.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that the Street Lighting Policy be approved with the noted changes. Motion carried with Councillor MacInnis voting against the motion, as he felt the Municipality should not be providing street lights.

Community Grants Application Policy

Council was provided with the first draft of a Community Grants Application Policy for review. This policy is to be tabled and referred to the next session of Council.

After this policy is approved, it was felt it was important to get this information out to the public so they will know the process for requesting financial assistance.

BUILDING PERMIT FEES BY-LAW

An implementation date is required for the recently approved Building Permit Fees By-Law.

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspik, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that November 1, 2010, be the implementation date for the Building Permit Fees By-Law. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Economic Development

The Sub-committee appointed to draft goals and actions for the contracted Economic Development Officer (EDO) position will be meeting tomorrow and again later in the week with the EDO to outline what they propose. If everything goes as scheduled the EDO will be invited to meet with Council at the next session.

NEXT MEETINGS

Dates for the October sessions of Council were discussed. Council will be held on October 18, 2010, and Staff Sgt. Archie Thompson will be invited to attend this session. Council will be scheduled again on November 1, 2010.

The September 13, 2010, Council session will have presentations from Gary Walsh, Cabot Trail Writers Festival, and Grant Burgess, CA, Grant Thornton LLP, with the year end financial statement presentation. If possible, the EDO will also be in attendance. At the September 27, 2010, session in Iona, Robert Dauphinee will be in attendance to provide an update on the solid waste operations.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #6

Councillor Dauphinee outlined concerns with regard to the operations of Keltic Lodge this season. A number of changes have been made that are detrimental to the facility and a number of complaints have been made by tourists and businesses owners in the area.

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that a letter be forwarded to Premier Darrell Dexter, with copies to Deputy Premier Frank Corbett; and the Minister and Deputy Minister of Tourism, outlining the Municipality's concern with regard to the operations of the Keltic Lodge. Motion carried.

Councillor Dauphinee will provide letters of complaint to accompany this letter.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis brought up a situation with regard to a power outage North of Smokey on the weekend. The NSPI personnel had to wait for 4 hours for a traffic control company to come from Sydney before they could begin work. The local fire departments have been trained in traffic control and he felt they could assist in providing this service, thereby making the power downtime of shorter duration.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor MacCuspig, that contact be made with Nova Scotia Power to advise that the local fire departments are capable of providing traffic control in situations such as the power outage that occurred in the North of Smokey are a on the weekend. Motion carried.

Councillor MacInnis brought up the matter of the water rates paid by Highland Manor and he was advised that the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board set the water rates that the water utilities must charge.

District #2

Councillor MacCuspig advised that the approach to Exit 10 when travelling westbound has a sign indicating “keep right except to pass”, but he felt it would be more beneficial to have a sign indicating that left turning vehicles should use the centre lane and then after passing Exit 10, the “keep right except to pass” sign can be located.

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspig, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal requesting that the signage on the approach to Exit 10 westbound be changed to indicate “left turning vehicles use centre lane” and after Exit 10 then a sign be erected to indicate “keep right except to pass”. Motion carried.

District #7

Councillor Donovan indicated that a meeting will be held at the North Star Inn on September 8, 2010, of the local area fishermen – LFA 27. There is federal money available and the group will meet to see what they can come up with to obtain some of this funding.

The rainstorm of the past weekend that cut of the Meat Cove area was discussed and Councillor Donovan felt that a letter should be forwarded to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal indicating that the remainder of the area north of Smokey, and the entire County, should not be ignored while repairs are being undertaken.

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal requesting that the necessary repairs to be undertaken in the Meat Cove area not effect the regular maintenance work necessary in other areas of Victoria County. Motion carried.

The Warden and CAO visited the Meat Cove area today and advised of their findings. Salmon River Bridge has been washed out. The Department of Fisheries and

Oceans have given permission to cross the river and crews will be taken in to begin erecting a temporary crossing in this area.

District #5

Deputy Warden Patterson advised of a recent break and enter in his district that took place in the middle of the afternoon and indicated that a local resident obtained a license plate and that resulted in arrest.

District #1

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Deputy Warden Patterson, that a street light be located on pole at Civic Address 476 Route 223, Estmere (MacLeod residence). Motion carried.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that some time ago a request was made to locate a street light at the Little Narrows Pumping Station. This matter will be investigated.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal requesting that an inspection be carried out of all culverts in District #1. Motion carried.

Councillor MacNeil suggested that Council come early on September 27, 2010, and do a tour of the sports field at the Rankin School. Council felt this would be appropriate and it was decided that the tour commence at 4:00 p.m., followed by supper at 4:30 p.m., with Council beginning at 5:00 p.m.

District #3

Deputy Warden Patterson assumed the Chair.

It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that the Municipality join the Cape Breton Partnership at the investor level of \$1,500.00. Motion carried.

Warden Morrison also requested that included in a letter to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal be a request for the investigation of the location of a flashing amber light at the entrance to the Victoria County Memorial Hospital, Baddeck.

Warden Morrison presented a request for a Quit Claim Deed submitted by Dan Chaisson on behalf of Murdock MacKillop, Baddeck Bay.

It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that the Quit Claim Deed request be referred to the Municipal Solicitor for review, comment and recommendation. Motion carried.

Warden Morrison returned to the Chair.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. A letter was received from the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal indicating that fines double in designated school zones and that signage indicating same is available.

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Transportation and Public Works indicating that we expect, as all schools in Victoria County are located on the highway system, that the Department will erect these signs and the Municipality will assist in promoting the message. Motion carried.

CORSON'S BRIDGE

Council was advised that the Corson's Bridge tender will be called on August 26, 2010, with the deadline for submitting tenders being September 13, 2010.

FIRE SERVICE STUDY

Sandy Hudson advised that three (3) companies have been forwarded the Request for Proposals for a Fire Service Study for the County. The deadline for submissions is September 17, 2010.

THANKS

Warden Morrison, on behalf of Council, thanked Councillor MacInnis, for hosting Council in Indian Brook.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Deputy Warden Patterson, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Sandy Hudson, CAO

Bruce Morrison, Warden