

**VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**  
**June 9, 2014**

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Ski Lodge, Ski Cape Smokey, Ingonish Harbour, on Monday, June 9, 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 (Work Related Absence)

**CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

It was indicated that two presentations – the Youth Council presentation by Kim Desveaux, and Myles Dixon on an Agency Liquor Store request, have been cancelled for this evening.

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

**NORTH OF SMOKEY SAFER COMMUNITIES PRESENTATION**

Courtesy of Council was extended to Melissa Hines, Crime Prevention Coordinator, North of Smokey Safer Communities.

Council provided introductions and Ms. Hines introduced two members of the North of Smokey Safer Communities Board, Kevin Chaisson and Jim Wilkie, who were also in attendance.

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Ms. Hines advised that she was hired in December, 2013, as the Crime Prevention Coordinator. Funding for her position was received from both Victoria and Inverness County and the Department of Justice.

Ms. Hines provided Council with a presentation on North of Smokey Safer Communities (copy attached).

Ms. Hines outlined why this organization was formed. The organization began in 2011 as a result of the high crime rate in the area. Mr. Wilkie and Mr. Chaisson were two of the first members. Mr. Wilkie indicated that things were drastic in the area at that point. There were unsolved arsons over a 5 year period with \$5 million dollars in damages. Things could not get much worse. It was a wake-up call that something had to be done.

At the time the total crime rates for all types of crime were the highest in the Province. People did not want to get involved because of fear and intimidation. There was a history of generational feuding in the area and a gang mentality was evident. The RCMP needed help and it was then that a number of citizens, organizations, etc. got involved for change. A number of residents came out the community meetings, there was a commitment from the RCMP and other key agencies to work together to reduce crime and make the area a safer place to live.

Ms. Hines advised that a 3 year crime prevention plan was established in December, 2013. At the same time she was hired as the Crime Prevention Coordinator. Monthly crime prevention meetings are held. There is a mentorship/leadership group that guides her work. There is community consultation with the RCMP monthly. The RCMP Youth Diversion/Intervention model is in place.

The result is the environment is changing. More and more people have come forward to work with the Committee. Statistics indicate that although crime rates are still high, they are going down. Ms. Hines provided crime statistics from 2011 to present.

Ms. Hines outlined the key learnings and actions moving forward. What is required now is funding for another three months per year to keep Ms. Hines employed. Currently her position is a nine month term every year. The amount required for the three month period would be approximately \$5,000.00.

Discussion took place and it is positive to see the crime rate going down, but further work is necessary to continue decreasing. The RCMP is doing a better job and residents are becoming more comfortable with the RCMP.

Warden Morrison thanked Ms. Hines for her presentation.

Kevin Chaisson indicated that he has talked to a lot of people and received thank yous for the work that is being done to make the communities safer and he feels it is becoming a safer place to live. Unfortunately there are a number of properties for sale north of Cape North and they are not selling because the insurance premiums are so high in the area. Further work must be done to get the crime rates down further.

Working with the area youth is very important and Ms. Hines outlined the programs provided in school and after school. Constable Rebecca Trueman does a great deal of work in the community.

Discussion took place on the funding request to enable the Crime Prevention Coordinator position to be a full year position.

**It was moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that funding to a maximum of \$5,000.00, in conjunction with Inverness County, be approved for the Crime Prevention Coordinator position. Motion carried.**

Warden Morrison indicated it was great to see positive results and good to see a community member, Melissa Hines, working in this capacity and achieving definite results.

The representatives thanked Council for their support and ensured Council that work would continue to make the communities in the northern area safer for the residents.

The North of Smokey Safer Communities representatives were excused at this time.

### **CAPE BRETON CENTRE FOR CRAFT AND DESIGN**

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Lori Burke, Executive Director of the Cape Breton Centre for Craft and Design.

Ms. Burke was in attendance to make a presentation on the Cape Breton Centre for Craft and Design and the 2014 *Growing a Creative Economy Conference* (copy attached).

