

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
January 10, 2011

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, January 10, 2011, 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 – Johnny Buchanan

Also present were:

Sandy Hudson, CAO
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Warden Morrison called the meeting to order and extended a Happy New Year to all present. The agenda was presented for approval.

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

Warden Morrison also welcomed Alicia Lake, a Political Science Major at CBU, who was in attendance to observe the workings of Council.

DEBBIE NIELSEN, UNSM SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR

Courtesy of Council was extended to Debbie Nielsen, UNSM Sustainability Coordinator, who was in attendance to make a presentation on the projects being undertaken and the resources available through the UNSM Sustainability Office.

Ms. Nielsen began by stating that sustainability is an opportunity to look at how to do things better and more efficiently which results in saving energy and dollars.

She then made her presentation on the origins the Sustainability Office; projects undertaken and presently being worked on; awareness raising and education initiatives;

building capacities through partnerships and consultation on provincial strategies (copy attached).

Ms. Nielsen indicated that she read Victoria County's Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) document. The key to sustainability in the document is that we don't compromise resources. There was mention in the document about energy efficient retrofits, vulnerable infrastructure along the coastline, renewable energy and climate change adaptation.

Ms. Nielsen indicated that there are a few pockets of funding for small businesses to do retrofits which she will forward information on.

Deputy Warden Patterson brought up the matter of LED street lighting. Ms. Nielsen indicated that LED street lights are 10 times the cost of a regular street light, at a cost of over \$1000.00 per light. The savings is in the long term.

Ms. Nielsen indicated that the Town of Amherst is the first area to commit to LED lighting. The only company to provide the lights, LED Roadway Lighting, will do a business case and costs for interested parties. It was indicated that LED lighting provides a different type of light. It is better quality and has better coverage than standard lighting. Ms. Nielsen indicated she would provide information on the contact for this Company.

Councillor Donovan indicated that he and Deputy Warden Patterson attended an Energy Asset Mapping Workshop where tidal power was discussed. Victoria County has an ideal location for tidal energy and Councillor Donovan questioned on where to go for further information in this regard. Ms. Nielsen will find the appropriate information and provide this information to Sandy Hudson.

Councillor Buchanan questioned on whether there was much feedback from the Active Transportation Project. Ms. Nielsen indicated this was a low budget program, but the feedback received has been good.

Deputy Warden Patterson advised of the Nova Scotia TRIP Program that has an early January application date. He forwarded the information on to Council for review.

Councillor MacInnis questioned whether such a presentation was ever provided to schools, as it is the young people that have to be made aware of these issues. Ms. Nielsen indicated that this is a good point and she would be interested in presenting to schools if her Committee felt it would be beneficial.

It was indicated that the information provided is an important resource for municipalities.

Warden Morrison indicated that Council would be interested in further information and possibly a presentation for LED Roadway Lighting on their lighting. He also questioned whether there would be another call for proposals with regard to wind energy development. Ross MacLaren from the Department of Energy is the contact in this regard and Ms. Nielsen will provide his contact information to Sandy Hudson.

Ms. Nielsen was extended a vote of thanks for her presentation and was excused at this time.

RECESS

Warden Morrison advised that Council would recess for five (5) minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 13, 2010

The minutes of the December 13, 2010, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that the December 13, 2010, minutes of Victoria County Municipal Council be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Councillor MacInnis questioned whether the funding request was received from the North Shore Gaelic Cultural Centre and he was advised it was received and will be forwarded to budget.

The Community Grants Application Policy is to be forwarded to this group, along with other community organizations, and posted on the website. The Victoria Standard will also be asked to do an article on this policy in an upcoming issue.

VICTORIA COUNTY SIGNAGE

Sandy Hudson advised that he had forwarded information on signage to Council members in the fall. The Department of Transportation will construct and erect two signs at a cost of \$25,000.00. The signs would be located at the boundary lines on Trans Canada Highway at the Victoria/Inverness County line and the Victoria/CBRM county line.

Discussion took place and Council indicated they liked the proposed sign with the Victoria County logo.

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that the Municipality purchase two “Welcome to Victoria County” signs from the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal at a cost of \$25,000.00. Motion carried.

SEYMORE POINT (GOOSE COVE) PROPERTY MATTER

Correspondence was received from Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) with regard to surplus property located at Seymore Point (Goose Cove), Victoria County. PWGSC is now in a position to convey its interest in this property to the Municipality provided the Municipality is interested in acquiring this property for a public purpose, at no cost.

It is the policy of the Municipality to obtain waterfront property such as this for public access.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor MacCuspig, that Public Works and Government Services Canada be advised that the Municipality of the County of Victoria is interested in obtaining the Seymore Point (Goose Cove) property for public use. Motion carried.

POLICY REVIEW

Sandy Hudson advised that he and Warden Morrison met with Tom Wilson on the Community Grants Application Policy and it was felt that Section 13 of the policy should be amended to read, “Funding from other municipal programs must be identified. Financial assistance from other municipal sources may make application ineligible for community grant”.

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that Section 13 of the Community Grants Application Policy be amended as outlined. Motion carried.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #1

Councillor MacNeil advised that Donna MacDonald from VCCAPS is interested in doing a presentation to Council on the Webinar meeting software. The next two Council meetings have two presentations each, so it will be later in February before Ms. MacDonald can make her presentation.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that the Department of Transportation was slow to plow the roads in his district during the recent snowfall.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that a letter be forwarded to Stephen MacDonald, Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, expressing concern on the snow removal in District #1. Motion carried.

District #2

Councillor MacCuspic brought up the matter of a recent 911 emergency issue where an ambulance that was to go to 1220 Big Baddeck Road, went to 1220 on the West Side Big Baddeck Road.

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspic, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that Sandy Hudson investigate this matter with the Department of Transportation and the Civic Address Office at the Eastern District Planning Commission tomorrow. Motion carried.

District #4

It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that a letter of congratulations be forwarded to Ronald Caplan on recently being appointed to the Order of Canada. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that a street light be installed at Civic Address 30 Rear North Gut Road, North Gut. Motion carried.

District #8

The date of the information session on potential water projects in District #8 will be held on Thursday, January 20, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. Councillor Buchanan will provide the location for the meeting tomorrow.

Councillor Buchanan will be provided with posters indicating this meeting for posting in public places in his district.

District #7

Councillor Donovan indicated that the Provincial Senior Boys Basketball Championships will be held at Cabot High in March and they are requesting 100 pins for inclusion in the welcome kits provided to participants.

Councillor Donovan indicated that he has been contacted with regard to the hours of operation of the Neil's Harbour Enviro-Depot and Dingwall Transfer Station. These sites are closed on Monday and he questioned whether this could be changed.

This matter will be brought to Robert Dauphinee, Director of Public Works, for investigation.

The recent storms in Victoria County have left a number of washouts throughout the northern area of the County. When these washouts may be repaired was discussed.

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that a letter be forwarded to the Honourable Bill Estabrooks, Minister of Transportation, with a copy to Stephen MacDonald, Area Manager, expressing concern on the washouts throughout Victoria County and questioning on when repairs may be undertaken. Motion carried.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that there is a washout on the John Neil George Road close to the Little Narrows waterline.

Councillor Donovan advised that approval has been received from ECBC for the comfort station project in Neil's Harbour. This is a \$120,000.00 project, with a contribution previously approved by the Municipality. This project will proceed and be completed by March 31, 2011.

District #6

The proposed cuts to education, health and municipalities were discussed.

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Deputy Warden Patterson, that letters be forwarded to the following indicating that the Municipality of the County of Victoria is opposed to any cuts in education, health authorities and municipalities

- **Premier Darrell Dexter**
- **Honourable Maureen MacDonald, Minister of Health**
- **Honourable Ramona Jennex, Minister of SNSMR**
- **Honourable Marilyn More, Minister of Education**
- **Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board**
- **Billy Joe MacLean, President of the UNSM**
- **Keith Bain, MLA, Victoria-The Lakes**

Motion carried.

Councillor Dauphinee indicated that there have been a number of private wharves in his district that have been damaged as a result of the weather that has occurred in the

past couple of months. He indicated that he was advised that there was no funding available to repair private wharves, but these wharves are essential to area fishermen.

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that a letter be forwarded to Brenda Alexander, Small Craft Harbours, and the Minister of Fisheries questioning on what funding might be available to assist the repair of private wharves and if none is available, consideration be given to providing funding to private wharves that are utilized by Victoria County fishermen. Motion carried.

Two wharves so affected are owned by Chester Whitty and James Whitty.

Councillor Dauphinee brought up the matter of funding for Ski Cape Smokey should they be able to commence operations this season.

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that upon written application for funding from Ski Cape Smokey, the Municipality provide funding for operations to a maximum of \$7,000.00. Motion carried.

District #5

Deputy Warden Patterson indicated that he had received information on a website makeover program and he forwarded it on to Council members for review.

Deputy Warden Patterson questioned on the fire department funding for communications equipment. The fire departments have purchased equipment and are to be reimbursed up to \$3,000 per department from the Municipality. To date the paperwork has not been provided to the Municipality.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that a letter be forwarded to Greg Organ, Chair of the Chief Fire Officers Association, requesting that the invoices for communications equipment submitted by fire departments be forwarded to the Municipality so this matter can be resolved by March 31, 2011, with a copy of this letter forwarded to all fire chiefs. Motion carried.

District #3

Deputy Warden Patterson assumed the Chair.

It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacCuspik, that a letter of congratulations be forwarded to Jessie Wong on winning a gold medal

with the National Women's Under-22 Hockey Team at the international tournament in Switzerland. Motion carried.

It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that a contact be made with Ross MacLaren, Department of Energy, questioning on whether there are any wind energy opportunities available for Victoria County to access. Motion carried.

It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that contact be made with LED Roadway Lighting to make a presentation to Council on a business case and costing for LED lighting. Motion carried.

Warden Morrison advised that the proposed rent increase for the Baddeck Public Library be referred to our Cape Breton Regional Library Board representative, Larry Dauphinee, for discussion and investigation.

Warden Morrison reassumed the Chair.

CORRESPONDENCE

Approval for naming the road leading to the new Alderwood as "Alderwood Lane" was received from the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal and the Eastern District Planning Commission.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacCuspik, to approve the road name "Alderwood Lane". Motion carried.

NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting will be held on January 24, 2011, at which time Marathon Human Resources will be making a presentation on the draft fire study and Nona MacDonald will be in attendance also.

Meetings scheduled for February, 2011 are as follows:

February 14, 2011 – presentations by RCMP and ECBC

February 28, 2011 – presentation by VCCAPS

Keith Bain, MLA, has invited Council to a meet the PC Caucus on January 28, 2011, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Court House, Baddeck.

The rescheduled meeting with the Honourable Percy Paris, Minister of Tourism, will be held on January 18, 2011. Warden Morrison, Councillors Donovan, Dauphinee and Buchanan and CAO Hudson will attend.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO