

**VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**  
**February 10, 2014**

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, February 10, 2014, 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  
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.

Warden Morrison indicated that an In Camera meeting would be held prior to adjournment and Councillor Grant requested that proposed wind turbine development be added to the agenda.

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

**CELTIC COLOURS INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL**

Courtesy of Council was extended to Joella Foulds, Artistic Director, and Jody MacArthur, Sponsorship Coordinator, Celtic Colours International Festival.

Ms. Foulds voiced her appreciation to Council for the opportunity to update on Celtic Colours and the value the Municipality receives for their contribution in their marketing sponsorship of the Festival.

Ms. Foulds presented statistics on the growth of the Festival since its inception in 1997. In 1997, the Festival had 27 performances and a dozen workshops and the 2013 Festival saw 46 performances and 234 community cultural events in more than 60 communities. Audiences have grown from 11,000 in 1997 to approximately 20,000 in 2013. In addition, more than 14,000 people participated in community cultural events and 8,600 people world-wide viewed concerts streamed live on line.

Ms. Foulds advised that the Festival currently works with 117-120 not-for-profit community organizations which host events in more than 60 communities throughout Cape Breton. Each year \$200,000.00 is earned by these organizations from hosting Celtic Colours events. A total of 17,000 volunteers contribute more than 37,000 hours toward making the festival a success.

Celtic Colours draws its audience from every province in Canada, more than 49 US states and 30 other countries. 55% of the audience is from off-island and 45% is from Cape Breton. Mainland Nova Scotia accounts for 21% of the audience, with 18% from the remainder of Canada, and 13% from USA.

The tourism season in Cape Breton is extended by at least 10 days and in many areas by several weeks as a result of Celtic Colours. The direct spending by the audience in 2013 was \$8.3 million dollars. This is measured by audience surveys. The economic impact is much higher when all factors are considered.

Ms. Foulds advised that the Festival employs six full-time staff and six seasonal staff and utilizes many part-time skilled workers such as technicians, graphic designers, videographers, photographers, etc. The majority of the Festival's \$1.4 million dollar budget is spent on goods, services and human resources in Cape Breton.

Ms. Foulds outlined the impact of Celtic Colours in Victoria County. Victoria County, in particular the Baddeck area, is unofficially known as the Festival headquarters in October. A large percentage of visitors to the Island stay at one of the Baddeck area hotels and use the area as a central location from which to travel each day to a concert, community cultural event and to attend the Festival Club in St. Ann's each night.

Celtic Colours values the relationship it has with the County, its business community and community organizations and look forward to the continued relationships.

Ms. Foulds outlined statistics with regard to Victoria County in 2013. There were 19 performances and 53 cultural experiences with 26 participating community organizations. 5,559 tickets were sold, with the percentage of tickets sold for Victoria County venues of 90%. The number of attendees at the community cultural experiences in Victoria County was 4,735. The approximate gross revenue for community organizations was \$91,662.00.

*Page 3, VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, February 10, 2014*

Deputy Warden Patterson indicated that Boularderie has hosted events for the past 14 years and the quality of the performers at the events is a reason for their success. He congratulated Celtic Colours for their success.

Councillor Dauphinee stated that Celtic Colours is an amazing festival and a benchmark for other festivals and he indicated the respect for the volunteers and the pleasure in meeting people from other places.

Councillor Budge offered congratulations and mentioned the economic benefit to the County as a result of Celtic Colours.

Councillor Buchanan mentioned the live streaming and questioned whether there are plans to expand this in future. Ms. Foulds indicated that the live streaming has been received very positively and it is anticipated that over time these events and those watching the live streams will increase. She also mentioned that bi-weekly podcasts are available on their website.

Councillor MacInnis questioned on whether it can be identified where the live stream participants are watching from. Ms. Foulds indicated they could and the live stream events in 2013 were followed by people in 17 different countries.

Discussion took place on the budget and the government support for the Festival. Last year they incurred a deficit and they will go back to funding sources and are hopeful of the involvement of another government department this coming year.

Councillor Grant questioned whether the live streaming could be a revenue source. Ms. Foulds indicated that they hope to build up the credibility of these events and over time this could be investigated.

Councillor Grant indicated that he has a neighbour who came here because of Celtic Colours and ended up buying a home and residing here fulltime. He questioned if a study had been done on people who bought property in Cape Breton as a result of the Festival.

Councillor MacNeil offered congratulations and outlined the indirect impact the Festival has had in his district.

Councillor Dauphinee indicated that he heard a rumor that the Festival Club would be relocating to Sydney and Ms. Foulds advised that this is not true. One challenge she indicated, is the cost of the shuttle bus between Baddeck and the Gaelic College. BABTA provide \$2,500 of the cost, but the cost has increased to approximately \$8,500.00. Another funding source is required to retain this service and Ms. Foulds was encouraged to send a funding application to the Municipality for consideration.

Warden Morrison indicated that he has volunteered at the Festival Club and it is phenomenal the people you meet from and the places they come from.

Tom Wilson, Director of Tourism and Recreation, provided statistics on room nights sold in Victoria County during the Celtic Colours International Festival.

Ms. Foulds then presented a gift to Tom Wilson in recognition of the Municipality's sponsorship of the Festival.

Warden Morrison extended a thank you to Ms. Foulds and Ms. MacArthur for their report.

### **RECESS**

Warden Morrison announced that Council would recess for 5 minutes.

### **BADDECK PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Kate Oland, Librarian, Baddeck Public Library.

Ms. Oland was in attendance to provide Council with an update on the Baddeck Public Library and the Victoria County Bookmobile service (copy attached).

Ms. Oland indicated that the Baddeck Library is not just about books. They loan out magazines, e-readers, e-books, audio books, pedometers, energy readers, auto repair subscriptions online and have a 3D printer that is free of charge. The Library is also about programs for both adults and youth. In 2013 there were 70 programs for adults with participation of 558 people. There were 61 child and youth programs with 783 participants.

The Baddeck Library also offers programs such as author readings, history and natural history sessions, health and wellness programs, children's programs, babies and books and toddler time at Alderwood, teen programs and tech training through VCCAPS.

The Victoria County Bookmobile serves 8 schools, Highland Manor, and communities from Iona to Bay St. Lawrence. Ms. Oland also outlined the Bookmobile outreach programs offered.

The Baddeck Public Library also partners with other community organizations and she outlined the organizations involved.

In 2013 the Baddeck Library membership was 1,310 and the items borrowed amounted to 23,357. Public computer use at the library was 3,509 hours. Bookmobile membership in 2013 was 518 with 9,768 items borrowed on the bookmobile and 1,173.50 hours of wireless internet use.

Ms. Oland advised that membership at the Baddeck Library is increasing. She provided statistics from the year 2008 compared to 2013. In 2008 the membership was 881 with total number of items borrowed at 15,766 and total programs offered 16-132. In 2013 the membership was 1310 with 23,357 items borrowed and 131-1341 total programs.

The Baddeck Library also houses a second hand bookstore and a CAP site. Ms. Oland presented pictures of the various activities that take place at the Library.

Councillor MacNeil congratulated Ms. Oland and the success of the library and indicated that the success is a testament to Ms. Oland's work and dedication. Ms. Oland advised that a library card is required to access online and audio books.

Councillor Grant indicated that it is a pleasure to see the activity at the Baddeck Library and offered his congratulations on a job well done.

Councillor MacInnis commented on the success of the Baddeck Library and Ms. Oland indicated that each community library is reflective of their own community, but all branches are similar in that borrowings offered.

Councillor Buchanan also offered his comments on the programs offered at the library. Ms. Oland indicated that the library is open Tuesday to Saturday. There is high demand for computer access and kids after school programs. Seniors and tourists are also a significant number of library users.

Councillor Budge offered his thanks for the presentation and his comments to keep up the good work.

Councillor Dauphinee indicated that the statistics provided are impressive and he learned a great deal of the operation from this presentation.

Ms. Oland indicated that she is presently working with Vince Forrestall on a program that will see sports equipment for loan.

Deputy Warden Patterson indicated that the Baddeck Library has a very welcoming atmosphere and he questioned on the 3D printer. Ms. Oland advised that the printer belongs to VCCAPs and its permanent home is at the Baddeck Library.

Warden Morrison congratulated Ms. Oland on the wonderful job she has done to improve the operation of the Baddeck Library since she began her position as librarian. Ms. Oland indicated that they have 2 full-time and 2 part-time employees who all love what they do.

Ms. Oland then presented each Council member with a library card and advised they can now borrow and return at any library branch with the Cape Breton Regional Library system.

Elmourne MacKinnon indicated that he has visited libraries wherever he has lived and advised that the Baddeck Library is a tremendous place and he thanked them for their excellent work.

Warden Morrison extended a thank you to Ms. Oland for her presentation.

**RECESS**

Warden Morrison advised that Council would recess for 5 minutes

**PROPOSED WIND TURBINE – WRECK COVE**

Councillor Grant presented Council with the next steps he felt were required to continue with the development of wind energy in Victoria County.

He indicated that formal talks should be held with NSPI to determine if the Municipality can connect to the 3-phase power line at Wreck Cove, if they have any objection to the location of a wind turbine at Wreck Cove, and whether they have any wind data for Wreck Cove they can share with the Municipality.

Formal talks should also be held with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to determine if they will provide land at Wreck Cove to construct a wind turbine and if there is an option for additional land in future.

Councillor Grant indicated that if assurance is received from NSPI that connection can be made to the 3 phase power line and confirmation is received from DNR that they would be willing to provide land, then he felt financial research would be necessary to see if this is a viable project for the Municipality.

Discussion took place on this matter. It was felt that the wind data is key. If data is not available from NSPI, then the next step might be the installation of a test tower for a one year period to gather the required data.

Whether the Alternate Energy Committee should continue working on this project, or it become a Council action now was questioned. It was felt that the Alternate Energy Committee could continue in the advisory capacity and any decision made would require Council approval.

**It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that the Municipality proceed to commence formal discussions with NSPI and DNR concerning the proposed wind turbine project at Wreck Cove. Motion carried.**

Warden Morrison complimented Councillor Grant on the background work undertaken by he and his Committee in this project.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JANUARY 20, 2014**

The minutes of the January 20, 2014, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

**It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that the January 20, 2014, minutes of Victoria County Municipal Council be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**Keltic Lodge**

Councillor Dauphinee questioned whether a reply was received with regard to the operation of the Keltic Lodge for the upcoming season.

The CAO indicated a reply has not been received as yet.

**Tax Sale Searches**

An update was requested on the tax sale property searches. The CAO advised that 37 have been completed and an additional 7 are underway. There are 13 more that will commence shortly. Of the 37 completed, 10 properties are not recommended for sale.

There are 370 properties that have arrears that make them liable for tax sale. Of these, 70 are tied into the Patterson Subdivision and this is being investigated to see what can be done in regard to these accounts.

A tax sale has been scheduled for March. Eight properties were on the sale, with five being paid. There are currently 3 properties remaining on the sale.

**Meat Cove Policing**

The statistics with regard to police coverage in the Meat Cove area have been received from the RCMP.

**It was moved by Councillor Grant, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that contact be made with Inverness County requesting they provide financial assistance towards the cost of RCMP policing in the Meat Cove area of Inverness County. Motion carried.**

**REN**

Warden Morrison advised that the Mayor of CBRM and the Wardens of Inverness, Richmond and Victoria, signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Whycocomagh last week concerning the REN. A meeting to further discuss the makeup the REN will be held on Friday, February 14, 2014, in Sydney and an update will be provided after this meeting.

