

**VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**  
**October 30, 2017**

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, October 30, 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:

Leanne MacEachen, Acting CAO  
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

**CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Warden 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.**

**PRESENTATION – SOVEREIGN’S MEDAL FOR VOLUNTEERS – JUDY ROSS**

Warden Morrison welcomed Judy Ross to Council to present to her, on behalf of the Governor General of Canada, the Sovereign’s Medal for Volunteers.

This medal recognizes exceptional volunteer achievements and honours the dedication and commitment of volunteers. Warden Morrison presented the list of organizations that Mrs. Ross has been involved in throughout her lifetime and indicated it was indeed impressive.

He then called upon Councillor Merrill MacInnis, District #4 Councillor, to present the medal to his constituent, Judy Ross.

Councillor MacInnis presented the certificate and Sovereign’s Medal to Judy Ross and congratulated her for the significant contributions she has made. He also presented a County golf shirt to Mrs. Ross, on behalf of the Municipality.

Warden Morrison acknowledged Judy Ross's husband, Walter, and her sister, Mona Asaph, and other members of the public who were in attendance as well.

**PRESENTATION – EILEEN WOODFORD**

Warden Morrison introduced Eileen Woodford, who recently resigned as Chair of the Victoria County Active Living Strategy after serving in this position since Day 1 in 2011.

On behalf of the Municipality, Vince Forrestall presented a Certificate of Recognition to Eileen Woodford for her leadership and dedication and expressed thanks on behalf of the Municipality.

Ms. Woodford indicated she would stay involved in active living in other ways and expressed her appreciation to Council for the support of the strategy.

A golf shirt was presented to Ms. Woodford, on behalf of the Municipality.

**BRAS D'OR LAKE BIOSPHERE RESERVE ASSOCIATION SIGNAGE PROGRAM**

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Gordon Kerr, Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve Association, who was in attendance to present on a proposed signage program – *Signage: An Opportunity for Building Community*" (copy attached).

Mr. Kerr provided background on the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve which received its designation in 2011 under the Man and the Biosphere Program, a UNESCO initiative. He outlined what biospheres are and what they are not. The three functions of a biosphere reserve are to promote conservation of biodiversity; promote sustainable economic development and support capacity building through research, monitoring and education.

Mr. Kerr then explained the proposed signage program and outlined the rationale for the program. It will create high public awareness of the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve; create easy public access to experiences in the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve; and create economic development opportunities and affiliations.

Mr. Kerr outlined the types of signs which include welcome, interpretive; visitor information and pedestrian wayfinding signs. He provided the proposed locations for the various types of signage. The signage project requires government endorsement with substantial financial investment. He outlined that funding will be requested from ACOA, First Nations, provincial government departments and municipalities.

The revised project costs are \$455,000.00 net taxes and he indicated that \$16,500.00 is being requested from each Municipality. Mr. Kerr indicated that he hoped to complete the ACOA application next week.

Mr. Kerr indicated that Richmond County has agreed to support the plan based on seeing the final figures and they will be meeting with Inverness County on Monday and have yet to arrange a meeting with CBRM.

**It was moved and seconded to support the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere signage program in principle, pending the final costs. Motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – OCTOBER 17, 2017**

The minutes of the October 17, 2017, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

**It was moved and seconded that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of October 30, 2017, be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**BELL ALIANT**

Leanne MacEachern contacted a representative from Bell Aliant with regard to coming to Council but was informed there was nothing in Cape Breton on their priority list, so they would have nothing to report.

**WASTE COLLECTION NUMBERS**

Leanne MacEachern presented a comparison of the number of rejection stickers in the first week and second weeks of collection since mandatory clear bag collection came into effect on October 16, 2017. The number of rejection stickers in the second week of collection was down from 40% to 90% in the various collection areas.

The number of stops on the collection routes was questioned as a further comparison. These numbers will be obtained for a future meeting.

Council felt that in the spring, prior to the return of seasonal residents, a renewed education period should be undertaken.

Councillor MacInnis questioned on the status of the reusable bags for the food bank and this will be further investigated.

**TAXATION UPDATE**

The total taxes owing as of today is \$2.4 million, with arrears accounting for \$1.073 of this amount. Compared to this time last year, the current is up by \$144,000 and the arrears up by \$46,000.00.

Concerted efforts are being undertaken to reduce the taxes owing. Staff are making phone calls and learning how other municipalities handle tax arrears.

The idea of having a media blitz related to taxation was discussed and might be another method of triggering delinquent taxpayers to pay their account. Leanne MacEachen indicated how a media campaign regarding dog tags increased the revenue significantly over the past year and this may do the same for taxes.

A further update will be provided at the next Council meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Capital Planning Day**

Leanne MacEachen indicated that a capital planning day will be scheduled for January 29, 2018.

#### **Road Name Change – Fargher’s Lane, Estmere**

A road name petition was received to name unnamed private road in Estmere, Fargher’s Lane.

**It was moved and seconded to submit this road name change to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal and the Eastern District Planning Commission for their approval. Motion carried.**

#### **Christmas Party**

Leanne MacEachen advised that the first Christmas Party planning meeting was held today and a change in location and format is being considered.

### **DISTRICT CONCERNS**

#### **District #5**

Councillor Patterson questioned on the status of SPCA coverage in the Boularderie area. This coverage should take effect shortly and an update will be provided.

#### **District #6**

**It was moved and seconded that \$500.00 be approved from the District #6 budget for the Cabot Trail Lions Club to assist with their programs. Motion carried.**

**It was moved and seconded that \$1,000.00 be approved for the Smokey Recreation Society for their seniors program from the District #6 budget. Motion carried.**

Deputy Warden Dauphinee brought up the issue of derelict vehicles. There have been 180 derelict vehicles identified in the northern area of the County and a local contractor will begin pickup of same. The County used to have a derelict vehicle program and he felt this should be considered in budget planning for next year.

**District #8**

**It was moved and seconded that a street light order be placed for installation at 859 Capstick Road, Capstick. Motion carried.**

Councillor MacDonald indicated he received a number of calls with regard to shortage of water in the Cape North area. He questioned on the status of an extension to the waterline to Cape North and was advised it was second on the list behind Bay St. Lawrence Water.

Pump testing is presently being conducted on the drilled wells at Bay St. Lawrence and once the results are received on the status of this supply, more will be known.

The cost of extending the waterline to Cape North was questioned and preliminary figures indicate it to be around \$1 million.

**District #2**

Councillor MacLeod requested that Jocelyn Bethune, Communications Officer, be contact Carla Arsenault, COO, Cape Breton Partnership, to do an article about the Vietnam mission and post it on the website to explain what it entails.

Constable Fabian Kenny, Baddeck RCMP, was recently recognized with a Commendation for Bravery for his bravery and compassion in rescuing a suicidal male on the Seal Island Bridge on December 27, 2015. A certificate of recognition is to be presented to Constable Kenny from the Municipality at a future Council meeting.

Councillor MacLeod updated on the Raising the Villages event which was held at the Baddeck Community Centre on Saturday past. The event was very successful. An event was also held in Iona and one will be held this weekend in Bay St. Lawrence.

The condition of the Westside Big Baddeck Road, in the area of Rocking Horse Ranch, was brought up.

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to Steve MacDonald, Area Manager, TIR requesting that maintenance be done on this road before winter. Motion carried.**

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to Minister Lloyd Hines, TIR, thanking him for his hospitality in meeting with Council and requesting he address the speed limit issue at the Baddeck Irving/Tim Hortons. Motion carried.**

**District #1**

Councillor MacNeil brought up the condition of the St. Columba Road, and in particular a washout on Small's Hill.

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to Darren Blunden, Area Manager, TIR, requesting repairs and patching be carried out on the St. Columba and Washabuck Roads. Motion carried.**

**District #3**

Warden Morrison indicated he was in contact with the District Health Authority last week with regard to the physician recruitment issue and prior to them coming to Council; they would like to meet with a small group of Council to hear concerns and be prepared for their meeting with full Council.

The meeting will be held on November 6, 2017, with two Councillors from the northern area and two from the south. Councillors MacDonald, MacNeil, MacLeod and Deputy Warden Dauphinee would be available, along with Warden Morrison.

Warden Morrison congratulated Councillor MacLeod and Councillor MacNeil on the Raising the Villages events held last weekend. Councillor MacDonald indicated the Bay St. Lawrence event will be held on November 4, 2017.

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

A meeting of the Public Works Committee will be held on Tuesday, November 14, 2017, at 4:00 p.m. prior to the Council meeting.

**BY-LAW/POLICY REVIEW**

**Victoria County Emergency Plan**

Lyle Donovan, EMC, previously forwarded the Victoria County Emergency Plan for Council to review.

**It was moved and seconded to approve the Victoria County Emergency Plan. Motion carried.**

There is a one day course that all elected officials and the CAO should attend. Mr. Donovan will arrange to have this meeting held at the end of November in Indian Brook.

**Dangerous and Unsightly Premises Policy**

Leanne MacEachen presented the Dangerous and Unsightly Premises Policy for Council approval. The Policy was previously forwarded for review.

**It was moved and seconded to approve the Dangerous and Unsightly Premises Policy. Motion carried.**

The status of dangerous and unsightly premises cases in Victoria County was questioned.

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the Eastern District Planning Commission requesting that an update be provided on the open Dangerous and Unsightly Premises cases in the County as soon as possible. Motion carried.**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Letter from Dr. Carlyle Chow, thanking the Municipality to initiating a scholarship in his honour.
2. Correspondence from Shawn Kirby, Mining Association of Nova Scotia, with regard to a land swap policy with the province with regard to mineral exploration.

This matter is to be tabled for the present and discussed at a future meeting.

Warden Morrison extended Council's appreciation for the timely manner in which outgoing correspondence is being received.

**MEETING**

A meeting concerning the snowmobile overpass into Baddeck is being held at the Inverary Resort at 7:00 p.m.

**ADJOURN**

**There being no further business, it was moved to adjourn at 6:50 p.m.**

**Bruce Morrison, Warden**

**Leanne MacEachen, Acting CAO**