

## Victoria County Municipal Council

May 28, 2018

A meeting of the Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck on Monday, May 7, 2018 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

Staff:

Leanne MacEachen, CAO  
Jocelyn Bethune, Recorder

### **CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Warden Morrison called the meeting to order. He requested that Gail Boudreau of the Alderwood Working Council be added to the agenda.

**It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved with these changes.  
Motion carried. Agenda approved.**

### **ALEDERWOOD WORKING COUNCIL**

The Warden welcomed Ms. Boudreau to Council.

Last year, council provided the Alderwood Working Council with \$5000 to assist with the purchase of a wheelchair accessible van by March 31, 2018. A van was not found in the time frame allotted and the funding was returned. However, in the past 2 months, a van that fit the requirements was located and the funding is now required. Council decided to re-approve the funding of \$5000 towards a wheelchair accessible van for Alderwood.

**It was moved and seconded that funding of \$5000 be provided to Alderwood Working Council towards the purchase of a wheelchair accessible van.**

**Motion carried.**

## **NOVA SCOTIA POWER**

Courtesy of council was extended to Nova Scotia Power and those from the corporation speaking to council, which included:

- Paul Casey – VP Transmission & Distribution
- Paula Condon – Senior Operations manager, Cape Breton
- Trevor Beaton, Manager of Shared Services
- Tim Allen, Forestry Coordinator
- Lisa MacDonald, Government Relations

Paul Casey said the associates were here to speak about reliability and storm response. There are more and more repeated storms each year – far more and different kinds of storms than we have traditionally seen. This means making changes to responses. In the last 10 years, the NSP emergency operations centre was opened - on average, once a year; now three times a year is more common. A decade ago NSP spent \$7million dollars a year on cutting trees and managing their right of ways; now it costs \$28 million dollars per year. Also, in January 2017, the UARB provided 13 performance standards the company must meet and this includes response times to downed lines and identifying poor performing substations.

As part of this process, Victoria County was identified as having poor performing substations – a situation that is being rectified. The geography of Victoria County is also identified as problematic. NSP is looking at newer technologies to help predict and identify where an issue on a power line is would eliminate the need for technicians to walk a line to find a problem like a downed tree.

Councillors asked questions regarding staffing levels North of Smokey, processes for staff when there is a storm and where tree cutting near power lines was planned for the upcoming season.

Mr. Casey discussed the NSP Outage line and the fact that the estimated time of outage is not an arbitrary number but is based on the number of resources available and what crews on the ground are saying. If crews on the ground cannot find an issue, then the estimated time is lengthened. The time is adjusted as required.

Council questioned NSP setting up comfort centres during recent storms. Comfort centres traditionally are stabled by EMO through a series of protocols (only established after 72 hours). Council felt this put undue expectation in the public that the municipality should open centres more quickly. Mr. Casey agreed more consultation is required with EMO and the Red Cross. Council reminded him that some entities can be quick to establish centres in larger urban areas, but there is no Red Cross in Victoria County.

More discussion took place regarding right of ways, smart meters and street lights. The Warden thanked the NSP folks for their discussion.

### **CAPE BRETON SAILING**

Courtesy of Council was extended to Brianne Lynch and Paul Jamison who spoke on their efforts to bring the Salty Dawg Sailing Association on a rally tour around the Bras d'Or Lake. The group is an American sailing association with 400 members with 30-60 foot sail boats who frequently host sailing rallies to different destinations. The plan is for 25 sail boats and crew to leave Maine in August and sail the Bras d'Or. So far, 15 boats are confirmed. They asked for \$15,000 to help host a Welcome reception and to provide kit bags for the sailors. Ms. Lynch and Mr. Jamison said they would also be approaching Richmond County for a similar amount. Council asked a number of questions including if all counties and Destination CB was approached to support this event.

Council decided to defer this request to budget discussions.

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be sent to Mary Tulle at Destination Cape Breton to show Victoria County's support of the project.**

**Motion carried.**

### **RECESS**

Warden Morrison advised that council would recess for 10 minutes.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the May 7, 2018 meeting of the Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

Two corrections were required: Larry Dauphinee's district was noted as District 5 and Port Hawkesbury Paper speaker Foncie Farrell's name was misspelled. With these corrections noted, **it was moved and seconded that the minutes of the May 7, 2018 council session be approved.**

**Motion carried.**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Discussions continue regarding land swap at Highland Manor
- The Director of Public Works spoke with Highland Fisheries regarding up-coming changes to the municipality's accepting crab shells. It was noted that the Verchuren

Centre at CBU recently announced a program that utilizes seafood shells for other purposes. CAO will contact them for more information.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Discussed presenters scheduled for the next council session including Andrew Stevenson who is looking to develop a trail along the Aspy Fault.
- Festiville Baddeck has requested the municipality sponsor an event. It was requested they present to council.

### **BUDGET UPDATE**

- The budget numbers have been finalized since council met regarding this issue two weeks ago. With a 2-cent increase in property taxes for both residential and commercial, it is expected the municipality will collect \$12.812 million, while expenditures are \$12.811 – resulting in a surplus of \$1000.
- Councillor Fraser Patterson noted the mandatory contributions for education had risen over last year, but this year, there is no schoolboard to ask questions of.
- Policing numbers came in a little lower than first anticipated.
- Alderwood Bus and Theatre Baddeck added.
- Capital grant recipients can now be informed.

**It was moved and seconded that council accept the recommendations from the budget talks and the 2018-2019 budget, with these updates, be approved as presented.**

**Motion carried.**

### **TAXATION UPDATE**

The CAO indicated that currently \$1.2441 million in taxes is outstanding, compared with \$1.3856 million this time last year. Overall, tax is down \$179,000 over last year; \$65,000 collected since last council session. The Tax Office will have a separate phone line and a person dedicated to tax collection throughout the day.

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS** - none

**Bylaw Review** – none

**Correspondence** – done.

### **DISTRICT CONCERNS**

Warden Morrison welcomed District #5 councillor Fraser Patterson back to council following an absence due to health reasons.

**District #5** Councillor Patterson thanked the warden and council, saying it was good to be back.

**District #6** Councillor Dauphinee requested a letter be sent to Golf North requesting that a representative from Ontario office speak to council about increases in golf fees and season pass holders at Highland Links that appear to target locals.

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be sent to Golf North reps in Ontario requesting they speak to council regarding increases at the Highlands Links Golf Course.**

**Motion Passed.**

Councillor Dauphinee requested that a letter be written to TIR requesting paving and patching on Wharf Road, Beach Crossing Road and Kings Point Road.

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be sent to TIR regarding:**

- **Change to speed limit on Yetman lane**
- **Cost of road work in norther Victoria & Inverness counties**
- **Gravelling & upgrading on Murphy Road, MacLeod Road, Long Tom Road and Barb's Lane**
- **Jimmy Gillis Loop Road impassable**

**Motion passed**

**Councillor Dauphinee commended Hike Nova Scotia for their well attended and well run recent hiking symposium in Ingonish. He requested commendations be sent to Hike NS and their local partners Parks Canada and the Keltic Lodge for a job well done.**

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be sent to Hike NS, Parks Canada and the Keltic Lodge.**

**Motion carried.**

Councillor Dauphinee inquired about noise by-laws, if there are some examples that can be found.

**District #7** Councillor Budge mentioned two J-class roads in his district that require gravelling and upgrading. He is willing to look at paying for this (dependent on the cost) from his district budget. He asked that Murphy road and MacLeod Road be added the TIR letter.

**District #8** Councillor MacDonald spoke about a public meeting MLA Keith Bain hosted in his district about road conditions. About 35 people attended. Councillor MacDonald requested TIR provide a breakdown on the road work for 2018-2019 North of Smokey in Victoria County and the northern section of Inverness County.

Councillor MacDonald discussed the Public Works meeting held recently in his district regarding water issues in Cape North and Bay St. Lawrence. He requested council meet in his district and incorporate a Public Works information session after fishing season ends in July.

**District #4** Councillor MacInnis mentioned it was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wreck Cove forest fire.

He mentioned the issue of public washrooms and determining locations.

He discussed Plaster provincial Park and wondered if a letter had been sent. CAO said the letter was sent and a response was received. DNR will be looking at the park next year.

**District #2** Councillor MacLeod wondered when the work on the parking lot at the Victoria Memorial hospital would begin. The Warden informed her it had started just this morning.

**District #1** Councillor MacNeil inquired whether the Public Works department has No Littering signs and whether a by-law or policy regarding littering exists. The CAO noted that there the PW department had signs previously but in terms of a bylaw, there was no way to enforce such a bylaw. Part of the strategic plan is to look into bylaws and compliance and in the meantime, we could supply some signage.

**World Oceans Day** will be celebrated in Iona on June 10. An invitation has been extended to all councillors.

District #1 TIR addition is Jimmy Gillis Road loop is now an impassable road to a popular beech.

Letter to Bernie Murphy of TIR requesting the speed limit on Yetman Lane, a single lane road, be lowered from 80 km/h.

**District #3** Councillor Morrison provided a quick update on the parking lot at the hospital. Work started today (May 28) and is expected to be completed in July.

Councillor Morrison commended organizers of the revitalized Cabot Day celebrations as they will be celebrating Cabot Day at the Cabot's Landing Provincial Park on June 28 once again this year. The celebrations had been suspended for a number of years.

Councillor Morrison reminded councillors that the federation of Canadian Municipalities are meeting in Halifax beginning Wednesday.

Councillor Morrison brought up the issue of public washrooms and stated the Bras d'Or Yacht Club is closing its public washroom facilities due to a lack of funding. He said the county provided \$3000 in funding, but others did not and so there was not enough money to cover the \$7000 in costs associated for the Yacht Club. He read a letter from a visitor to Baddeck who expressed concern about the lack of public washrooms. Councillor Morrison stated it is a tourism issue, an aging population issue and should be looked at more closely in the coming year, ie:

looking for funding opportunities etc. Discussion followed about finding a solution in Baddeck for this coming tourist season, whether Porta-Potties were a solution and what role the municipality can play. Councillors decided to investigate Porta-Pottie at two locations in their district and a sign will be placed outside the Courthouse highlighting the fact that there is a public washroom located there. Councillors are to send locations to the CAO so she can look into pricing. Councillor Morrison mentioned that rather than rent two Porta Potties in his district, he would rather see that money presented to the Yacht Club to go towards their public washroom costs.

Cabot Trail Relay Race: It is estimated the relay has put \$8 million into the local economy.

**It was moved and seconded that a letter of congratulations be sent to the organizers of the Cabot Trail Relay Race on the successful running of the 30<sup>th</sup> annual relay race.**

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be sent to the EHS paramedics who saved the life a of a runner who suffered a heart attack while running on Cape Smokey.**

**Motion carried.**

**Vietnam Visitors:** A crew of municipal officials will be visiting from Vietnam on June 5-6. They will visit local attractions and Councillor MacInnis will take them lobster fishing.

**Town Hall:** The Municipality will host a Town Hall meeting about public safety issues at the Irving station near exit 8 outside Baddeck. It will be held in the Courthouse on June 5, 2018 at 7pm. Irving and TIR have been invited and we are hopeful they will attend.

**Official Opening** of the Courts in Wagmatcook will take place June 21.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Victoria County Municipal council will take place on Monday June 11, 2018 at 5 pm.

### **ADJOURN**

**There being no further business, it was moved to adjourn at 7:30 pm.**

Leanne MacEachen, CAO

Bruce Morrison, Warden