**DISTRICT CONCERNS**

**District #1**

Councillor MacNeil indicated that he received a number of calls concerning property assessment.

Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC) will be in attendance at the next Council session and this matter can be addressed with them at that time.

Warden Morrison advised that the assessment CAP will be on the agenda for the next UNSM Rural Caucus meeting.

Councillor MacNeil advised that he again toured the Washabuck Road with Gerard Jessome and Darren Blundon, DOTIR, and they agree the road is in bad shape.

**It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that a letter be forwarded to the Minister and Deputy Minister of TIR, and our MLA, requesting that the Washabuck Road be upgraded. Motion carried.**

**District #2**

Councillor Grant indicated that the last day to appeal assessments is February 14, 2014.

**It was moved by Councillor Grant, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that a street light be ordered for installation at Civic Address 8970 Trans Canada Highway 105, Baddeck Inlet. Motion carried.**

Councillor Grant advised that the “Our Baddeck” website is up and running and is updated on a daily basis.

Members of the Crowdis Mountain Snowmobile Club have purchased a groomer at a cost of \$20,000.00 plus HST. The groomer is now in use and they are happy with the machine.

Councillor Grant had previously requested that consideration to given to providing funding from the 2014/15 budget. He now requested, that as the funding requirement is more immediate, that the financial request be considered now.

**It was moved by Councillor Grant, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that \$7,500.00 be approved towards the cost of the groomer for the Crowdis Mountain Snowmobile Club. Motion carried.**

**District #4**

Councillor MacInnis questioned on student grant deadlines. The deadline for application for both provincial and federal grants was January 31, 2014.

He questioned on Council's request to apply for students to identify cemeteries.

Sandy Hudson advised that an application was submitted for these and other positions for the Municipality.

Councillor MacInnis questioned on whether the Supervisor of Ferries had replied to the request to attend Council.

The CAO advised that a reply has not been received to the request as yet.

Councillor MacInnis brought up the matter of tag lines on the County signs. The Department of Tourism are the organization that deal with this matter.

**District #8**

Councillor Buchanan questioned on whether the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal would be coming to Council. He and the Deputy have been requested to appear before Council, but a date has not been determined as yet.

**It was moved by Councillor Buchanan, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that a Certificate of Recognition be provided to the Cabot High Basketball Team for their excellent representation of Victoria County at the recent Coal Bowl Basketball Tournament in New Waterford. Motion carried.**

**District #7**

Councillor Budge indicated that some time ago the condition of the power pole by the garage in Neil's Harbour was reported. To date, nothing has been done.

The NSPI Resolve Team should be contacted in this regard.

Councillor Budge questioned on whether a reply was received from DNR concerning the request to have the fishing season the same in all areas of Victoria County.

Sandy Hudson advised that the request is to go to the Department of Fisheries.

**District #6**

Councillor Dauphinee indicated that he recently had reason to visit Buchanan Memorial Hospital and he was shocked at the lack of staff servicing the hospital.

**It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that a letter be forwarded to Diane Calvert-Simms, CEO, CBDHA, expressing concern on the staff shortage at Buchanan Memorial Hospital and questioned on a plan of action for addressing this concern. Motion carried.**

**District #5**

Deputy Warden Patterson advised that he will be vacationing in Florida and not in attendance at Council when the PVSC are present. He has concerns with regard to the assessment CAP and that it is removed when a property is sold.

He requested that this matter be addressed with the PVSC at Council on February 24, 2014.

**District #3**

Deputy Warden Patterson assumed the Chair.

Warden Morrison brought up a concern with regard to the hiring of graduates from CBU's Environmental Health Program. There are presently 2 Victoria County students enrolled in this program. Graduates of this program have always been considered for hiring by the Department of Environment as Inspector Specialists and Department of Agriculture as Food Safety Specialists.

It has come to his attention that the Public Service Commission now require Department of Agriculture applicants for Food Safety Specialists to have 6 years experience.

**It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that a letter be forwarded to the Premier, with copies to the Ministers of Agriculture; Labour and Advanced Education; Public Service Commission; and the Commissioner of the Public Service Commission, expressing concern on the new qualification requirements for Food Safety Specialist positions in Nova Scotia and that they prevent graduates of CBU's Environmental Health Program from applying for these positions. Motion carried.**

Warden Morrison indicated that Victoria County does not have a Literacy Program. Other municipalities do, and he felt it was remiss that we do not have a program. The Community Learning Association North of Smokey (CLANS) offers such programs.

**It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that Faye Fricker, CLANS, be contacted concerning literacy programs and whether they can be expanded. Motion carried.**

Warden Morrison advised that the Active Transportation consultants, CBCL, will be holding information sessions in Baddeck tomorrow and Ingonish on Wednesday and he encouraged Council members to attend these sessions.

Warden Morrison returned to the Chair.

### **District #2**

Councillor Grant brought up the 40% parks and protected areas controlled by the Department of Environment. He felt as Victoria County has the greatest amount of protected areas, the government should be lobbied to have a permanent office of the Department of Environment located in Victoria County. There is new legislation pertaining to trails that if they are not existing, they can't be built, and this is unacceptable.

**It was moved by Councillor Grant, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that as provincial land is administered by the Department of Environment and Victoria County has the largest amount of protected property, we request that a staffed Department of Environment office be located in Victoria County. Motion carried.**

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Age-Friendly Advisory Committee**

Deputy Warden Patterson provided a update on Victoria County's Age-Friendly Advisory Committee.

The Age-Friendly Committee is planning on hosting a conference in September, 2014, and in order to book the venue, a \$600 deposit is required.

**It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that the County provide the \$600.00 deposit to the Inverary Resort to secure the venue for the Age-Friendly Conference. Motion carried.**

**POLICY**

**EMO**

The CAO requested Council to review the proposed Emergency Management By-Law prior to next meeting and any required changes can be incorporated to the by-law prior to first reading at the next Council meeting.

Lyle Donovan, EMC, would like to meet with Council to discuss the set up pertaining to emergency management. A meeting will be arranged for the last week of March, 2014.

**EXTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS TAX EXEMPTION BY-LAW**

Sandy Hudson advised that he has put together a draft External Organizations Tax Exemption By-Law which he will forward to Council for review. If acceptable, first reading will be given to this by-law at the next meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Finance**

Sandy Hudson advised that the Director of Finance would like to move some of the money from the operating reserve. She would like to pay down some of the debt and establish a capital reserve account.

**It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor Grant, that monies be transferred from the operating reserve account to pay down the debt and establish a capital reserve account. Motion carried.**

Sandy Hudson advised the required truck purchase for the Department of Public Works has gone to tender on the Nova Scotia Procurement site. The trailers required for transferring waste from the northern area of the County to Baddeck were discussed and the possibility of leasing same as opposed to purchase was discussed.

The Director of Finance will be requested to look at leasing as opposed to purchase.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Council received information from Efficiency Nova Scotia and their low income homeowner program.

Kevin MacCormack, Efficiency Nova Scotia, is to be invited to attend a future session of Council on the low income homeowner program.

**COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER**

Interviews were held for the Communications Officer position. The applicants are currently being rated by the interviewers and a decision will be made shortly.

**IN CAMERA**

**It was moved by Councillor Buchanan, seconded by Councillor Grant, to move In Camera. Motion carried.**

**It was moved by Councillor Buchanan, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, to return to the regular session of Council. Motion carried.**

**CELL SERVICE PROJECT**

**It was moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Councillor Grant, that the Municipality participate in the cell service project provided the province contributes 50% of the cost. Motion carried.**

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council will be held at the Court House on Monday, February 24, 2014, at 5:00 p.m. The Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC) and Robert Dauphinee, Director of Public Works, concerning clear bag waste disposal, will be presenting at this meeting.

**ADJOURN**

**There being no further business, on motion of Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.**

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO

