

**VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**  
**May 13, 2014**

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Tuesday, May 13, 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

Also present were:

Sandy Hudson, CAO  
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

Absent was:

District #8 – Johnny Buchanan

**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 MacNeil, that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

**AGE-FRIENDLY PRESENTATION**

Courtesy of Council was extended to Jocelyn Bethune who was in attendance to make a presentation on Age-Friendly Communities (copy attached).

Ms. Bethune indicated that being Age-Friendly is having a community that supports and enables its residents to live healthy, active and productive lives as they age. The World Health Organization launched the Age-Friendly concept more than a decade ago and Victoria County is at the forefront of this initiative regionally.

The United Nations estimates that the number of people age 60+ will double over the next dozen years. In Nova Scotia, 700 people turn 65 each month and more than one-half of Victoria County's residents are over the age of 45. We are undergoing a demographic shift.

The Municipality endorsed the concept of Age-Friendly Communities and passed a motion to work toward making Victoria County an Age-Friendly Community at their meeting on December 13, 2010.

Being Age-Friendly means older adults are included in community decision-making. It means buildings and outdoor spaces are accessible. It means transportation that is affordable, reliable and available. It means that services are available that enable older adults to remain in their homes and communities longer. It means housing is affordable and accessible.

Age-Friendly means opportunities exist for those who wish to work or volunteer. It means information is available in a variety of formats and readily accessible. It means health and community support services that promote and maintain health are available.

The make-up of the Age-Friendly Advisory Committee was outlined and Ms. Bethune indicated that work has begun on transportation, formalizing a senior support system and communications.

Age-Friendly is not just about seniors. It means barrier-free buildings for all; safer, more secure communities for families, and the entire County benefits from the involvement of our seniors. Being Age-Friendly is good for business.

Victoria County Age-Friendly was chosen to be profiled by the Public Health Agency of Canada for their communication materials. The Age-Friendly Advisory Committee has overseen the creation of a Transit Study and Transit Business Plan for the County. An Age-Friendly Speakers Guide has been developed to assist in presentations.

The Age-Friendly Advisory Committee will be hosting a regional conference in Baddeck in September.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that he received comments from some seniors in his area that come to Baddeck to shop, etc. and expressed concern on the lack of washroom facilities in the Baddeck area. This can be looked into. Tom Wilson indicated he had information on washrooms around the Cabot Trail that he would provide to Ms. Bethune.

Councillor MacInnis indicated that he attended a seniors group meeting in his district last week where seniors shared their stories and experiences of participating with various artisans in the area over the winter.

Councillor MacInnis advised that he does snow removal for a number of senior citizens in his district and brought up the matter of housing seniors for the winter under one roof to cut down on expenses and offer security to the seniors. He questioned whether this was done in other jurisdictions in the country and research will be undertaken to see if this concept is used in other areas.

Deputy Warden Patterson indicated that communications is a priority for the Age-Friendly Advisory Committee. He indicated that the Public Health Agency of Canada's feature on Victoria County coming out this summer/fall will be a highlight for the Committee.

Warden Morrison indicated that from the business aspect determining if business owners are age-friendly ready is an important facet to be investigated.

The planned conference for September was discussed. It is anticipated that 125 people will participate and Warden Morrison advised that 200 copies of the notice were provided to those attending the UNSM Spring Workshop last week and he received interest from a number of the workshop attendees.

Jocelyn Bethune was extended a thank you for her presentation and was excused at this time.

**RECESS**

Warden Morrison announced that Council would recess for 5 minutes.

**ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN PRESENTATION**

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Tom Wilson, Director of Recreation and Tourism, and Vince Forrestall, Physical Active Living Strategy Coordinator, who were in attendance to present on the Victoria County Active Transportation Plan.

Mr. Wilson advised that the definition of active transportation (AT) is non-motorized transportation and includes walking, cycling, jogging, in-line skating, skateboarding, etc.

CBCL were hired to do the 5 year plan and held two public meetings – one in the northern area and one in the southern area of the County. They also developed an online survey that was completed by 193 residents.

The four goals contained in the AT Plan were:

- Educate – To promote a shift in public attitudes and raise a new generation of active transportation users.
- Improve infrastructure - Adequately maintain existing and improve both on and off road facilities; encourage AT friendly built environments; provide year-around safety; improve signage and liaise with TIR.
- Raise awareness – Create/coordinate partnerships and participate in/organize local events

- Implementation of the Plan – Look for correspondence with potential partners' interests, be opportunistic and evaluate regularly.

Mr. Forrestall updated on the Nova Scotia Moves – Victoria County Moves Project. The presentation at tonight's Council and Council's subsequent approval will be the Victoria County AT Master Plan. The next step is to form an Active Transportation Committee. The installation of bike racks strategically placed around the County and a Bike Haven at the Baddeck VIC is in progress, as are AT lanes extended to Alderwood on both sides of the Shore Road and AT lanes and bike symbols painted on Shore Road and Twining Street. AT signage such as shared path signs and end path signs is in the process of being installed, as is gravel and concrete where required. Cycling and Trails Mapping & Routes will be drafted.

Mr. Forrestall outlined the funding partners for the Victoria County Moves Project.

The Nova Scotia Moves Program will be accepting applications until June 23, 2014. A summary of funding opportunities is on their website and Mr. Forrestall indicated he would talk to Julia Sable to see if more than one project could be funded at the same time under this program.

It is important that Council has an AT Master Plan that gives direction to future projects, actions in partnership, and with available resources benefitting all residents in the County.

The new Bike Victoria logo was presented.

Deputy Warden Patterson indicated that it is good to see work being undertaken in this regard. The lack of a sidewalk on the Seal Island Bridge was discussed.

Whether there could be a flashing light activated by pushing a button to notify that there is a cyclist on the bridge was questioned. There is also a safety issue with regard to wind on the bridge that could affect cyclists.

Councillor Dauphinee questioned on the bike haven. This is a shelter with a rack that would protect bikes from the elements.

It was felt that TIR should be requested that any new highway projects, should include a 1 meter shoulder for cyclists.

Whether there was any discussion on an off road trail around the Cabot Trail was questioned.

Councillor Grant indicated that he was in Guelph, Ontario, this past weekend and there were bike lanes behind where he was staying and he was amazed by the number of users. Having such trails would be a boost to the economy and not cost a lot of money to develop for the return.

Councillor MacNeil brought up the matter of the trail from Little Narrows to Iona and the attempt to get this trail in the Trans Canada Trail designation. He also mentioned using the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve Designation to our advantage in developing cycling and walking trails around the lakes.

Warden Morrison extended a thank you to Mr. Wilson and Mr. Forrestall for their presentation.

**It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor Budge, to accept the Active Transportation Plan for Victoria County. Motion carried.**

### **VICTORIA COUNTY WEBSITE**

Tom Wilson presented the newly launched Victoria County website to Council for viewing. It is more visually attractive and is a work in progress. Content will be added on a regular basis and the new site allows connection to mobile devices.

Council was pleased with the newly updated website.

### **PHYSICAL ACTIVITY SUMMIT**

Vince Forrestall advised that the Cape Breton Physical Activity Summit will be held at the Gaelic College, St. Ann's on June 5-6, 2014.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – APRIL 28, 2014**

The minutes of the April 28, 2014, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

**It was moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Councillor Grant, that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of April 28, 2014, be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

#### **Electric Car Stations**

Discussion took place on the presentation at the last Council session on electric car stations.

**It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, to pursue obtaining two electric car stations for this fiscal year. Motion carried.**

The locations of the stations are to be determined – one in the Baddeck area and one in the Cape North area.

Councillor MacNeil requested that in the future, an electric car station be considered for the Nova Scotia Highland Village.

**EMO**

The topic of EMO comfort centres was discussed, as was the 72 hour preparedness in the event of an emergency. It was felt that discussion should be held with EMO officials with regard to changing the 72 hour preparedness or providing an appropriate education program on this matter.

Full Council is the EMO Committee for the Municipality and it was questioned if Lyle Donovan, EMC, would have an inventory of comfort centers for the Municipality.

**It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that the EMC be requested to meet with the EMO Committee (Council). Motion carried.**

**Canada Post**

The letter concerning the reduction in hours at the Post Office in Iona was discussed and will be sent in the near future.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Small Business Development Program**

Warden Morrison indicated he would be forwarding information on a Small Business Development Pilot Project for the northern area of the County for Councillors to review prior to the Council meeting in Ingonish.

The dates for June Council are the 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> and the meeting to be held in Ingonish will be determined shortly.

**DISTRICT CONCERNS**

**District #6**

Councillor Dauphinee questioned on the heavy garbage collection. Sandy Hudson advised that the tenders closed today.

The results were:

B & M Disposal – Area 1(North) - \$18892.00 plus HST - \$21,725.00  
Dingwall Trucking – Area 1 (North) \$14,000.00 plus HST - \$16,100.00  
Loch Bhreagh Excavating & Trucking Ltd - Area 2 (South) - \$16,500.00 plus HST - \$18,975.00  
B & M Disposal – Area 2 (South) - \$17,040.00 plus HST - \$19,596.00

The tenders will be reviewed for compliance and will be awarded to the low tenders. The collection will begin the week of June 9, 2014.

Councillor Dauphinee brought up the condition on the roadsides on Smokey and other areas in the northern area of the County.

**It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (TIR) be requested to complete work on the roadsides in the northern area of the County prior to the Cabot Trail Relay Race. Motion carried.**

An update on the paving contracts for the section of the Cabot Trail was questioned and it was indicated that the estimates have not gone in as yet.

**It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor Budge, that a letter be forwarded to Canada Post requesting that they remove the replaced group mail boxes that are laying on the side of the road in Ingonish and they look into the condition of the sidewalk at the Ingonish Beach Post Office. Motion carried.**

#### **District #4**

Councillor MacInnis commented on the increase in police presence in his district. Other Councillors indicated the same.

**It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that a letter be forwarded to S/Sgt. Craig Yorke, Victoria District, expressing appreciation for the increased police presence and the good work the RCMP are doing throughout the County. Motion carried.**

**It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that a street light order be placed with NSPI for the location of a street light at 45073 Cabot Trail, North Shore (Clucking Hen). Motion carried.**

#### **District #2**

Councillor Grant brought up the request made to the Department of TIR sometime ago for a flashing light or some other form of notification at the one lane Red Bridge in Big Baddeck. Nothing has been done.

He also indicated that a traffic study was requested for the area of Irving/Tim Hortons on the TCH 105. This is a dangerous area.

Both these items are to be added to the letter to the Department of TIR requesting that they be investigated.

Councillor Grant indicated that the Minister of Natural Resources has set time for the Municipality to meet in Halifax on July 23, 2014. There are a number of issues to be addressed with the Minister.

Councillor Grant indicated that he attended a meeting of the Freewheeler's Seniors Club, where he found out that the Telephone Pioneers are able to install the technology to loop a room for hearing aids. He felt it should be investigated for the Court Room to see if it can be done there.

Lori Burke, Cape Breton Craft and Design, is to be added to the agenda for a future meeting of Council.

**District #1**

The condition of the gravel roads in District #1 was brought up.

**It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that a letter be forwarded to the Department of TIR requesting that they upgrade and maintain the gravel roads in District #1. Motion carried.**

**District #3**

Deputy Warden Patterson assumed the Chair.

**It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that a letter be forwarded to the Minister of TIR requesting that a cautionary indicator light be installed at the Seal Island Bridge to advise motorists when cyclists are crossing the bridge. Motion carried.**

Warden Morrison indicated that the Baddeck STEPS Program are looking at obtaining the old Baddeck Academy site for development of a park and playground area. The property is currently in the hands of the Baddeck Community Club and whether this property could be obtained by the Municipality was discussed.

**It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Grant, that the CAO contact the Solicitor to investigate the options for the Municipality to obtain the Baddeck Community Club property for development. Motion carried.**

It was indicated that the Baddeck Archery Club are interested in using the tennis courts for their club.

Warden Morrison indicated that Bell Aliant cut the trees along High Street to the new tower and left the limbs and debris there.

**It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that a letter be forwarded to Kevin Hashem, Area Manager, Bell Aliant, requesting that they clean up the debris left from their work undertaken in the area of High Street, Baddeck. Motion carried.**

Warden Morrison brought up the matter of motorized golf carts as a mode of transportation in the Village of Baddeck area. He has witnessed the use of this form of transportation in other areas and felt it might work here.

**It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Grant, that the Municipality support the request to the Registry of Motor Vehicles and Department of TIR to allow motorized golf carts as an alternate motorized form of transportation in Baddeck and area. Motion carried.**

Warden Morrison returned to the Chair.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Budget Committee**

**It was moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that the recommendations contained in the Budget Committee meeting and the minutes of the May 13, 2014, Budget meeting be accepted. Motion carried.**

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **Child Care Awareness Month**

**It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Deputy Warden Patterson, that the month of June be proclaimed “Child Care Awareness Month” in the Municipality of the County of Victoria. Motion carried.**

#### **National Health and Fitness Day**

**It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Deputy Warden Patterson, that the first Saturday in June (June 7, 2014) be proclaimed National Health and Fitness Day as requested by the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Nova Scotia. Motion carried.**

**CBVRSB – Looking Inward Suggested Solutions for Schools**

A copy of the “Looking Inward – Disposition of Scenarios to Family of Schools Suggested Solutions” provided by the CBVRSB was provided to Council by email for review. It was felt that someone from the School Board should be invited to Council to explain the options being considered.

**It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that a representative from the CBVRSB be invited to come to Council to explain the document and the options being considered. Motion carried.**

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING**

The next Council meeting will be held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, May 26, 2014, at 5:00 p.m. Victoria County Hospitals and physician recruitment and Dangerous and Unightly Premises presentations will be on the agenda for this meeting.

Sandy Hudson advised that the Province will be launching the Municipal Financial Condition Index on May 15, 2014. The index ensures that the financial information of each municipality is transparent and is based on facts and analysis and looks at how each municipality gets its revenue and how it budgets for municipal priorities.

The closure plan for the Cape North Sewage Lagoon has been filed with the Department of Environment and is to be completed by the end of December, 2014. The Municipality will be pushing to ensure this cleanup is completed sooner than later.

Sandy Hudson will be conducting Public Meetings on the Review of the Number of Municipal Councillors and Size of the Municipal Districts. A schedule of the meeting dates and locations is on the County website and is published in the Victoria Standard.

**ADJOURN**

**There being no further business, on motion of Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.**

**Sandy Hudson, CAO**

**Bruce Morrison, Warden**

