

**VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**  
**November 29, 2010**

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, November 29, 2010, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Present were:

District #1 – Paul MacNeil  
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 – John Buchanan, Councillor Elect

Also present were:

Sandy Hudson, CAO  
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

Absent was:

District #2 – Keith MacCuspic

**CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Warden Morrison called the meeting to order and presented the agenda for approval.

**It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

**RESULTS OF DISTRICT #8 BY-ELECTION**

Sandy Hudson, Returning Officer, presented the results of the November 20, 2010, District #8 By-Election. 429 votes were cast and the results were as follows:

John Buchanan	179
Kenneth “Brother” MacKinnon	98
Bernie Vassallo	152

Mr. Hudson informed Council that John Buchanan is the successful candidate and elected as Councillor for District #8.

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that John Buchanan be declared elected as Councillor for District #8. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Deputy Warden Patterson, that Sandy Hudson be authorized to destroy the by-election ballots after 30 days. Motion carried.

**OATH OF ALLEGIANCE AND OF OFFICE**

Warden Morrison then administered the Oath of Allegiance and of Office to Councillor John Buchanan.

***OATH OF ALLEGIANCE AND OF OFFICE***

*I, John Buchanan, do swear (or solemnly affirm) that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, Her heirs and successors according to law.*

*And that I am duly qualified as required by law for the office of Councillor for the Municipality of the County of Victoria.*

*And that I will truly, faithfully and impartially execute the duties of the office to which I have been elected to the best of my knowledge and ability.*

*And that I have not received and will not receive any payment or reward or promise thereof for the exercise of any partiality or other undue execution of the duties of my office.*

*Signed: John Buchanan  
Councillor – District #8*

Councillor Buchanan assumed his seat at the table and was welcomed by his fellow Councillors.

**MARKETING LEVY BY-LAW**

A Public Hearing on the proposed Marketing Levy By-Law was held at 4:00 p.m. prior to Council.

Sandy Hudson advised that no oral or written presentations were received at the public hearing.

**It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, to approve the second and final reading of the Marketing Levy By-Law. Motion carried.**

Sandy Hudson advised that the implementation date for the Marketing Levy By-Law is January 1, 2011.

**JOHN MALCOM, CAPE BRETON DISTRICT HEALTH AUTHORITY**

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to John Malcom, CEO of the Cape Breton District Health Authority.

Mr. Malcom made a presentation on the Rural Health Public Consultation Report 2010 as it pertains to Victoria County (copy attached). Mr. Malcom provided copies of the presentation, as well as copies of the Consultation Report to Council.

The consultations that took place in Victoria County in June, 2010, invited comments on priorities in issues facing the community; health challenges in the community; and health service priorities. The demographics, trends and sustainable pillars used in the consultation process were derived from Victoria County's ICSP.

Mr. Malcom indicated that the next Population Health Day will deal with transportation which has been identified in the consultation report.

Mr. Malcom advised that all ambulances now carry thrombolytic drugs (also known as clot busters) that can be administered by qualified paramedics to patients suffering heart attacks. Doctors give the orders to the paramedic to administer same, based on the results of an EKG which can be transmitted from the ambulance. This is a truly a wonder drug and as of last month it had been administered 27 times in ambulances. He advised that a further announcement will be made next month in this regard.

The recruitment of doctors of Baddeck and Neil's Harbour was discussed. The recruitment and retention of doctors in rural areas is difficult and Mr. Malcom indicated that rural areas have to offer better opportunities to entice doctors to practice in rural settings.

Mr. Malcom indicated that Victoria County is the first municipality which he has made a presentation to with regard to the Rural Health Public Consultation Report. Rural health is not a local issue and he indicated that it is essential that the federal government develop a National Rural Health Strategy.

Mr. Malcom also spoke to the recently released report – The Patient Journey Through Emergency Care in Nova Scotia – A Prescription for New Medicine, prepared by Dr. John Ross, Provincial Advisor on Emergency Care. He indicated that most of the recommendations contained in the report can be accepted without much difficulty. Mr. Malcom indicated that a meeting will be held, hopefully in January, 2011, with Dr. Ross and staff to discuss the impact of the report.

The addition of a community health centre to the Victoria County Memorial Hospital was discussed. Mr. Malcom indicated that as a district, they support the same standard of care for all areas. The impact of the emergency care report and how it will evolve was discussed.

Deputy Warden Patterson indicated that transportation as the topic of the next World Health Day is timely. The demographics provided indicate that the senior category is growing and recently Victoria County has become involved in Age Friendly Communities.

Deputy Warden Patterson indicated that as a First Responder he has seen the work of the EHS staff and found it absolutely amazing.

Councillor Dauphinee brought up the matter of the 811 system and a recent experience he had with same. Discussion also took place on attracting doctors to rural areas and the fact that a doctor in an emergency room in a rural area is only paid according to the patients he sees, where in urban area they are paid differently. Mr. Malcom indicated that there are five different payment schedules used and one rate for all will not work, but felt the process could be simplified and streamlined somewhat.

Councillor Donovan questioned on the possibility of obtaining a Nurse Practitioner in Neil's Harbour and he was advised that the position has been posted. Mr. Malcom indicated that the hope for the future is that all communities will have a sufficient number of family practitioners, nurse practitioners and family practice nurses.

Councillor MacInnis questioned on the status of military personnel coming on stream and Mr. Malcom advised that work is being undertaken to cut through the licensing requirements for these medical personnel.

Mr. Malcom indicated that the rate of participants entering the medical field is up 67% over the last decade and it is only now that we are seeing the graduates being ready for employment.

The thrombolytic heart drug was discussed and Mr. Malcom indicated that it is carried in all ambulances, however only qualified paramedics can administer same. Councillor MacNeil advised of his own personal experience and the fact that the drug

was on board the ambulance, but there were no qualified personnel to administer it to him during his transit to hospital. He suffered quite a bit of heart damage as a result. Mr. Malcom indicated he would follow up on this matter.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that the EHS response time to the Iona area is in the vicinity of 35 to 40 minutes. He questioned whether there could be a change to have ambulances posted closer to the area, etc. Mr. Malcom indicated that EHS does a good job of repositioning ambulances to make their availability timely.

Warden Morrison brought up the Dr. Ross report and some of the recommendations contained in same, especially the extension to the Victoria County Memorial Hospital to house physicians offices. Mr. Malcom indicated that providing a turn key operation to prospective recruits is necessary. To sustain the hospital, it is important to have a community health centre. Mr. Malcom indicated that in future, they will begin lobbying for capital money and would be back to the Municipality when this initiative is undertaken as ¼ of the money must be raised locally.

Mr. Malcom indicated that the Board is clear that it is neither accepting nor rejecting the recommendations of the Dr. Ross report and that they will outline the process for input; they guarantee no loss of employment and will not do anything without engaging staff for input.

The recruitment of health care professionals and the processes involved were discussed.

Warden Morrison, on behalf of Councillor MacCuspik, brought up the matter of the liberation procedure for multiple sclerosis sufferers. Mr. Malcom indicated that the study on this procedure must be completed before the long term benefits are known and he felt the process should continue and be completed before any action is taken on providing this option locally.

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

### **RECESS**

Warden Morrison advised that Council would recess for 10 minutes.

### **BROADBAND, RECREATION AND TOURISM UPDATE**

Courtesy of Council was extended to Tom Wilson, Director of Recreation and Tourism.

Mr. Wilson provided Council with an update on broadband, tourism and recreation activities in Victoria County (copy attached).

Mr. Wilson provided Council with an update on Phase 3 of the broadband project. Plans for completing coverage in the Big Baddeck/Baddeck Forks, Smelt Brook and Washabuck areas were outlined.

A number of sites have been upgraded with new batteries, radios and other equipment and more upgrades are planned in the New Year.

Mr. Wilson advised that two days of site visits have been completed, with another day to be completed before December 15, 2010. Discussions have taken place regarding upgrades to backhaul and API radios to increase upload and download speed. This will be ongoing in 2011.

An update on the Broadband for Rural Nova Scotia initiative as it pertains to Victoria County was provided. Mr. Wilson advised that he is a member of the Provincial Broadband Advisory Committee for Nova Scotia Economic Development and in early December, they will be hosting a Committee meeting in Halifax to discuss plans on how to proceed with development of their Broadband Strategy for the next five years. He indicated that a copy of Victoria County's Broadband Strategy has been provided to the province.

Mr. Wilson updated on the Atlantic CAP Conference at which he was a presenter on November 26, 2010. The conference was a three day conference that included strategic planning, leadership development, new technology and technical support, volunteer engagement and retention, customer service and youth participation.

An update was provided on the Victoria County Broadband Strategy and current project updates.

In terms of tourism, Mr. Wilson advised that he is working with ECBC, Destination Cape Breton Association (DCBA) and Nova Scotia Tourism on an application for website development, online marketing and social media, market readiness and product development for 2, possibly 3 areas in the County. He indicated that he assisted DCBA with BRAND, social media and marketing. Mr. Wilson indicated that he chaired and assisted the Celtic Heart of North America with their website and social media committee. The next tourism newsletter will be available on December 3, 2010.

Occupancy rate statistics were presented for Victoria County for the months May to October, 2010.

Mr. Wilson advised that a Festival and Event Workshop will be held at the Gaelic College, St. Ann's, tomorrow. To date, 23 people have registered. He indicated that he attended an Events Nova Scotia conference on November 24 in Port Hawkesbury. Victoria County has been selected to pilot my event tool planner.

The job description for the Physical Activity Coordinator has been submitted to the CAO for review. It was felt that it was important to get this position filled and up and running. This position is to be advertised as soon as possible.

Discussion took place and Mr. Wilson answered various questions of council.

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

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NOVEMBER 15, 2010**

The minutes of the November 15, 2010, session of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

**It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that the minutes of the November 15, 2010, meeting be approved with a correction on Page 5 to indicate that Keith Bain mentioned he has been working with Deputy Warden Patterson on Alderwood issues, not Highland Manor as stated. Motion carried.**

#### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

##### **Crosswalk – Victoria County Memorial Hospital**

The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal report on the crosswalk matter at the Victoria County Memorial Hospital has been forwarded on the John Malcom, Cape Breton District Health Authority, for perusal.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Deputy Warden Patterson advised that the Age Friendly Communities Committee met last Thursday and looked at the process to be followed for the municipalities that have received the \$5,000.00 grant. An orientation session will be held on December 7, 2010, and he felt as many representatives as possible should attend. He indicated he would attend as a representative of the UNSM, with another member possibly paid for by the Department of Seniors. He requested that the Municipality cover the cost for the Warden and Councillor Dauphinee to attend also.

**It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that Warden Morrison and Councillor Dauphinee be authorized to attend the Age Friendly Communities orientation session on December 7, 2010. Motion carried.**

**Economic Sustainability Officer's Report**

Sandy Hudson advised that he emailed a copy of Nona MacDermid's report to Council today for review and comment.

**DISTRICT CONCERNS**

**District #1**

Councillor MacNeil questioned whether there were any other organizations to go through for assistance at Christmas other than Community Services. The Department of Community Services receives the Christmas Daddies money that is pledged locally and buys gifts and food for those in need of assistance in the County.

Councillor MacNeil questioned on the regulations involved for an individual to start a bottle recycling business in the County. The RRFB issue licenses for recycling depots in the County.

**District #4**

Councillor MacInnis questioned on the sale of surplus equipment. An advertisement has been placed in the Cape Breton Post and Victoria Standard.

Councillor MacInnis indicated he recently had the former North Shore School property mowed which made a big difference in the appearance of the property. He indicated that there is a substantial amount of wood on the property that could be harvested and he would like to have a contractor assess the property. He was authorized to contact Roy Garland Inc. with regard to the harvesting of the wood.

Councillor MacInnis questioned on the status of the fire study. Sandy Hudson advised that Marathon have scheduled the week of December 7, 2010, to conduct site visits of the various fire departments.

**District #7**

Councillor Donovan requested that, in future, Council be informed prior to such advertisements as the sale of surplus equipment being published.

Councillor Donovan questioned whether the staff are recognized at Christmas time. He feels the staff are doing a good job and appreciation should be shown in some way.

**It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that \$25.00 gift certificates be provided to the staff to be obtained from the two Co-op Stores in the County. Motion carried.**

**District #6**

Councillor Dauphinee passed on birthday congratulations to Councillor Donovan who is celebrating his birthday today.

Councillor Dauphinee requested that an order be placed for one streetlight to be located on pole between Civic Addresses 36903 and 36949 Cabot Trail, Ingonish Centre.

Councillor Dauphinee indicated that he has an individual in his district that has a long driveway which is expensive to plow. The individual is a homecare client and does not receive service when the driveway is not plowed. He questioned whether there was any assistance for same. The Department of Transportation will assist only in an emergency.

Councillor Dauphinee gave notice of motion that at a future meeting he would be making a motion requesting that the Municipality pay the insurance costs for Ski Cape Smokey should they open this season.

**District #5**

Deputy Warden Patterson presented a petition to name the roadway leading to Alderwood as Alderwood Lane.

**It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that the request and petition to name the road leading to Alderwood as Alderwood Lane be forwarded to the Department of Transportation and Public Works and the Eastern District Planning Commission for approval. Motion carried.**

**District #7**

**It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that a letter of congratulations be forwarded to the organizing committee for the North of Smokey Parade of Lights (c/o Shelley Coombs) on a job well done. Motion carried.**

**District #3**

Deputy Warden Patterson assumed the Chair.

Warden Morrison indicated that the Baddeck Christmas Parade will be held on Saturday, December 4, 2010, at 1:00 p.m. Council members will take part in the parade on the Municipality's float. They are to meet at Baddeck Academy at 12:30 p.m. dressed in Victorian era costume if possible.

Warden Morrison presented a petition requesting that the entire stretch of the Middle River West Road be repaved.

**It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that the petition be received and forwarded on to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal. Motion carried.**

Warden Morrison then reassumed the Chair.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Letter from Deputy Mayor Darren Bruckschwaiger, CBRM, thanking the Municipality for providing sponsorship in the amount of \$1,500.00 toward the cost of hosting Caper Night in conjunction with the Annual UNSM Conference on October 27, 2010.
2. Letter from the Honourable Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, regarding the condition of the lighthouse property at Money Point, Victoria County. To dispose of the former lighthouse structure with minimal impact on the environment, Fisheries and Oceans Canada officials will be conducting an on-site incineration of the former structure.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council will be held on Monday, December 13, 2010, at 5:00 p.m. followed by a get together at the Inverary Resort. Staff will be invited to attend.

**ADJOURN**

**There being no further business, on motion of Councillor MacInnis, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.**

**Bruce Morrison, Warden**

**Sandy Hudson, CAO**