Ms. Burke indicated her pleasure on presenting to Council and advised that she is a resident of Victoria County.

The Cape Breton Centre for Craft and Design is a 40+ year old Island-wide organization that exists to develop, support and promote the craft sector of Cape Breton Island. It is a not for profit, charitable organization housed in a beautiful, state of the art 14,000 square foot building located at 322 Charlotte Street, Sydney.

The School of Craft offers courses and workshops, artist in residence programs, guilds, exhibitions and youth programs. The Centre is a promoter of Cape Breton Craft and she outlined that the Gallery Shop is open year around. She outlined some of the initiatives, i.e. Cape Breton Artisan Map and videos on the Creative Island. She then played two videos on the Creative Island for Council to view.

Culture is a key ingredient in the quality of life for individuals and communities and provides positive impact in the areas of employment growth, social inclusion, youth retention, diversity, education and the environment.

Ms. Burke outlined the Creative Economy and creative industries. Creative industries are based on individual creativity, skill and talent with the potential to create wealth and jobs through developing intellectual property. The Creative Economy contributed \$950 million to the GDP in 2008. This constitutes 3% of Nova Scotia's GDP. Arts and culture rank 8<sup>th</sup> in GDP contribution in Nova Scotia, ahead of several resource-based sectors. It is growing much faster than the general economy.

Ms. Burke provided an update on the *Growing a Creative Economy* conference held April 14-16, 2014. It is the only conference of its kind in Atlantic Canada and put Cape Breton on the map as a leader in the creative economy. There were 304 delegates from across Canada and 24 speakers from across North America.

When organizing the conference they wanted it to be relevant, practical and possible. She outlined the three days of conference. Day 1 focused on craft artisans. Culture as an economic engine was also a topic and she outlined the Quidi Vidi Plantation craft enterprise incubator in Newfoundland, as well as the Paducah Artist Relocation Program in Paducah, Kentucky, USA.

A recurring theme of the conference is the importance of municipal buy-in. Municipalities that adopt culture as an industry have gained positive economic benefits for their communities.

The next generation and the creative economy was outlined as was youth inclusion and engagement. Gavin Sheppard, TED & World Yale Fellow provided pre-conference workshops and sessions to schools, youth groups, arts organizations and special projects.

The recommendations coming from the conference were:

- To create a world-class model of investment in creativity with a minimal investment in actual dollars
- To create an incentive based system to both encourage and enable more formal mentorships and apprenticeships in the region

Ms. Burke outlined the go forward steps. Along with collaboration among community partners including arts organizations, municipal and provincial governments, regional development agencies, business and the general public, is also that this collaboration leads to solutions for the continued development of cultural infrastructure. Lifelong learning in the arts should continue and become more dynamic. Assessing and celebrating the progress will continue as we move forward in 2015.

Ms. Burke provided her contact information to Council.

Councillor Grant attended both conferences held on the Creative Economy and indicated that they were first class events with excellent information and feedback. This type of industry is a perfect fit for our economy and he indicated he would love to see a Quidi Vidi in our County. It does not take a lot of money to get something started.

Councillor Dauphinee indicated that he was impressed with the statistics provided at the recent meeting on the Ivany Report held at CBU.

The Creative Island video campaign is impressive and a number of Victoria County artisans are featured. The talent and possibilities in our own backyard are impressive and are sometimes taken for granted.

Warden Morrison requested Ms. Burke to advise Council when the dates for the 2015 conference are established and arrangements will be made for as many Councillors as available to attend.

Ms. Burke thanked Council for the opportunity to present to them and Warden Morrison extended a vote of thanks to Ms. Burke for her presentation.

### **RECESS**

Warden Morrison announced that Council would recess for 5 minutes.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MAY 26, 2014**

The minutes of the May 26, 2014, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

**It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor Budge, that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of May 26, 2014, be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**Physician Recruitment/Facilities**

Council met with medical personnel from the southern area of the County at the last Council session regarding physician recruitment and facility issues and had the opportunity to meet earlier today with Dr. Ken Murray and Patricia MacDonald with regard to the status of same in the northern area the County. Warden Morrison indicated that the involvement of Council in this matter should be formalized.

**It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that the Councillors from the northern area of the County be appointed to Committee to be formed to deal with physician recruitment and facilities in the northern area and the five Councillors in the southern area serve on the Committee for issues pertaining to the southern area. Motion carried.**

The size of the Committee is to be a workable number of 10 or less and Councillors may have to alternate if the Committee is too large.

**Isadora Feigin**

Isadora Feigin has applied for a building permit. The 90 day Order of Remedy Demolition Order will be posted on the property tomorrow.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**NORTHERN CAPE BRETON SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT BUSINESS COUNSELLOR PILOT PROJECT**

Councillor MacNeil indicated that he emailed Councillors a copy of the Northern Cape Breton Small Business Development Business Counsellor Pilot Project for their review. He informed Council that funding is being investigated from other levels of government and they are seeking a letter of support from Council for the project.

**It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that a letter of support in principle be provided for the Northern Cape Breton Small Business Development Business Counsellor Pilot Project. Motion carried.**

**FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES (FCM)**

Deputy Warden Patterson indicated that at the recent FCM Conference in Niagara Falls, Ontario, the area of Kooteney, BC had a booth promoting 11 different municipalities in their area. He questioned whether something similar would be possible for Cape Breton Island at a future FCM Conference.

**It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that other municipal units on Cape Breton Island be contacted to see if there is interest in having a joint booth at the next FCM Conference. Motion carried.**

**ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

Councillor members are to choose their district priorities for the Active Transportation Plan and forward them directly to Vince Forrestall.

**PROGRAMS FOR YOUNG ADULTS**

Councillor Dauphinee indicated that he has been approached by both teachers and parents of children who require teacher's assistants (TA's) in their school years, but when they finish school there are no programs or services available for these young adults.

This issue is important to his area and he wanted this matter brought forward.

**REN**

Warden Morrison provided Council with an update on the status of the REN. The proposal was sent to the Province for consideration.

Approval of the proposal may not happen for some time and Warden Morrison indicated he felt that Council should no longer wait for the Province. He suggested an advertisement be placed for a Development Officer for Victoria County. If and when the REN is approved, this position could come under the REN.

It was felt there is a need for a Development Officer now. Other municipal units on Cape Breton currently have such a position.

**It was moved by Councillor Grant, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, to proceed with the advertising and hiring of a Development Officer for Victoria County. Motion carried.**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Race the Cape**

Sandy Hudson advised that a request was received from Race the Cape for \$5,000.00 for the 2014 Race the Cape event.

Discussion took place on this request and the fact that the deadline for applying for financial assistance is March 31 and the deadline is passed. Discussion took place.

**It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that the Municipality sponsor Race the Cape in the amount of \$5,000.00 this year and they be advised that the deadline to apply for funding in future years is March 31. Motion carried.**

**Right Some Good**

A request for financial assistance was received from Right Some Good.

Council considered this request and denied funding for this year.

**125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Town of Port Hawkesbury**

An invitation was received from the Town of Port Hawkesbury to their 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration to be held on Sunday, July 13, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

**Private Road Signs and Civic Numbers**

Information was received from the Eastern District Planning Commission on signage on private lanes. Private road signs are to be white with black lettering and placed at the end of the private road. The white on blue civic number signs are to be placed by the actual addresses, not on the street sign.

Discussion took place on the private road signs.

**It was moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that the Municipality provide private road signage when approving road names. Motion carried.**

**Victoria County Signs**

The Victoria County signs to be installed at the entrances to Victoria County at Iona, Middle River, Big Interval and Big Bras d'Or will be installed before the end of June.

**New Building Canada Fund**

Correspondence was received from the Department of Municipal Affairs regarding the New Building Canada Fund. The Department is currently negotiating the Small Communities Fund component of the New Building Canada Fund and they are looking for details on a maximum of 3 eligible projects that the Municipality plans to undertake in the next 2 to 4 years. The information is to be provided by June 27, 2014.

**Municipal Boundaries and Number of Councillors Public Meetings**

The public meetings concerning the review of the municipal boundaries and number of Councillors held throughout the County have been completed. The meetings were not overly well attended.

Sandy Hudson indicated that by the end of June he hopes to have his report complete and brought to Council and then over the summer Council can decide how they wish to proceed and the submission can be made to the UARB in September.

The UARB would like to see a variance of 10% in the voters per district and the change in the boundaries required to fall within the allowable variance was discussed.

Decreasing the number of districts and Councillors is an option to be considered and Council were receptive to considering this option.

### **DISTRICT CONCERNS**

#### **District #6**

**It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor Budge, that an order be placed for a street light to be located at 37030 Cabot Trail, Ingonish Centre. Motion carried.**

#### **District #4**

**It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that an order be placed for a street light to be located at 42470 Cabot Trail, Wreck Cove. Motion carried.**

#### **District #2**

Councillor Grant advised that there will a Trails meeting for the formation of the Biosphere Northeast Trails Association at the Court House, Baddeck, at 7:00 p.m. tomorrow evening, June 10, 2014.

Councillor Grant indicated that the Middle River Community Hall was successful in obtaining funding from ECBC in the amount of \$20,000.00.

#### **District #1**

**It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Grant, that a letter of congratulations be forwarded to the Iona Volunteer Fire Department and community on the purchase of the new fire truck. Motion carried.**

**It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Budge, that a letter of congratulations be sent to Rankin School of the Narrows for their recent successful production – “All Along the Way”. Motion carried.**

**It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Budge, that a letter of support be provided for the Gillis Point Lighthouse Designation. Motion carried.**

**District #7**

Councillor Budge advised that Myles Dixon, Cape North Foodtown, is requesting Council’s support for his application for an Agency Liquor Store at his business.

**It was moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that Council provide a letter of support for the Cape North Foodtown for an Agency Liquor Store. Motion carried.**

Councillor Budge advised that the school in Ingonish is looking for a bike rack. This is a district priority for the Active Transportation Plan.

**It was moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that the request for the installation of a bike rack at the Ingonish School be forwarded to Vince Forrestall for installation under the Active Transportation Plan. Motion carried.**

**It was moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that a letter be forwarded to the Department of TIR expressing concern on the condition of the shoulders of the road in the northern area of the County requesting that they be repaired immediately. Motion carried.**

**District #3**

Deputy Warden Patterson assumed the Chair.

Warden Morrison advised that EHS will be providing services at the next Cabot Trail Relay and the cost for the service will be approximately \$6,500.00. As a result, an increase in the funding for next year’s event should be considered.

**It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that financial assistance in the amount of \$8,000.00 be referred to the 2015-2016 budget for the 2015 Cabot Trail Relay Race. Motion carried.**

**It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that a letter of congratulations be forwarded to Dick and Liz Grubb, Heritage House B & B, on being a Trip Advisor Travellers’ Choice 2014 Winner. Motion carried.**

Warden Morrison brought up the terrible condition of the Cabot Trail. With the Cabot Trail being a number one tourist destination, it should be a priority for repair and repaving. It was felt that a delegation should meet with the Minister of TIR as soon as possible.

A letter is to be written to the Honourable Geoff MacLellan, Minister of TIR, requesting that he meet with a delegation of Council in Halifax as soon as possible before the 17 of July, 2014.

Warden Morrison returned to the Chair.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council will be held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, June 23, 2014, at 5:00 p.m.

**ADJOURN**

**There being no further business, on motion of Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Budge, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.**

**Bruce Morrison, Warden**

**Sandy Hudson, CAO**