

***VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL***

***August 7, 2018***

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the North Shore & District Fire Hall, Indian Brook, on Tuesday, August 7, 2018, beginning at 12:00 noon with Warden Bruce Morrison in the Chair.

Present were:

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

Also present were:

Leanne MacEachen, CAO  
Alix Redden, CFO  
Heather MacLean, Recorder

Absent were:

District #1 – Paul MacNeil (Personal reasons)  
District #5 – Fraser Patterson (Medical reasons)

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

Warden Morrison called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. and presented the agenda for approval.

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

Introductions were provided by Council to those in attendance.

***BRAS D'OR LAKES DAY CAMPS ASSOCIATION (BOLDC)***

Courtesy of Council was extended to Madison Greening and Stephanie Beaton, Bras d'Or Lakes Day Camp Association (BOLDC).

BOLDC is a rural community growth driving, social enterprise and non-profit organization. It operates as a community resource and events facility that focuses on supporting, creating and offering opportunities for lifelong learning, creative expression and recreation.

Ms. Greening provided an organization overview and indicated that BOLDC will be offering a recreational and resource afterschool pilot program and she outlined the experiences and activities planned.

BOLDC is offering 20 spots for monthly registration and 10 spots of daily registrations for a daily total of 30 students, all of which will be subsidized 10% by BOLDC. The program is open to youth 5-14. It is estimated that up to 270-300 individuals will be cared for over the 42 weeks of the program. Students will have supervision at a ratio of 1:10 by trained staff, certified in First Aid and CPR.

Registration can be monthly at a cost of \$198.00 per month or daily at a cost of \$13.00. By creating affordable programming and centralizing a necessary service, BOLDC anticipate far reaching affects in terms of providing economic stability for existing residents and attracting new residents.

Penny Chapman, Youth Coordinator & Facilitator, will work with BOLDC's Board of volunteer parents to develop, coordinate and facilitate the after school youth programming. The programming will run Monday-Friday from 2:30 to 6:00 p.m., with the possibility of extending the hours to 9:00 p.m.

CBVRSB Professional Development Days will be included in the monthly fee, and field trips will be coordinated on these days. Ms. Greening outlined the projected timeline for the pilot program.

The BOLDC will be applying \$7,400.00 to this project to maintain affordability. A onetime ask of \$5,000.00 is being requested from Council to assist with the subsidization for this program.

Warden Morrison advised that Council does not make decisions the day a financial request is presented and indicated it would be considered and BOLDC will be advised.

Councillor MacLeod stated she thinks it is a great idea and as a parent and Councillor, supports the after school program.

Councillor MacDonald indicated he felt this was a valuable service and outlined the new start-up childcare service in District #7.

Ms. Greening indicated she would like to reach out to this organization and was advised that Cheryl MacDonald is the contact for this organization.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee indicated he agreed it was great service and questioned the location of the camp. They have a 2 year lease at Kidston Landing with the right of first refusal included in the lease agreement. A long term decision will be made in the future.

Other funding received to offset this program was questioned. Ms. Greening indicated that they have accessed the Vibrant Communities Grant, Community Innovation Grant, Accessibility grants, etc. The County request is a onetime request.

The staffing was questioned and Ms. Greening indicated that they have a five year scope, high on the agenda, for having the proper training credentials and accreditation.

As part of receiving funding from the Municipality, financial statements are required and Ms. Greening indicated that she will provide these documents. The CAO indicated that the projected budget for the program would be appropriate.

**It was moved and seconded to refer to budget to discuss and decide within the next month. Motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JULY 24, 2018**

The minutes of the July 24, 2018, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

**It was moved and seconded that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of July 24, 2018, be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Lyle Donovan**

Warden Morrison congratulated Lyle Donovan, who was in attendance, on his appointment as the Fire Services Coordinator for Victoria County.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Tax Change – Council Stipend**

The CAO brought up the issue of a tax change related to the Council stipend to take effect on January 1, 2019.

At present, 1/3 of the stipend is non-taxable, with the remaining 2/3 taxable. With the change, the whole stipend will be taxable, resulting in less money.

Ms. MacEachen outlined an initiative been considered by the FNSM at present. How to proceed was discussed and the actions that could be taken were outlined. What other municipalities were considering in this regard should be investigated.

**It was moved and seconded that the tax change issue related to Council stipends be referred to the CFO for research, analysis and recommendation. Motion carried.**

**Strategic Plan**

A day is to be scheduled in September/October to review the strategic planning documents.

**TAXATION UPDATE**

The CAO advised that due to a computer issue, an update could not be obtained for the meeting.

The CFO will email the taxation update to Council as soon as it is available.

**DISTRICT CONCERNS**

**District #2**

Councillor MacLeod brought up the condition of the Uisge Ban Falls Trail. This trail is used in all seasons.

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Natural Resources requesting that the necessary repairs be made on the Uisge Ban Trail. Motion carried.**

**District #8**

Councillor MacDonald advised that a number of wells in the Cape North area are depleted due to the hot temperatures and lack of rain.

He requested that he be provided the projected numbers and appropriate literature from the Director of Public Works so he can do a door to door visit to the residents regarding the possible water system extension.

The CAO indicated that this information would be provided to Councillor MacDonald.

Whether there would be any funding for drilled wells through the Efficiency Nova Scotia PACE program was discussed and will be investigated.

It was indicated that if the water system extension was to go ahead, all residents in the serviceable area would be required to connect.

Councillor MacDonald outlined a couple of issues with regard to Dog Control in the Dingwall area. Dogs are running at large on the beach. The Dog Control Officer was contacted and addressed this issue.

Councillor MacDonald brought up the current construction on South Mountain. Trucks are travelling at a high speed and are causing concern in the area.

There was to be a liaison committee established by the contractor for projects in the area and to date, the status of same is unknown.

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to Dexter Construction questioning the status of the local liaison committee and expressing concern on the speed**

**the trucks are travelling through the area and a copy of this letter be forwarded to the RCMP and Vehicle Compliance. Motion carried.**

**District #7**

Councillor Budge brought up the matter of the boil order on the Neil's Harbour/New Haven Water System. He was unaware of the boil order and felt it was common courtesy to inform the Councillor so they will be aware. He was contacted by residents concerning a smell on the water and had to call the County office to find out the issue.

The CAO indicated that the water issue was a result of an equipment malfunction which has been corrected. They have to receive two good samples before the boil order is lifted and this will hopefully happen by tomorrow evening.

The CAO advised that they will work on the communications plan for such situations. EMO was also unaware and should be updated in such situations.

Councillor Budge indicated that crushed rock was spread on the road in the area of the fire department through Neil's Harbour. He contacted TIR and the area was cleaned up, but this is an issue to be addressed with Dexter Construction in the letter to be forwarded to them.

The water system issue was again discussed. Councillor Budge questioned on the current water operator for this system and as the purpose was to save money, he would like to know the cost to the system and the quality control plans since the change occurred.

The CAO indicated that it is being addressed and an inventory program is being established with neighbouring municipalities for common parts so the down time would be less in such situations.

**District #4**

The status of the transit survey was questioned. Strait Area Transit will report to Council in September.

Councillor MacInnis indicated that he talked to the provider and the portable washroom program has been a success and the usage has indicated that there is a need for permanent public washroom facilities throughout the County.

The topic of the Victoria County Beautification Project and whether funding can be used for a study or design to build a case for additional funding was discussed. Patrick Austin is tasked with progressing this matter.

Councillor MacInnis brought up the success of Festiville Baddeck.

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the organizers of Festiville Baddeck congratulating them on the success of their events. Motion carried.**

The CAO advised that Festiville Baddeck representatives will come to Council to provide a debrief on the event.

**District #6**

The recent announcement of \$1 million dollar funding for the Cabot Trail was discussed. The information provided was vague and how we can have our say on this project was questioned.

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to Honourable Geoff MacLellan requesting that he come to Council to discuss the \$1 million dollar funding for the Cabot Trail. Motion carried.**

The Ingonish Volunteer Fire Department has been designated as a comfort station. They had applied for funding from the three levels of government and funding was received from the federal and municipal governments, but not the provincial.

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the Premier and Minister questioning on why no funding was provided from the province for the Ingonish Volunteer Fire Department. Motion carried.**

**District #1**

**It was moved and seconded that \$1,000.00 be approved from the District #1 budget for the Washabuck Community Centre for their operations. Motion carried.**

**District #3**

Warden Morrison brought up the issue of the affect the closure of the Northside General Emergency Department has had and will have on the Victoria County Memorial Hospital Emergency Department. The increase in numbers is putting greater stress on the medical staff and physicians at the Victoria County Memorial Hospital.

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to Janet Knox, NSHA, with a copy to the Premier and Minister of Health, questioning on the long term plans for the Victoria County Memorial Hospital should the Northside General close permanently and she be invited to Council in September to discuss this issue. Motion carried.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There are no Committee Reports to be provided.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

The correspondence was previously provided to Council.

**NEXT MEETINGS**

The meeting dates for September are September 10 and 24, 2018, and October meetings will be held on October 15 and 29, 2018.

**ADJOURN**

**There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.**

**Leanne MacEachen, CAO**

**Bruce Morrison, Warden**

