

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
April 29, 2013

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, April 29, 2013, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Warden Bruce Morrison in the Chair.

Present were:

District #1 – Paul MacNeil
District #2 – Athol Grant
District #3 – Bruce Morrison, Warden
District #4 – Merrill MacInnis
District #5 – Fraser Patterson, Deputy Warden
District #6 – Larry Dauphinee
District #7 – Wayne Budge

Also present were:

Sandy Hudson, CAO
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

Absent was:

District #8 – Johnny Buchanan (Work Related Absence)

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Warden Morrison called the meeting to order and presented the agenda for approval. He indicated there would be a brief In Camera meeting added at the end of the meeting.

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

NON-MOTORIZED MOOSE HUNT

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Hector Hines and Floyd MacKinnon who were in attendance to make a presentation regarding the non-motorized moose hunt (copy attached) on behalf of the Pollett's Cove-Aspy Fault Moose Hunting Association.

Council provided introductions to Mr. Hines and Mr. MacKinnon.

Mr. Hines indicated that for the past 24 years, the Association has been providing moose hunting guide services to the Pollett's Cove Wilderness Area. Approximately 3 years ago, the provincial government decided to make this area a non-motorized moose hunting area. As a

result, the Association decided to take this as an opportunity to create much needed employment by offering an eco-friendly hunt with the use of horses.

They met with representatives from the Departments of Environment and Natural Resources and other stakeholders at that time with a view to coming up with a viable solution in regards to the non-motorized hunt. In the past 3 years, there has been very little movement on the government's part to help make this viable.

Since October, 2012, the Association have been attempting to arrange a meeting with the Departments of Environment and Natural Resources to discuss a special lottery for the Pollett's Cove Area. This lottery would apply to the non-motorized hunt only. Tickets could be purchased for a fee and successful applicants would be issued a permit and receive a week-long guided moose hunting trip.

The lottery would raise enough money to cover costs associated with the guide's expenses and funds over and above could be used to promote economic development in the area. The lottery would be monitored and would provide much needed employment to the area (guides, cooks, camp maintenance and other related duties).

Mr. Hines requested that Council give consideration to supporting their request to initiate a special lottery by writing letters of support to the Ministers of Environment, Natural Resources and Economic Development.

Mr. Hines indicated that annually 150 Nova Scotia residents travel to Newfoundland to participate in a moose hunt at a cost of \$3,500 to \$5,000. This same service and resources can be provided right here in Victoria/Inverness County.

Councillor MacInnis indicated there area an over-abundance of moose in his area. They are a danger to the public and he was in favour of controlling the moose population.

Council offered congratulations to Mr. Hines for their efforts to date. Warden Morrison indicated that he and Councillor Grant recently met with the Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and brought this issue forward at that time and referenced the difficulties being experienced at the present time.

It was moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that letters of support be forwarded to the Ministers of Natural Resources, Environment, and Economic Development to assist the Pollett's Cove-Aspy Fault Moose Hunting Association's efforts to establish a lottery and promote a non-motorized moose hunt in Zone 5 (Pollett's Cove Wilderness Area). Motion carried.

BRAS D'OR LAKE BIOSPHERE RESERVE ASSOCIATION

Courtesy of Council was extended to Jim Foulds, Chair, Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve Association.

Council provided introductions for Mr. Foulds' information.

Mr. Foulds advised that UNESCO declared the Bras d'Or Lake Canada's 16th Biosphere Reserve in June, 2011. Biosphere reserve status brings world-wide recognition to places with distinct ecosystems which showcase how people can work with their environment.

The Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve Association is a voluntary organization, incorporated under the Societies Act of Nova Scotia. Mr. Foulds indicated that one of the roles of the Board is to increase awareness and this is part of the reason for his attendance this evening.

He presented Council with copies of the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve brochure and a CEPI brochure on best practices and things you can do to protect the Bras d'Or Lakes.

The Biosphere Reserve promotes a healthy environment, economy, society and culture through three functions:

- Conservation
- Sustainable economic development
- Capacity building

Mr. Foulds indicated that some tourist operators have come onboard by using the Biosphere's logo in their advertising. This is promoting economic development and should attract more people to the area.

Mr. Foulds also advised that Woods Hole Oceanographic Association has come to the Bras d'Or Lakes to study ice dynamics on a couple of occasions. This association had previously studied in the Arctic and the work being done on the Bras d'Or is saving them money and putting money into our economy.

The representation on the 20 member Board of Directors was outlined. Deputy Warden Patterson is Victoria County's representative on the Board.

In terms of education, Mr. Foulds advised that attempts are being made to introduce the Bras d'Or Lakes into the Grade 4 science curriculum.

Usage of the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere logo was discussed and could be included on the County website with a link to the Biosphere Reserve's website. Mr. Foulds outlined the plans for signage.

Mr. Foulds outlined there is a Google Earth mapping software atlas on their website that outlines all community groups around the Bras d'Or Lakes.

The Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve Association have no dedicated staff, but have a core of dedicated volunteers who promote the Association and what it has to offer and how they can collaborate with other associations and the opportunities that exist to work together.

Mr. Foulds thanked Victoria County Council who he indicated have been most supportive, both with encouragement and financial assistance, during the designation process. He indicated that he would like to present on loan to the County the original framed parchment from UNESCO signed in Paris, France, designating the Bras d'Or Lakes Biosphere Reserve. This document will be on loan for a period of a month or more and a digital image of the original parchment is available, should Council wish to have a permanent copy.

Deputy Warden Patterson indicated that he saw first-hand in the past year how awareness has increased. Mr. Foulds conducted beach walks with groups at the Ross Ferry Marine Park increasing the awareness/education aspect of the designation.

Councillor Dauphinee indicated that he is pleased to see the positive impact the designation has made and that businesses are coming on Board.

Councillor Budge advised that the CEPI brochure outlining thing you can do to protect the Bras d'Or Lakes is all common sense and he is in agreement with everything mentioned in the brochure.

Councillor MacInnis questioned the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve Association had any contact from the Race the Cape group. Mr. Foulds advised that there has been no dialogue between the groups, but he sees this as another value added happening for the Bras d'Or Lakes. He indicated that the Cruising Club of America who visited the lakes last year were very supportive and encouraging of the biosphere designation.

Councillor Grant indicated that he used some of the pictures from the Biosphere's website for the Baddeck STEP program. Mr. Foulds indicated that Lynn Baechler, Board Member, would be attending the public information meeting – Baddeck STEPS Forward – on May 1, 2013.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that when the designation of the biosphere reserve was being considered, there was concern expressed on the regulations that might be instituted and the possibility that the Bras d'Or would be one big protected area. He advised that he is pleased with the results of the designation and continues to be interested in what the designation brings in the future.

Warden Morrison indicated that Victoria County would be pleased to put the Biosphere Reserve's logo and a link to their website on Victoria County's website. He also expressed an interest in obtaining a digital copy of UNESCO's designation of the Bras d'Or for permanent placement in the County.

Warden Morrison thanked Mr. Foulds for his presentation and then accepted the original parchment of the UNESCO designation from Mr. Foulds on temporary loan to the Municipality.

ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE PRESENTATION

Courtesy of Council was extended to Veronika Brzeski, Climate Change Adaptation Coordinator, Ecology Action Centre, who was in attendance to make a presentation on Adapting to Climate Change.

Ms. Brzeski indicated that she is employed with the Halifax-based Ecology Action Centre (EAC) and updated Council on her recent work in Cheticamp coordinating an EAC project on climate change activity in the fishery and tourism sectors. She indicated that she was in attendance to talk about and share her experience in this regard.

Ms. Brzeski then began her power point presentation on Adapting to Climate Change (copy attached). She indicated that coastal and water issues included coastal erosion, coastal protection and storm water run-off. Under the coastal and water project topics investigated included marine, energy, food, transportation, built environment and wilderness.

Ms. Brzeski showed a slide of the storm that hit New Jersey in October, 2012. This storm was the epitome of climate change as there was no protection from the storm. The 4 metre storm surge was a 1 in 500 storm event that wasn't predicted to hit until 2100. She also presented slides of the Margaree and Meat Cove storm events of 2010.

Ms. Brzeski indicated that as the climate changes, so must we change with it. All municipalities in Nova Scotia are to complete a Municipal Climate Change Action Plan (MCCAP) by December 31, 2013. This report is to include mitigation and adaptation. Mitigation is to reduce the sources or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases and adaptation is to reduce the vulnerability of natural and human systems against expected climate change effects.

Electricity and transport are the largest producers of greenhouses gases in Nova Scotia at 46% and 28% respectively.

Ms. Brzeski outlined what can be expected in Nova Scotia in the future – storm surges, erosion, ocean changes effecting seafood, more pests effecting forests and oceans and salt water intrusion into the water table.

The Climate Change Adaptation Project conducted in Cheticamp was explained to Council including the project outputs.

Ms. Brzeski advised of the Living Shorelines: An Applied Workshop on Coastal Erosion that took place on March 18, 2013, in Truro. This workshop outlined a method to manage coastal erosion using local vegetation and materials to stabilize and preserve natural coastal processes. She presented Council with a listing of salt-tolerant plants that are native to the Maritime Provinces that can be used to manage coastal erosion.

When looking at coastal infrastructure, there are three considerations – protect, accommodate and retreat.

In closing, Ms. Brzeski indicated that adaptation is a community process. Policy and regulations are not keeping up with the risks. Information is available and dissemination is necessary. Mitigation often leads to adaptation.

Ms. Brzeski left her contact information with Council and indicated that if she can be of any assistance in the course of developing the MCCAP, she would be happy to do so.

Councillor MacNeil thanked Ms. Brzeski for her presentation and indicated that it is not only coastal areas and roads that are being affected. All roads throughout Victoria County are being compromised by water runoff. The infrastructure to prevent the runoff is not adequate to do the job. Larger culverts are necessary to accommodate the water runoff.

Councillor MacInnis indicated that the storm that affected New Jersey in October, 2012, was only a 30 minutes time frame from affecting Victoria County. He advised that it is one thing to see the differences on land, but it is another to see the changes from the water. He felt it would be beneficial to organize a tour to show what is happening to the coastline. Changes are visible every year.

Councillor Dauphinee indicated that major changes have been seen along the coastlines in recent years. The coastline is taking a beating and preparations should be made to have actions in place to address this problem.

Deputy Warden Patterson questioned whether there were regulations or policies in place that limit building close to the coastline. Ms. Brzeski indicated there were regulations in place regarding building on flood plains, but she was unaware of any with regard to coastlines.

Warden Morrison extended a vote of thanks to Ms. Brzeski for her presentation and bringing the message regarding adapting to climate change to Council.

RECESS

Warden Morrison announced that Council would recess for 10 minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – APRIL 15, 2013

The minutes of the April 15, 2013, session of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of April 15, 2013, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

North Victoria Library Branch

Councillor MacNeil questioned on the issue with regard to the North Victoria Library Branch.

He was advised that the lack of public washrooms and space at the current library location is becoming an issue.

Councillor MacNeil, Victoria County representative, will bring this matter up at the next meeting of the Cape Breton Regional Library Board.

Clear Bag Waste Collection

Robert Dauphinee, Director of Public Works, will be in attendance at the May 13, 2013, session of Victoria County Municipal Council to update on the game plan with regard to clear bag waste collection.

Heavy Garbage Collection

Tenders are presently being called for residential heavy garbage collection. Submissions are due on May 2, 2013. It is anticipated that collection will commence the 1st week of June.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #5

Deputy Warden Patterson advised that he is receiving increasing complaints about litter. He will request the DOTIR for the placement of “No Littering” signs.

District #6

Councillor Dauphinee presented photographs of the shoulders of the highway on the Cabot Trail between Smokey and Ingonish. The shoulders are in deplorable condition and with

the Cabot Trail Relay coming and the Cabot Trail being a world icon for tourism, he felt this situation must be addressed. The roadsides in the present condition are a danger.

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that a letter and the photographs be forwarded to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal requesting that the shoulders of the road on the Cabot Trail be upgraded immediately. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that a certificate of recognition be presented to Marjorie Donovan on the occasion of her 100th birthday on May 14, 2013. Motion carried.

Councillor Dauphinee indicated that a number of months ago the Community Services Caseworker North of Smokey retired. The full-time position was cutback to 3 days per week at that time and it is now being proposed that the position be further cutback to 1 day per week.

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor Budge, that a letter be forwarded to the Minister of Community Services requesting that the Community Services Caseworker position in the North of Smokey area be reinstated as a full-time position. Motion carried.

District #7

Councillor Budge advised that the meeting Steve MacDonald, DOTIR, promised that he and Nelson Dixon would have with the three Councillors North of Smokey has not taken place. He requested that Mr. MacDonald be given a reminder of this meeting.

Councillor Budge questioned on status of the washrooms for the Neil's Harbour Enviro-Depot. The plans are presently being drawn up by Bruce Latimer, Strait Engineering.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis brought up the matter of the paving of the Cabot Trail between Little River and Indian Brook. This paving was removed from the DOTIR's 2012-2013 budget and is now said to be completed in 2013-2014.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that a letter be forwarded to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal requesting that confirmation be provided that the 6 kilometer's of paving on the Cabot Trail between Little River and Indian Brook be completed in early 2014. Motion carried.

District #2

Councillor Grant advised that he would like to have a presentation on Day Cares included on the May 27, 2013, Council agenda. This meeting is to be held at the Cape Smokey Ski Lodge at 5:00 p.m.

Councillor Grant will provide the contact information and the appropriate arrangements will be made.

Councillor Grant advised that at present 27% of the land in Victoria County is protected and it is proposed that an additional 13% be included in the Parks and Protected Areas. He did not feel it is necessary to protect this much land.

Councillor Grant advised that he is giving notice of motion that at the next meeting he will be presenting a motion opposing the expansion of the Parks and Protected Areas in Victoria County by an additional 13%, as he does not see the benefit or feel it is necessary.

Councillor Grant also indicated that submissions regarding the Parks and Protected Areas are to be submitted to the Province by May 1, 2013. He has identified a number of blocks that he would like excluded. He also indicated that he would like to see 1000 acres excluded for possible wind turbine development in the area behind the Wreck Cove Power Plant.

It was moved by Councillor Grant, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that a letter be sent to the Parks and Protected Areas Plan Group requesting that the identified blocks be exempt from the proposed Parks and Protected Areas plan and another letter be forwarded to the Minister of Natural Resources requesting that the province enter negotiations with the Municipality to assign 1000 acres of land in the area behind the Wreck Cove Power Plant to the Municipality for possible future wind turbine development. Motion carried.

District #1

Councillor MacNeil advised that he has been receiving complaints from residents of the John Neil George Road, concerning the condition of the road. At a meeting held approximately 1 ½ years ago, residents were told that gravel would be placed on the road annually to keep the road in adequate condition. This did not happen and on speaking with Darren Blunden, DOTIR, he indicated he did not have the money to do this work.

Councillor MacNeil felt that a meeting should be requested with the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that a request be made that the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal be requested to come to Victoria County to meet with Council on the condition of the roadways in Victoria County and if unable to come to the County, a delegation of Council request a meeting with him in Halifax. Motion carried.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that some time ago he requested signage be located at area beaches indicating that dogs are to be under the care and control of their owners.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that signs indicating that dogs are to be under the care and control of their owners signs be obtained and erected on area beaches. Motion carried.

District #3

Deputy Warden Patterson assumed the Chair.

Warden Morrison advised that he and Councillor Grant met with senior staff of Department of Natural Resources regarding three issues – job loss at DNR in Baddeck, concerns with regard to Parks and Protected Areas and community forests. Councillor Grant also updated on the meeting which both felt was very discouraging.

Warden Morrison advised that the Affordable Housing Committee met earlier today with Steve Hines and Cecil Smith, Housing Services, Department of Community Services. There are a number of interesting initiatives coming and he felt it would be beneficial to have them come to Council to do a presentation in August/September, 2013.

The three welcome signs to be placed at the County lines at Big Interval, Middle River and Iona are to be ordered and erected.

Warden Morrison indicated that he met with Tom Wilson and Vince Forrestall concerning Victoria County being a cycle friendly County. The thought is to expand this initiative by erecting signage indicating “cycle friendly”. Inverness County is to be contacted to work in cooperation with Victoria County on this initiative.

It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that a letter be forwarded to the Village of Baddeck requesting they inspect the catch basins in the Village and upgrade where necessary. Motion carried.

Warden Morrison returned to the Chair.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Sandy Hudson advised that our representative on the Cape Breton Regional Housing Authority Board, Dolena Matheson, passed away. A replacement is required.

It was moved by Councillor Grant, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that a letter be forwarded to the Minister of Community Services requesting they appoint another member as Victoria County’s representative on the Cape Breton Island Housing Authority Board. Motion carried.

Sandy Hudson advised that two lay members are to be appointed to the Planning Advisory Committee.

It was moved by Councillor Grant, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that an advertisement be placed in the *Victoria Standard* for two citizen members to serve on the Planning Advisory Committee. Motion carried.

Councillor MacNeil updated on recent CEPI and Pitu'paq Meetings he attended.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received from Lloyd MacLeod, Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC), regarding the rationale for the increases in assessment in the Water Street, Baddeck, area.

This letter is to be acknowledged and forwarded to Council members by email for their information.

POLICY

Sandy Hudson presented a draft Harassment Policy for Council's review and consideration.

VACATION

Warden Morrison advised he will be going on vacation from May 3-20, 2013.

NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council will be held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, May 13, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.

A Budget Committee meeting will be held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Tuesday, May 14, 2013, at 5:00 p.m.

MUNICIPAL FINANCE WORKSHOP

Councillor MacNeil expressed interest in attending a Municipal Finance Workshop that will be held in Halifax on May 24, 2013. He was authorized to attend.

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION IN RURAL COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE

Deputy Warden Patterson will be attending a Sustainable Transportation in Rural Communities Conference in Truro on May 13, 2013.

MUNICIPAL LAW WORKSHOP

A workshop on Municipal Law will be held in Halifax on Friday, June 7, 2013. Sandy Hudson advised he will be attending this workshop.

SUMMER POSITIONS

We have not received notification as yet if our Canada Summer Jobs grant application has been approved. A request was submitted for a summer position for each of the Enviro-Depots and one for the Tax Office.

The Tax Office position should be filled as soon as possible and an advertisement will be placed in next *Victoria Standard* for this position.

IN CAMERA

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, to move In Camera. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Grant, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, to return to the regular meeting of Council. Motion carried.

TAX SALE

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that the scheduling of regular tax sales be a priority. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO

