

**VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**  
**February 27, 2017**

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, February 27, 2017, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Warden Bruce Morrison in the Chair.

Present were:

District #1 – Paul MacNeil  
District #2 – Perla MacLeod  
District #3 – Bruce Morrison, Warden  
District #4 – Merrill MacInnis  
District #5 – Fraser Patterson  
District #6 – Larry Dauphinee, Deputy Warden  
District #7 – Wayne Budge  
District #8 – Norman MacDonald

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.

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

**STAFF SGT. DARREN WAIDSON**

Courtesy of Council was extended to Staff Sgt. Darren Waidson, District Commander, Victoria District RCMP (Baddeck, Ingonish Beach and Wagmatcook First Nations policing jurisdictions)..

Staff Sgt Waidson thanked Council for the invitation to appear. He is a Cape Breton native in his 27<sup>th</sup> year with the RCMP. He advised Council of his familiarity with Baddeck area having worked at the Inverary Resort and being married there and he also provided background information on his policing career to date.

Staff Sgt. Waidson came to the Victoria District RCMP from the RCMP Depot Division in Regina, Saskatchewan, having served in various detachments in Manitoba and Nova Scotia prior to his service at Depot Division.

Staff Sgt. Waidson indicated that he works with an amazing staff in the Victoria District and he is excited to guide them and work with them to provide policing throughout Victoria County.

Council welcomed Staff Sgt. Waidson to Victoria County and brought forward issues/concerns within their districts.

Warden Morrison indicated that Council and the RCMP Staff Sgt. have in the past had a regular dialogue (three to four times per year) and it is anticipated that this will continue.

Staff Sgt. Waidson assured Council it would and he indicated he is available to contact at any time.

Warden Morrison extended a thank you to Staff Sgt. Waidson on behalf of Council for his attendance.

### **ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL FOUNDATION**

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Leslie Wright, Executive Director; Aynsley MacFarlane, Chair, A. G. Bell Foundation and Madeline Harvey, Parks Canada.

Leslie Wright provided introductions and gave an overview on the Foundation and their work with Parks Canada and the A. G. Bell Museum Association.

The A. G. Bell Foundation is a nationally registered charity receiving this status in January, 2016. The Foundation has been established to build and support the capacity of the Village of Baddeck and the Province of Nova Scotia and key partners like the Bell Family Descendants and the A. G. Bell National Historic Site to tell the story of Alexander Graham Bell and Mabel Bell – their legacy, contribution, and their impacts that continue to be relevant in today's society.

Ms. Wright outlined some of the work the Foundation has been undertaking including:

- Community Partners
- Canada 150
- Beinn Bhreagh Hall Feasibility Study
- The Museum Association and Parks Canada
- County consultations and engagement
- Communications and fundraising

The Beinn Bhreagh Hall Feasibility Study is funded through support from ACOA and the Province. The study will evaluate and prioritize programming opportunities at Beinn Bhreagh

Hall and its surrounding property with revenue generating potential that ensures its long term sustainability.

2019 will be the centennial of the hydrofoil and festivities will take place around this milestone.

Madeline Harvey indicated that the Parks Canada Bell site is happy to be able to work with groups that expand capacity at the site and are excited to welcome the A. G. Bell Foundation on board.

Aynsley MacFarlane, Chair of both the A. G. Bell Foundation and the A. G. Bell Museum Association explained the difference between both organizations, indicating that the Foundation can accept money and assist the Museum site with the ability to fund projects.

The A. G. Bell site's readiness for Canada 150 was questioned. Madeline Harvey indicated that they are currently planning for an estimated 30% increase in visitation. Traffic and parking are two areas that will have to be addressed. A mitigation plan will have to be put in place.

A question was raised on whether there were plans for expansion at the AG Bell Museum and it was indicated that they are moving forward animating the site as it is and that is the focus.

Innovation and the Bell Labs were discussed. The AG Bell site works closely with the AT&T Lab in New Jersey and others. The possibility of having an incubation centre locally was mentioned and discussed.

Access to Beinn Bhreagh Hall was discussed. More will be known when the feasibility study is complete. The access to the building during last year's Celtic Colours Festival was discussed. The tours were sold out and it was a great experience for the visitors and Bell family members.

After further discussion, Warden Morrison extended a thank you to Leslie Wright, Aynsley MacFarlane and Madeline Harvey for the presentation.

### **RECESS**

Warden Morrison advised that Council would recess for 5 minutes.

### **VICTORIA COUNTY PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STRATEGY**

Courtesy of Council was extended to Eileen Woodford, Chair and Vince Forrestall, Coordinator, Victoria County Physical Activity Strategy.

Eileen Woodford presented an update on the Victoria County Physical Activity and Healthy Eating Strategy – Naturally Active for Life (copy attached).

Ms. Woodford provided an outline of who they were and what they do. The importance of physical activity and healthy eating was summarized indicating that they are key to health and well-being.

The results to date were provided, as were the results of a survey of residents.

The budget allocation for physical active living was explained and the opportunities looking forward were provided, including infrastructure, programs, policy and system supports.

Access to schools and the cost of accessing same were discussed. This is an obstacle and as the Superintendent of the CBV Regional School Board will be in attendance at Council tomorrow evening, it was felt that this is something that can be addressed then.

The successes in the northern area of the Municipality were discussed indicating that cost and safety are two issues that are brought forward by the residents.

The successful events taking place in District #5 were also outlined. Congratulations were extended from all Councillors on the events, promotions and successes as a result of the strategy.

The lack of statistics for the under 15 population was discussed. With summer coming, it is hoped that there will be plans in place for this population.

Along with the health of the community, it is also the social aspect that is equally as important.

After further discussion, Warden Morrison extended a thank you to Eileen Woodford and Vince Forrestall for the presentation and indicated that if there is anything Council can do, to ask.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JANUARY 23, 2017**

The minutes of the January 23, 2017, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

**It was moved and seconded that the January 23, 2017, minutes of Victoria County Municipal Council be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

**BUSIENSS ARISING FROM MINUTES – JANUARY 23, 2017**

The concern addressed at the last meeting with regard to the battery pack issue and life at the Bell stations was discussed. Councillor Patterson indicated that the Ross Ferry Fire Chief was given a number to call and when he did, he received no answer.

Councillor MacInnes brought up concern with access to these Bell stations. The stations are not being plowed adequately. He indicated that the problems began when Aliant came under Bell. There are only 2 contractors in Cape Breton designated to remove snow from these stations. He provided a contact name of Dale MacNeil, Bell, who should be contacted.

The CAO indicated he is awaiting confirmation of the new Regional Manager for Bell.

The BLUE DOT Campaign was approved by Council on December 5, 2017, and a declaration is in the process of being drafted for approval.

Concern was raised that Victoria County's endorsement of this Campaign is being used for other means, i. e. that Victoria County is against the Biomass operation, when in fact, this has not been an issue of discussion for Council to date.

The proposed Declaration is to be reviewed in detail prior to approval.

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to Paul Strome, David Suzuki Elder, requesting that he limit the use of referencing Victoria County in his communications and endorsements. Motion carried.**

The status of the Victoria County Tourism Strategy was discussed. An update will be requested from Tom Wilson.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JANUARY 30, 2017**

The January 30, 2017, minutes of the Joint Victoria County Municipal Council and Wagmatcook First Nation Band Council were presented for approval.

**It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the January 30, 2017, Joint Meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council and Wagmatcook First Nation Band Council be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

#### **NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

Deputy Warden Dauphinee indicated that the Broadband Committee is looking into funding programs and felt that when these programs are identified, there should be funding in place.

He indicated that at a future meeting he will be bringing forth a motion to include funding for Broadband in the budget planning for this and future years

**NEW BUSINESS**

**EASTERN DISTRICT PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS**

It was moved and seconded that the appointments of EDPC staff to Municipal positions be approved as follows:

- **Administrator – Dangerous and Unsightly Premises - Sean Donovan**  
Alternate – John Bain
- **Building Inspector – David MacKenzie**  
Alternates – Cyril LeBlanc, Leon LeBlanc, Harry Martell, and Sean Donovan
- **Special Constable – Sean Donovan**
- **Development Officer – Wanda Ryan**  
Alternates – John Bain, Nathan MacLeod, and Andrew Jones
- **Fire Inspector – Leon LeBlanc**  
Alternates – David MacKenzie, Cyril LeBlanc, and Sean Donovan

**Motion carried.**

**DOG CONTROL ISSUE**

The ongoing dog issue in District #5 was discussed and Lorne MacLeod will coming to a future Council meeting.

Sandy Hudson advised that he is investigating having our Dog Control Officers become Peace Officers with the capability to issue Summary Offence Tickets. If we proceed in this route changes will have to be made to the current Dog Control By-Law.

**SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT BY-LAW**

A draft of the amended Solid Waste Management By-Law was provided to each Council member for review and comment at the March 13, 2017, Council session.

**POLICE ADVISORY BOARD**

A request was received from the Province for the Chairman of our Police Advisory Board.

The Province has never approved a member to this Board and no meeting has been held or a Chairman appointed.

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

A Public Works Committee meeting was held prior to Council and a couple of recommendations were made for Council approval.

**It was moved and seconded that Council on behalf of the Victoria County Water Utility, apply to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board for changes in its rates for water and water service and changes to its rules and regulations for customers served by the Utility as set out in the Water Rate Study prepared by G. A. Isenor Consulting Ltd., in association with Blaine S Rooney Consulting Ltd. Motion carried.**

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the NS Utility and Review Board requesting approval for the replacement of the tower for the Neil's Harbour/New Haven Water Utility. Motion carried.**

### **TAX SALE**

Sandy Hudson advised that he has sent 14 properties that have description problems to a local surveyor to see if he can come up with the proper description to allow these properties to be put on Tax Sale. The surveyor's cost is \$4,800.00.

### **FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES**

Five Councillors have expressed an interest in attending the FCM Conference in Ottawa from June 1-4, 2017. There is a motion on the books that four are permitted to attend.

**It was moved and seconded that five Councillors be authorized to attend the 2017 FCM Conference in Ottawa. Motion carried.**

### **DEPARTMENT OF TIR**

A meeting will be held with Department of TIR officials tomorrow at 1:00 p.m. at the Provincial Building, Baddeck.

### **CBVRSB**

Beth MacIsaac, Superintendent of the CBVRSB, will be in attendance at Council tomorrow at 5:00 p.m.

### **GORDON MCINTOSH**

Gordon McIntosh, LGL Institute, is available to meet with Council on April 24 and 25 2017, in Baddeck to provide training.

Council agreed that Mr. McIntosh be retained for these dates and a Committee will be formed to determine the topics to be covered.

**DISTRICT CONCERNS**

**District #5**

**It was moved and seconded that a street light order be placed for installation at 10022 Kempt Head Road, Ross Ferry, on pole across from the community mailbox. Motion carried.**

**District #6**

Deputy Warden Dauphinee questioned on the status of the easement request on Water Tower Road.

This matter is still being investigated and an update will be provided when available.

**District #7**

Councillor Budge questioned on the status of the request to DNR for land above Highland Manor. The CAO will follow up on this request.

**It was moved and seconded that \$250.00 be approved from the District #7 budget for St. John's Parish Hall, Ingonish, to assist with a fitness program. Motion carried.**

**District #8**

Councillor MacDonald presented a petition from Gregg Capstick for the repaving of the Dingwall Road.

**It was moved and seconded that the petition be forwarded to the Minister of TIR. Motion carried.**

Councillor MacDonald advised that the North Harbour Channel is blocked and they have been unable to obtain the permit to clear the channel. This issue has been ongoing since January 16, 2017.

**It was moved and seconded that the CAO contact the Minister of Natural Resources to request that the permit be issued to clear North Harbour Channel. Motion carried.**

Councillor MacDonald questioned on the status of the exploration for a water source for Bay St. Lawrence.

The CAO advised that a water drill rig has been booked for March 20, 2017, to drill in both Bay St. Lawrence and Neil's Harbour. More should be known by the end of March on this matter.

Councillor MacDonald attended the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations for the 1987 Jeux Canada Winter Games in Cape North recently. There were over 100 people in attendance.

**District #4**

**It was moved and seconded that a street light order be placed for installation at 3620 New Harris Road, New Harris. Motion carried.**

Councillor MacInnes extended appreciation to the CAO for his effort with regard to cell phone coverage in the Tarbot/North Shore area.

Sandy Hudson advised that Victoria County is working with a group of other municipalities to identify areas where cell phone coverage is needed. The Cape Breton MP's have been contacted in this regard also.

**It was moved and seconded that we support, in principle, cell phone coverage for the Tarbot area. Motion carried.**

**District #2**

**It was moved and seconded that a street light be ordered for 8529 Highway 105, Baddeck Inlet. Motion carried.**

Councillor MacLeod brought forward concern with regard to individuals walking at night without wearing reflective clothing.

It was felt that a reminder to wear reflective clothing at night should be advertised as a public service announcement.

**District #1**

Councillor MacNeil brought forward concern with the possibility that CBRM will not be conducting a heavy garbage collection this year.

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to CBRM expressing concern about the possibility of no heavy garbage collection in CBRM this year. Motion carried.**

**District #3**

Warden Morrison indicated that he and Councillor Patterson attended a session regarding highway twinning, including the potential use of tolls, recently.

It was indicated that a new controlled access highway is planned for Highway 104. It will not be twinned.

As a point of interest, Highway 104 is designated as the national highway across Canada

The cost of the new highway would be \$481 million and tolls would range in price from \$5.00 to \$22.00. There is not sufficient traffic volume to warrant a twinned highway.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councillor Patterson will be meeting with Patrick Austin, EDO, on Thursday, and a meeting of the Economic Development Committee will be scheduled after this meeting.

An Age-Friendly meeting will be held on Saturday, March 4, 2017.

**ADJOURN**

**There being no further business, it was moved to adjourn at 7:15 p.m.**

**Bruce Morrison, Warden**

**Sandy Hudson, CAO**