

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
April 16, 2012

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at Highland Studio, Gaelic College, St. Ann's, on Monday, April 16, 2012, 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 presented the agenda for approval.

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

INTELIVOTE SYSTEMS INC. PRESENTATION

Courtesy of Council was extended to Dean Smith and Janet Hood, Intelivote Systems Inc., who were in attendance to make a presentation on electronic voting options for the 2012 Municipal and School Board elections (copy attached).

Intelivote, a Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, based company, is a world leader in providing alternative voting solutions in Canada and internationally. They are subject matter experts in electronic voting in a full range of areas including voting security, legislation, procedures and event management.

Mr. Smith provided a listing of work they have done and the current status of negotiations with Nova Scotia municipalities with regard to the upcoming October elections.

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The cost of Intelivote's services is \$1.75 per elector and \$1.00 for the voter information mail out – for a cost of \$2.75 per eligible elector. In comparison, Mr. Smith indicated that municipal elections typically cost \$4.00 to \$6.00 per eligible voter.

Electronic voting provides:

- Voter choice and flexibility
- Immediate, auditable results
- Voter intent clear – no spoiled ballot issues, positive ballot confirmation
- Positive impact on voter participation
- Environmentally positive, carbon emissions
- Addresses provincial accessibility requirements
- Cost effective

Mr. Smith reviewed the e-voting process with Council. A question was raised as to how it can be ensured that the proper elector votes. Mr. Smith addressed this matter and advised that there are five Canadian laws broken if you vote for anyone else.

After further discussion, Warden Morrison extended a vote of thanks for the excellent presentation and advised that Council would consider the electronic voting options and will be in contact with Intelivote at a later date in this regard.

RECESS

Warden Morrison advised that Council would recess for ten (10) minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MARCH 26, 2012

The minutes of the March 26, 2012, session of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

Councillor MacInnis indicated he was not listed as being in attendance at the meeting. He also indicated that the motion contained in Page 7 of the minutes concerning the letter to be sent to the Honourable Bill Estabrooks, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, should indicate the two sections of the Cabot Trail to be done in 2012 be North River and from Barrachois Bridge to North Shore.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of March 26, 2012, be approved with the noted corrections. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

P3 Workshop

Deputy Warden Patterson reported on the P3 Workshop he attended in Halifax last week. Projects of anything less than \$20 million dollars are not considered for funding.

Island Vacuum

Nothing has been heard from Island Vacuum or the Department of Environment with regard to the closure plans for the septic site at Cape North. Sandy Hudson will send a letter to both requesting the status of same.

Nova Scotia Power

Councillor Dauphinee indicated that there has been some improvement with the linemen issue in northern Victoria, but there still is a concern with regard to the disconnection of power to buildings during emergencies.

Electronic Voting

Warden Morrison suggested that Council consider Intelivote's presentation and a decision on electronic voting will be made at the April 30, 2012, Council meeting. Sandy Hudson is to provide ballpark costs for a traditional election for Council's information.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #7

Councillor Donovan indicated that it was Council's intention to erect two more Victoria County signs at the County lines at Middle River and Cape North this year. These signs were to be smaller than the ones erected on the TCH 105. It was agreed to move forward with the purchase and erection of the two signs.

Councillor Donovan questioned on the status of the green gyms. Sandy Hudson advised they are in production with an estimated completion of 5 weeks, for a mid-May delivery. Additional information will be requested from the successful community organizations prior to the location of the gyms.

Councillor Donovan questioned on the allotment of street lights for this year and was advised this will be dealt with during budget deliberations.

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that Victoria County Municipal Council be held in Neil's Harbour in June. Motion carried.

It was decided that the June 25, 2012, meeting be held in Neil's Harbour.

District #6

Councillor Dauphinee brought up the matter of the Keltic Lodge renovations and the materials being taken to Cape North, when they were to go to Baddeck. He indicated that contractors bidding on such jobs should be aware of the guidelines that these materials are to be taken to Baddeck. Robert Dauphinee is aware of the situation and is dealing with it appropriately,

Councillor Dauphinee questioned on when the heavy garbage collection would be completed and was advised that the week of May 7, 2012, is the tentative date and a confirmed schedule should be available shortly and will be forwarded to Councillors for their information and advertised appropriately.

Councillor Dauphinee advised that a new computer business has been established in the Ingonish Beach area and Joe A. Doucette, the owner, wishes to be considered for future purchases and service.

District #5

Jessica Farrell, Strait Area Transit, is to be invited to attend the May 14, 2012, session of Victoria County Municipal Council.

Deputy Warden Patterson advised that the Nova Scotia TRIP (Transit Research Incentive Program) application deadline is May 14, 2012, and he, Councillor Dauphinee and Warden Morrison will develop an application for submission prior to that date.

Deputy Warden Patterson attended the Provincial Volunteer Awards Ceremony in Halifax on April 2, 2012. There were 71 award recipients and a large crowd in attendance. Michelle Symes, Victoria County's volunteer and her family were in attendance.

The UNSM Spring Workshop will be held at the Holiday Inn, Truro, on May 9-11, 2012.

Deputy Warden Patterson indicated that the UNSM Regional Meeting held in Port Hawkesbury last week was a very interesting and informative session, with

approximately 30 people in attendance. Councillor Donovan also indicated that he obtained more information at this session than any other UNSM meeting he has attended.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that a letter be forwarded to President Jimmy MacAlpine, UNSM, on behalf of Victoria County Municipal Council commending the UNSM on the session and suggesting they continue with the regional meeting format in the future. Motion carried.

District #1

Councillor MacNeil indicated that it is rumored that the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal will be removing the plow from Little Narrows next winter season. He felt that Minister Estabrooks or a senior official within the Department should be contacted to express our concern in this regard.

Councillor MacNeil also mentioned that the shoulders of the road are disappearing in his District and the dirt roads are in deplorable condition.

Steve MacDonald, Area Manager, DOT&IR, is to be requested to come to Council in May to discuss local concerns.

Councillor MacNeil advised that he is receiving a number of complaints with regard to the cost of water in Little Narrows and area. He was advised that the NSUARB set the rates and there is nothing the Municipality can do in this regard. Water meters can be checked to ensure they are operating properly.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that there will be a session held on Thursday, April 19, 2012, on the wind turbine technology for the Barra Strait. The meeting will be held at the Highland Height Inn, Iona, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and Council members who are able to attend are requested to do so.

There will also be an EMO session held on Thursday morning in Sydney if anyone is available to attend.

The announcement of the COMFIT approvals was released today and Council was advised that Scotia Windfields received approval for a wind turbine at Bucklaw and Fundy Tidal for tidal at Barra Strait.

District #2

Councillor MacCuspic questioned whether a reply was received from DOT&IR regarding the condition of the Big Baddeck Road. Sandy Hudson will investigate this matter.

Councillor MacCuspic questioned whether customers taps and toilets could be checked if requested to ensure they are not adding to their water usage and cost.

Councillor MacCuspic questioned on when budget talks would commence and Sandy Hudson advised that he will provide budget information at the next Council session and hopefully a budget will be approved by the end of May, 2012.

District #8

Councillor Buchanan indicated that a sign is required for MacNeil Road. He indicated that this is a listed roadway. Sandy Hudson will check with DOT&IR on this road.

Councillor Buchanan questioned when the second round of green gyms would be advertised for Expression of Interest.

It was moved by Councillor Buchanan, seconded by Deputy Warden Patterson, that Expression of Interest be advertised for community organizations in Districts 2, 3, 5 and 8 interested in obtaining I-Fit green gyms. Motion carried.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis indicated that a public meeting was held on Wednesday past with regard to the provincial park closure. There was a good public turnout and the Department of Natural Resources agreed to look at it again, and possibly a new location within the District. Councillor MacInnis questioned on whether the County would consider providing property for same.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that a letter be forwarded to Harold Carroll, Department of Natural Resources, lending the County's support for the remediation of the current site or location of a new Provincial Park and advising that the Municipality is willing to work with the department in this regard. Motion carried.

Councillor MacInnis advised that there is a benefit supper scheduled for Robert Dauphinee and Tina Shea at the North Shore & District Volunteer Fire Department Hall, Indian Brook, on May 5, 2012.

Councillor MacInnis advised that the street light requested for 52 Murray Road has not been installed as yet. This will be investigated with NS Power.

District #3

Deputy Warden Patterson assumed the Chair.

It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that a letter be forwarded to Premier Darrell Dexter supporting the initiative of decentralization of government offices. Motion carried.

Warden Morrison advised that he was approached by a member of the Crowdis Mountain Snowmobile Club concerning the trail leading to Bald Mountain.

It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacCuspig, that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Natural Resources requesting that the trail leading to Bald Mountain be exempt from the protected lands designation. Motion carried.

Warden Morrison returned to the Chair.

NEW BUSINESS

Auctioneers, Hawkers, Peddlers and Traders of Goods By-Law

Sandy Hudson advised that a license has been issued under our Auctioneers, Hawkers, Peddlers and Traders of Goods By-Law for Titan Alarms. The license is \$75 annually and this has been the first license issued in approximately 25 plus years.

Wagmatcook Aboriginal Art Festival

A request was received from Wagmatcook for support for their Aboriginal Art Festival.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Deputy Warden Patterson, that a letter of support be forwarded to Wagmatcook for their upcoming Aboriginal Art Festival. Motion carried.

Municipal Tax Exemption

Sandy Hudson presented a revised form for the \$100.00 municipal tax exemption. Those applying for the exemption will be required to provide proof of income.

Discussion took place on the income level for qualifying for the exemption and Council felt consideration should be given to increasing the income from the current \$20,000.00 to \$24,000.00. This matter will be investigated.

ADJOURN

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

Sandy Hudson, CAO

Bruce Morrison, Warden