

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
May 30, 2016

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, May 30, 2016, at 5:00 p.m. with Deputy Warden Fraser Patterson in the Chair.

Present were:

District #1 – Paul MacNeil
District #2 – Athol Grant
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

Absent was:

District #3 – Bruce Morrison, Warden (Out of Town)

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Deputy Warden Patterson welcomed those in attendance, called the meeting to order and presented the agenda for approval.

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.

CELTIC COLOURS INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL PRESENTATION

Courtesy of Council was extended to Joella Foulds, Executive Director, and Mike MacSween, General Manager, Celtic Colours International Festival, who were in attendance to present their 2015 Festival Report (copy attached).

Ms. Foulds thanked Council for the opportunity to appear and update on the Festival. Celtic Colours has a great relationship with Victoria County and she thanked Council for their past and continuing support of the Festival.

Victoria County, and in particular the Baddeck area, is where the bulk of the business takes place during the Festival. A large percentage of visitors stay at accommodations in

Baddeck because it is central and for the convenience of the shuttle service to and from the Festival Club at the Gaelic College, St. Ann's. Victoria County is second only to CBRM in terms of performances/events.

In 2015, an estimated 2,700 people were transported by shuttle over the 9 days of the Festival. This service continues to be heavily used by visitors, as well as locals. It is looked on as a reliable and safe way to travel. The Municipality has contributed towards the cost of this service and the partnership has been a great financial benefit to all parties involved. This support has helped to limit the cost of this service for the Festival and has ensured the ability to continue to offer it. They will be looking for another sponsor to help with the remaining cost of the shuttle service with a goal of making it a break-even venture for the Festival. The total cost of the shuttle service in 2015 was \$9,000.00.

Ms. Foulds presented Victoria County statistics with regard to Celtic Colours for 2014 and 2015. The number of performances in 2015 decreased by one over 2014, (total of 18 performances) due to a power outage that prevented the Boularderie show from happening. The show cancellation reflected the decrease in ticket sales over 2014. The number of community cultural experiences increased from 48 in 2014 to 80 in 2015, with 30 community organizations participating. The number of attendees at community cultural experiences increased from 4,673 to 6,009. Estimated gross revenue to community organizations in Victoria County increased from \$79,151 in 2014 to \$98,903 in 2015.

Ms. Foulds presented overall Festival statistics for 2015 for ticket sales, ballot draws, livestreaming, web/social media, online videos, audience expenditures and return to communities.

Whether consideration was given to charging those using the shuttle service was questioned. Ms. Foulds indicated that this was given consideration, but the drivers do not want to collect funds and it is a service that provides piece of mind for the Festival organizers.

Every night during the Festival a show is livestreamed on the Internet and the effect this has on ticket sales was questioned. Ms. Foulds indicated that this does not have a major impact on ticket sales. They do not advertise the show to be livestreamed in advance and most tickets are sold prior to the day of the event.

Councillor MacInnis questioned on the use of school busses for the shuttle service and Ms. Foulds indicated that this was attempted for one year and it ended up being no less expensive, due to Union wage rates paid to drivers, bus cleaning and other issues.

After further discussion, Deputy Warden Patterson thanked Ms. Foulds and Mr. MacSween for their presentation and the excellent work in organizing the Festival.

Deputy Warden Patterson indicated that Celtic Colours would not be here without the vision and hard work of Joella Foulds and Celtic Colours has opened up the whole Island to the world, which is something special.

Joella Foulds then presented the Municipality with a mounted poster and a live compilation CD from the 2015 Celtic Colours International Festival.

BADDECK & AREA CAT RESCUE

Deputy Warden Patterson extended the courtesy of Council to Donna Johnson, Lisa Holt-Jones and Judy Ross, who were in attendance to make a presentation on the Baddeck & Area Cat Rescue (copy attached).

Donna Johnson, spokesperson for the group, advised that the Baddeck & Area Cat Rescue is a registered non-profit organization. They are a group of volunteers who have committed to reducing the population of feral and stray cats in Baddeck and surrounding area. She outlined their mission statement. Their coverage area includes to the west, Middle River and to the east, South Haven and all areas in between.

The initial goal of the organization is to fundraise to purchase necessary equipment to allow Baddeck & area residents to borrow equipment to trap feral cats and kittens. The organization will also assist with the cost of neutering cats and where possible, re-home them. Those unable to be re-homed will be neutered and released in an area where food and shelter is provided. A Facebook Group has been established.

Mrs. Johnson outlined the benefits to the Municipality. She indicated that one unspayed female, her mate and their offspring producing an average of 2.8 surviving kittens per litter at a rate of two litters per year adds up quickly. Spaying and neutering one cat saves many lives.

The differences in feral, semi-feral and stray cats were outlined. A survey was conducted on the estimated number of feral cats in Baddeck & area and this number is expected to increase significantly. The estimated cost of neutering feral cats and the equipment required was outlined.

The estimated total funding required for this year is \$6,605.00 and includes equipment, food and spaying/neutering costs.

Whether area businesses have offered to assist financially was questioned and Mrs. Johnson advised they are just getting started with the process and she anticipated businesses will be involved. Various other fundraisers are being considered.

The assistance these feral colonies would have on the rodent population was also discussed.

Councillor Grant indicated that he lives in an area that is a common drop off spot for cats and dogs. The Council members in the Baddeck & Area Cat Rescue catchment area will consider funding through their district budgets.

There have also been inquiries from the Wagmatcook Reserve and they will meet with the Band Council with regard to possible funding.

The financial request will be given consideration and the organization will be advised.

Deputy Warden Patterson extended a thank you to the ladies for their attendance and the information provided.

RECESS

Deputy Warden Patterson advised that Council would recess for 10 minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MAY 9, 2016

The minutes of the May 9, 2016, session of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

Councillor Grant indicated a correction to the minutes pertaining to Jim Morrow's retirement dinner – the cost is \$25.00 per person and it will be held at the Wagmatcook Culture and Heritage Centre, Wagmatcook.

It was moved and seconded that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of May 9, 2016, be approved with the change indicated. Motion carried.

NEIL'S HARBOUR/NEW HAVEN WATER SYSTEM UPGRADE

Sandy Hudson advised that work on the upgrade to the Neil's Harbour/New Haven Water System is required and the Municipality will be making application for Provincial Capital Assistance Program (PCAP) funding.

It was moved and seconded that the Municipality undertake further work in developing the Neil's Harbour/New Haven Water supply by drilling additional wells and constructing the access road to allow installation of waterlines in the road bed and that the Municipality apply to the Province for PCAP funding to assist in financing this project. Motion carried.

NATIONAL HEALTH AND FITNESS DAY

A request was received to proclaim June 4, 2016, as “National Health & Fitness Day” in Victoria County.

It was moved and seconded to proclaim June 4, 2016, as “National Health and Fitness Day” in the Municipality of the County of Victoria. Motion carried.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #8

Councillor Buchanan congratulated Andrew Brooks on the new look *Victoria Standard*. He indicated that residents in his district like the new format.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis requested that contact be made again with Ray Briand and Bruce Hatcher to come to Council with regard to the striped bass issue.

Councillor MacInnis also mentioned Council travelling to various districts on the County during the summer months and indicated he would host a July Council meeting at the Indian Brook Fire Hall.

District #1

It was moved and seconded that \$100.00 be approved from each of the district budgets for the Island Strong Motorcycle Association. Motion carried.

District #2

Councillor Grant indicated that Symphony Nova Scotia is considering local performances in various venues in Nova Scotia and interest has been expressed locally on this matter.

A letter requesting they consider Victoria County for a local performance is to be forwarded.

District #1

Councillor MacNeil questioned if it was possible to have the heavy garbage on the roadside between the Nova Scotia Highland Village and the Parish Hall in Iona, removed this Thursday and Friday prior to World Oceans Day in Iona.

The collection is set to begin on Monday, June 6, 2016, however; the CAO will contact Robert Dauphinee to see if early removal in this area is possible.

Councillor MacNeil also indicated he would like to have a Water Committee meeting in the near future. He will forward an email to the Committee members with the date for the meeting.

Robert Dauphinee is presently investigating the best means for providing bulk water sales.

BY-LAWS

Electronic Voting By-Law

Council were previously provided with a copy of the proposed “By-Law to Authorize the Voting by Telephone/Internet for the 2016 Municipal Election” (Electronic Voting By-Law).

It was moved and seconded to approve the first reading of the “By-Law to Authorize the Voting by Telephone/Internet for the 2016 Municipal Election”. Motion carried.

Subdivision By-Law

The proposed Subdivision By-Law for the Municipality of the County of Victoria was presented for first reading.

Councillor Grant indicated his concern with regard to the proposed paving standards, but was not opposed to giving the by-law first reading.

It was moved and seconded to approve the first reading of the “Victoria County Subdivision By-Law”. Motion carried.

The date for public hearing on both by-laws will be June 27, 2016.

NEW BUSINESS

PROVINCIAL CAUCUS

Sandy Hudson advised that the Provincial Government Caucus will be meeting with Council on Wednesday, June 15, 2016, from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Court House.

REN6

Sandy Hudson advised that at their June 8, 2016, Council meeting, CBRM have indicated that they will be withdrawing from REN6.

REN6 will continue with the other three municipal units – Richmond, Inverness and Victoria.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, it was moved and seconded to adjourn at 6:15 p.m.

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO