

**VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**  
**November 28, 2017**

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Tuesday, November 28, 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**

Warden Morrison 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.**

**THEATRE BADDECK PRESENTATION**

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Christy MacRae-Ziss and Hannah Ziss, Co-Artistic Directors of Theatre Baddeck.

Theatre Baddeck is an incorporated Not-for-Profit, run by a Board comprised of local business owners. Christy MacRae-Ziss indicated they are a professional member of Theatre Nova Scotia and outlined their mission statement to Council.

Ms. MacRae-Ziss indicated their roots are in Middle River and Baddeck, with her father being from the area and they have called Baddeck their summer home all their lives. She provided their acting and education backgrounds to Council.

Hannah Ziss indicated that TripAdvisor has ranked Theatre Baddeck as #3 in “Things to Do” in Baddeck. They have seen a 235% increase in attendance in 2017 over 2016 and ticket revenue has increased by 289% over the same time period. 59% of the expenses are covered by ticket revenue.

Statistics on where those attending the theatre performances come from were provided.

Ms. MacRae-Ziss that the 2018 season is to be announced in January 2018 and will hopefully include a world-premiere, two comedies and a winter production to include a hybrid of professional and community actors. Theatre Baddeck’s draw power was outlined.

The partnership with businesses in Baddeck was outlined and it was indicated there is room to grow.

Theatre Baddeck is in the process of making application to Tourism Nova Scotia for their Digital Marketing program. This is a cost sharing program and they are requesting that the Municipality provide \$5,000.00 as a presenting sponsor. This investment will double if the application to the Digital Marketing program is successful.

Hannah Ziss explained what digital marketing entailed. Whether there were any plans for going on the road to provide theatre entertainment was questioned and it was indicated that until Theatre Baddeck can grow, there is only so much they can achieve, but it is in their long term plans.

Council was advised that a presenting sponsor is an overriding sponsor for the entire season. The return to the Municipality for its investment was outlined.

Warden Morrison suggested that Tom Wilson, Department of Recreation and Tourism, be contacted with regard to possible funding in his budget. This will be the first step and the Municipality will proceed from these findings.

A thank you was extended to ChristyMacRae-Ziss and Hannah Ziss for their presentation and they were excused at this time.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NOVEMBER 14, 2017**

The minutes of the November 14, 2017, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

**It was moved and seconded that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of November 14, 2017, be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**SPCA COVERAGE – DISTRICT #5**

Councillor Patterson questioned if anyone has spoken to John Berk, Dog Control Officer, with regard to him being the contact with the SPCA for calls in District #5.

Leanne MacEachen will speak with John Berk in this regard.

**BUILDING PERMIT REQUIREMENTS**

David MacKenzie, Building Inspector, will be coming to Council in January, 2018, with regard to what constitutes the need for a building permit and updating on the regulations.

**MINING ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA**

The request from Shawn Kirby, Mining Association of Nova Scotia, was tabled at the last meeting and will not be re-visited. An excerpt from the November 14, 2017, regarding the action taken on this matter is to be forwarded to Mr. Kirby.

**BADDECK ACADEMY GYM ACCESS**

Leanne MacEachen indicated that the request for access to the gym for student athletes from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. has not received a positive response.

Discussion took place on this matter. Councillor MacLeod indicated that 4 out of the 6 day school cycle, the students can use the gym at noon, but this is not what they want. They have been told it is a Union issue. It was felt a formal letter should be forwarded to the Cape Breton-Victoria District School Board (CBVRSB) with regard to the request for after school access.

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the CBVRSB requesting access to the gym facilities after school for student athletes. Motion carried.**

**NOVA SCOTIA HEALTH AUTHORITY CEO VISIT**

Councillor Patterson indicated that he and Councillor MacLeod attended the town hall meeting with Janet Knox, CEO, NSHA, at the Victoria County Memorial Hospital on November 21, 2017. He indicated it was a good meeting and notes were taken of the concerns addressed, i.e. parking lot upgrade, physician recruitment, etc.

Councillor Patterson was advised that a representative of the NSHA in the Eastern Region is available to meet with Council by contacting Rose Surette, Facility Manger, VCMH.

Warden Morrison indicated that at the meeting held with NSHA officials earlier in the month, they agreed to come to a public meeting of Council in January, 2018, with regard to physician recruitment and other issues.

A formal letter is to be sent thanking them for meeting with representatives from Council and asking them to attend the January, 2018 meeting of full Council. Council will meet based on the Health Authorities availability.

### **BADDECK MULTI-USE OVERPASS**

Warden Morrison updated Council on the status of the multi-use overpass on the TCH 105, west of Baddeck. Presently work is being undertaken on land and legal issues and a meeting has been scheduled for tomorrow evening.

Two areas the Municipality can assist are contacting the Department of TIR to see if the land behind the Baddeck Curling Club could be used for a de-trailering area for snowmobiles and investigate insurance coverage for the overpass.

Warden Morrison indicated that an update will be available for the next meeting.

### **TAXATION UPDATE**

Leanne MacEachen advised that since the last meeting \$140,000.00 has been collected - \$80,000 of current and \$60,000 from prior years. Progress is being made and the article with regard to outstanding taxes published recently has resulted in some response. Staff is making phone calls and payment arrangements and this will be continued.

The Municipality of Antigonish staff visited and outlined some of their best practices for tax collection.

Leanne MacEachen was commended for the radio interview on this subject. Council are pleased with the progress on collection, but addressing the tax arrears remains a priority item for Council.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **RAISING THE VILLAGES**

Councillor MacLeod presented a draft resolution with regard to "Raising the Villages". She requested Council provide feedback. A meeting will be held in early January prior to the Summit to be held later in January, with First Nations Chiefs, Wardens/Mayors and Councillors of each of the Municipalities to have a conversation and commitment before signing the declaration at the Summit

Councillors were encouraged to attend these meetings in January, 2018. Council will also review the draft resolution and it will be discussed at the December 11, 2017, Council meeting.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Patrick Austin, EDO, has been requested to provide an update on economic development. A meeting of the Economic Development Committee is to be held at 4:00 p.m. prior to the Council meeting in January, 2108.

**NORTH VICTORIA SIX PORTS HARBOUR AUTHORITY**

Deputy Warden Dauphinee met with representatives of the North Victoria Six Ports Harbour Authority and he indicated that the meeting went extremely well. The funding for the organization can be released.

**TRANSIT**

Councillor Patterson indicated that he received a draft MOU from Councillor Jim Mustard with regard to a rural transit pilot for Victoria County in 2018. There is funding available through the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage for a pilot project for transit in new regions.

They are requesting a municipal representative to work on the plan for a pilot project and be a Board Member of Strait Area Transit.

**It was moved and seconded that Councillor Fraser Patterson be appointed as the municipal representative for planning the pilot project and become a Board Member of Strait Area Transit. Motion carried.**

**HIGHLAND MANOR**

A request was received from Highland Manor with regard to paving their driveway and parking area. Stan's Paving provided quotes for the paving required. Total cost would be approximately \$103,000.00. It was indicated that the prices were last year prices.

**It was moved and seconded that Highland Manor's request be referred to budget deliberations. Motion carried.**

**MINISTER OF HEALTH**

At present, Hospital Charitable Foundations in Nova Scotia are to provide 25% of the cost for anything required and it was felt it was unreasonable to raise this amount.

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to Premier Stephen McNeil requesting that the community portion of the amount required for projects which is raised by the Hospital Charitable Foundation be reduced from its present 25%, as this amount is felt to be too high. Motion carried.**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

A letter was received from TIR advising that the St. Columba Road has been graded and cold patch mix has been placed in the holes.

Approval was received from TIR and the EDPC with regard to the proposed road name changed of a private road in Estmere to Fargher's Lane.

**It was moved and seconded that the Municipality approve the road name for the private road in Estmere as "Fargher's Lane". Motion carried.**

Correspondence was received from TIR indicating that grading has been completed on the Westside Big Baddeck Road.

A letter was received from Warden Mike Mosher, District of St. Mary's, opposing the proposed name change from the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities to the Federation of Nova Scotia Municipalities and requesting that the UNSM Board revisit this proposed name change.

**It was moved and seconded that the Municipality forward a letter to the UNSM also opposing the proposed name change of the organization. Motion carried.**

**RECESS**

Warden Morrison announced that Council would recess for 10 minutes and advised that Council wished Councillor MacLeod as belated Happy Birthday. Cake was served to all in attendance.

**DISTRICT CONCERNS**

**District #6**

**It was moved and seconded that \$1,000.00 be approved from the District #6 budget for the Cabot Trail Lions Club transportation pilot project. Motion carried.**

**It was moved and seconded that \$500.00 be approved for the North of Smokey Food Bank from the District #6 budget. Motion carried.**

**District #7**

**It was moved and second that \$500.00 be approved from the District #7 budget for “We Day”. Motion carried.**

Councillor Budge questioned on the availability of dog tags for purchase in the northern area of the Municipality via the Dog Control Officer.

Leanne MacEachen will investigate the most reasonable way to provide dog tags and have the Dog Control Officer handle the monies received. She will discuss this issue with Terry Hogan, Dog Control Officer.

**District #8**

Councillor MacDonald also indicated he received this same request from two people in his district with regard to purchase of dog tags.

**District #4**

Councillor MacInnis presented a resolution with regard to Agricultural Land Policy and Land Use By-Laws (copy attached).

**It was moved and seconded, that the Municipality, in partnership with the Municipality of the County of Inverness and the Inverness-Victoria Federation of Agriculture, mandate the EDPC to undertake the process of developing policies and potential land use by-laws for agricultural lands. Motion carried.**

Councillor MacInnis again brought up the topic of RV/trailer parks. This matter is to be referred to the EDPC and David MacKenzie and John Bain come to a Council meeting to discuss the regulations regarding same.

**District #1**

Councillor MacNeil brought up an outstanding unsightly premises issue next to Rankin School of the Narrows.

**It was moved and seconded that this matter be referred to the Dangerous and Unsightly Premises Administrator for investigation. Motion carried.**

**District #3**

Warden Morrison extended a thank you to all Councillors who participated in the Baddeck and Ingonish Christmas Parades.

Council was advised that the rejection numbers this week for black bags were excellent. Eight rejection stickers were left in the Monday run, 1 on Tuesday and none the remaining of the collection days.

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the CBVDSB questioning on the status of the bleachers for the Baddeck Academy Sports Field. Motion carried.**

**It was moved and seconded that \$125.00 be approved from each of the 8 district budgets (\$1,000.00) for the “Light Up a Life” Feed Nova Scotia campaign. Motion carried.**

Councillors requested that they be provided with the amount remaining in their district budget funds.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council will be held on Monday, December 11, 2017, at 5:00 p.m.

**ADJOURN**

**There being no further business, it was moved to adjourn at 6:35 p.m.**

**Leanne MacEachen, Acting CAO**

**Bruce Morrison, Warden**