

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
June 24, 2013

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, June 24, 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 #8 – Johnny Buchanan

Also present were:

Sandy Hudson, CAO
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

Absent was:

District #7 – Wayne Budge (Family Related Absence)

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

RCMP UPDATE

Courtesy of Council was extended to Staff Sgt. Craig Yorke, Victoria County District, RCMP, who was in attendance to provide Council with an update on policing in Victoria County (copy attached).

Staff Sgt. Yorke provided statistics on crime in Victoria County for the period January 1, 2013 to June 20, 2013. He outlined the annual performance plan priorities.

A breakdown by detachment within the Victoria County District was provided. Staff Sgt. Yorke is the District Commander.

The Baddeck Detachment has 1 Cpl. Supervisor/Investigator, 3 Constable Investigators and 1 public service employee support staff member. Three constables from this Detachment are transferred and will be replaced by three experienced members in July. The Ingonish Beach Detachment has 1 Cpl. Supervisor/Investigator, 4 Constable Investigators and 1 public service employee support staff. One constable is transferring out on July 2, 2013 and will be replaced by a member coming from the training academy in Regina. The recruit will be teamed up with a trainer for six months.

Staff Sgt. Yorke indicated that three members from other sections in Nova Scotia have been seconded to the Ingonish Beach area for June-September, 2013. The objectives are intended in setting a stage to broader crime prevention and provide increased policing presence during the busy summer period.

The Wagmatcook Office has 1 Cpl. Supervisor/Investigator to be filled on August 16, 2013. There are 3 Constable Investigators and at present 1 acting Constable from Street Crime Enforcement unit is covering off the Cpl position until August. This office is dedicated to Wagmatcook excepting emergency calls outside the community, however, Baddeck and Wagmatcook resources work from the same shift schedule which does result in members from Wagmatcook attending calls outside Wagmatcook.

Staff Sgt. Yorke indicated that he received concern that the section of road leading from Jones Street to Alexander Drive is not constructed for traffic. It is used by traffic, including the school bus. He contacted Steve MacDonald, DOTIR, in regard to this matter.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that in the past couple of weeks, the RCMP presence in his district has increased and he hoped this would continue during the busy summer months.

Councillor Grant indicated that at the May Council meeting held in Ingonish, Council was provided with crime statistics in Victoria County that were both enlightening and alarming.

Staff Sgt. Yorke advised that he is a strong believer in community policing and it would be beneficial to have this presence. He also mentioned the RCMP time used for traffic control assisting wide loads across the Seal Island Bridge. Special personnel and training is required to close the bridge down. Whether the companies needing this service could hire and pay for their own traffic control was questioned.

The possibility of sharing a position between Inverness and Victoria Counties was questioned. Staff Sgt. Yorke that this is a possibility and the member would come under the Victoria District and an arrangement could be made for service in Inverness.

The time and cost of providing police services in the Meat Cove area was questioned. Staff Sgt. Yorke updated on the number of calls for service in this area. The costs associated

depend on the type of offence, etc. The person who could provide this information is Ed Kirby, Department of Justice.

Councillor MacInnis questioned on the new recruit coming from Depot. This member is teamed with a trainer for six months and is totally with this member for the first two months. The average length of stay for RCMP members was questioned. Members stay 3 to 4 years on average, but can stay longer if they want.

Councillor Buchanan brought up the recent incident in Ingonish and what he felt in this regard.

Councillor Dauphinee indicated that the police presence is evident in his area. Whether it would be better to use resources to catch criminals responsible for arsons in the Bay St. Lawrence area than catching speeders was questioned.

Staff Sgt. Yorke indicated that traffic work is self-generated work, whereas working on arson cases requires public assistance. The RCMP is hitting a brick wall when trying to obtain information from the public. The extra body for the summer will be an asset.

Councillor Dauphinee indicated that children are traveling with motorbikes on the sidewalks in Ingonish and he requested that if the RCMP see this happening, they stop and mention to the children that they are not permitted to use the sidewalks for motor biking.

The Bay St. Lawrence Crab Fest will be held on July 21, 2013, and Staff Sgt. Yorke indicated that he RCMP boat, helicopter and highway patrol will be visible in the area that day. Two additional units from other areas will also be brought to the area that day.

Deputy Warden Patterson also mentioned the closure of the Seal Island Bridge to allow wide loads to travel over the bridge. The availability of Compliance Officers to do this work was questioned.

A question was raised as to whether bike helmet enforcement was carried out. Staff Sgt. Yorke indicated that they conduct bicycle rodeos and give out free helmets. They do not enforce, rather, they educate.

Warden Morrison brought up the matter of a four-way stop for Jones Street/MacLeod Street and the fact of the increased traffic on the private extension of Alexander Drive that connects to Jones Street. He questioned whether there was a way to restrict traffic and Staff Sgt. Yorke advised that the only way to restrict traffic would be to block the road.

Warden Morrison requested RCMP support for Council's efforts to have a four-way stop located at the Jones Street/MacLeod Street intersection.

Warden Morrison opened the floor to the audience and Elmourne MacKinnon questioned on how and who decides on what the RCMP should be doing and whether the Municipality had a say in RCMP resources and scheduling. Staff Sgt. Yorke replied to Mr. MacKinnon's question.

Sandy Hudson requested that the RCMP be out and about in their Red Serge throughout the summer months.

After further discussion, Staff Sgt. Yorke was extended a vote of thanks for his report and was excused at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JUNE 10, 2013

The minutes of the June 10, 2013, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of June 10, 2013, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

EHS Meeting

The meeting with EHS has not been rescheduled as yet.

Destination Cape Breton Association

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that a letter be forwarded to Mary Tulle, DCBA, concerning the condition of the roadways and view scapes in Victoria County. Motion carried.

EMO By-Law

The progress on an EMO By-Law for the County was questioned. Sandy Hudson indicated he received a copy of Antigonish County's By-Law and would be reviewing same.

NEW BUSINESS

REGIONAL ENTERPRISE NETWORK (REN)

Warden Morrison provided an update on a meeting held on June 19, 2013, concerning the REN. Representatives from CBRM, Richmond County, District of St. Mary's and Victoria County met.

CRBM, Richmond and Victoria will be meeting with representatives from the provincial government to revisit joining the REN and to outline their expectations with regard to membership in the REN. An Interim Advisory Committee, with equal representation from all member units, will be requested. Other details will also be considered and discussed at this meeting.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that Councillor Paul MacNeil, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, be appointed to serve on the Interim REN Advisory Committee. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that Warden Bruce Morrison be appointed to serve on the Interim REN Advisory Committee. Motion carried.

It was indicated that in the future the CAO may be appointed to provide a continuing advisory role on the Committee.

ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA VILLAGES

Sandy Hudson advised that the Association of Nova Scotia Villages have submitted a Village Legislation Discussion Paper to SNSMR requesting changes to the *Municipal Government Act*, Section 18. A copy of the document was also sent to the UNSM and they are requesting a response from Council on the proposed changes.

NSPI

Sandy Hudson advised of the UNSM Fiscal Review Steering Committee's recommendations concerning NSPI funding.

COURT ROOM

Justice Peter Ross has agreed to allow the installation of a flat screen TV in the Court Room. Whether a video conferencing hookup should also be installed as is used for the Ingonish Satellite Court was questioned. Discussion will take place with the Department of Justice on this matter.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #5

Deputy Warden Patterson advised that the Kempt Head Road has been voted as one of the Top 10 worst roads in Atlantic Canada.

District #6

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that an order be placed with NSPI for the relocation of a street light from 53 Roper Road, Ingonish to 36188 Cabot Trail, Ingonish. Motion carried.

District #8

It was moved by Councillor Buchanan, seconded by Councillor Grant, that a request be made to Service Canada for a representative to appear before Council on the EI issue. Motion carried.

Councillor Buchanan brought up the matter of expansion of the Neil's Harbour Enviro-Depot. He felt that consideration should be given to relocating the Enviro-Depot to the Cape North Transfer Station site.

Sandy Hudson advised that consideration is being given to building our own building to house the Enviro-Depot on Municipal property at New Haven.

It was felt that consideration should be given to both options with regard to the Enviro-Depot operations.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis advised that the 75th Anniversary celebrations for the Gaelic College will begin on Sunday, June 30, 2013.

Nova Scotia Power will be hosting an open house at the Wreck Cove Hydro Project on Thursday, June 27, 2013, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. He will be attending and encouraged Council members who are available to attend also.

The assistance provided to the Lobster Council of Canada's for their Father's Day advertisement campaign was much appreciated. Victoria County was the only municipality to participate in this campaign.

The materials from the Wreck Cove Silo are to be removed this week.

Councillor MacInnis questioned whether contact had been made with Chief Norman Bernard. Warden Morrison indicated he had not as yet, but would make contact in the near future.

District #2

Councillor Grant updated on the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve meeting he attended in Middle River last week. A presentation was made by the Middle River Watershed Society group at this meeting and interesting statistics were presented on salmon migration.

It was moved by Councillor Grant, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that two street lights be ordered for installation at 265 Big Baddeck Road, Big Baddeck, and 8 Bill's Mountain Road, West Side Middle River. Motion carried.

Councillor Grant indicated that some time ago he had made a presentation on developing a "My Baddeck" website and indicated at that time he would be requesting funding from the Municipality. They are now prepared to move forward with developing the site.

It was moved by Councillor Grant, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that \$3,500.00 be approved for the development of a "My Baddeck" website. Motion carried.

It is proposed that at some future time, all Victoria County websites have a similar look and function.

Councillor Grant advised that Nova Scotia Moves is a grant program that seeks to support collaborative, innovative, locally-based solutions to sustainable transportation challenges facing communities across Nova Scotia. The Province, through the Department of Energy, is providing grants of up to \$200,000.00 through this program. Active transportation is one of the eligible categories and an application has been drafted for the full amount for bike lanes, bike racks, etc. If the application is approved, funding will be required from the Municipality.

It was moved by Councillor Grant, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that the Nova Scotia Moves application be approved for submission. Motion carried.

District #1

Councillor MacNeil advised that he received complaints concerning a DOTIR repair to a hole in front of the Nova Scotia Highland Village. The materials were placed in the middle of Iona. He indicated that it has been cleaned up today and the culverts are to be removed.

District #3

Deputy Warden Patterson took the Chair.

It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that a letter be forwarded to DOTIR requesting that due to safety concerns, the Municipality ask that they re-visit the request for the installation of a 4-way stop at the MacLeod Street/Jones Street intersection and a letter of support be requested from the RCMP to accompany the letter to DOTIR. Motion carried.

Warden Morrison returned to the Chair.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Deputy Warden Patterson indicated that the Nova Scotia Moves Program is a broad program and he felt Council should set priorities when applying for future funding. Community and Public Transit is one of the eligible funding categories.

The New Horizons Program for Seniors is now accepting applications and the Age-Friendly Communities Committee are considering making an application for the development of a plan to keep seniors in their homes. The program is fully funded up to a maximum of \$25,000.00.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that the submission of an application under the New Horizons for Seniors Program be approved. Motion carried.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that he recently attended Pitu'paq and CEPI meetings and interest was expressed on a land use policy around the Bras d'Or Lakes. John Bain would be the contact to start this process.

An update on the status of the open unsightly premises files in the Municipality is to be requested for the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council will be held on Monday, July 8, 2013, at 5:00 p.m. at the Court House, Baddeck.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, the meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO

