

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

October 15, 2018

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, October 15, 2018, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with CAO Leanne MacEachen in the Chair.

Present were:

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

Also present were:

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

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Leanne MacEachen, CAO, 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.

ELECTION OF WARDEN

Leanne MacEachen indicated that the first item on the agenda was the election of Warden for a two year term.

It was moved and seconded that Bruce Morrison be nominated for the Office of Warden. Motion carried.

Ms. MacEachen called three times for further nominations.

It was moved and seconded that nominations cease. Motion carried.

Leanne MacEachen declared Bruce Morrison elected as Warden for a two year term. She then administered the Oath of Allegiance and of Office to Warden Morrison.

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE AND OF OFFICE

I, Bruce Morrison, do swear (or solemnly affirm) that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, Her heirs and successors according to law.

And that I am duly qualified as required by law for the office of Warden of the Municipality of the County of Victoria.

And that I will truly, faithfully and impartially execute the duties of the office to which I have been elected to the best of my knowledge and ability.

And that I have not received and will not receive any payment or reward or promise thereof for the exercise of any partiality or other undue execution of the duties of my office.

Sworn (or affirmed) by Bruce Morrison at Baddeck, in the County of Victoria and Province of Nova Scotia, this 15th day of October, 2018, before me

**Leanne MacEachen
Chief Administrative Officer**

Leanne MacEachen then turned the Chair over to Warden Morrison who thanked Council for their support in re-electing him for another two-year term.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY WARDEN

Warden Morrison then called for nominations for the position of Deputy Warden for a two-year term.

It was moved and seconded that Larry Dauphinee be nominated for the Office of Deputy Warden for a two year term. Motion carried.

Warden Morrison called three times for further nominations.

It was moved and seconded that nominations cease. Motion carried.

Warden Morrison then declared Larry Dauphinee elected as Deputy Warden of the Municipality of the County of Victoria for a two year term.

Leanne MacEachen then administered the Oath of Allegiance and of Office to Deputy Warden Larry Dauphinee.

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE AND OF OFFICE

I, Larry Dauphinee, do swear (or solemnly affirm) that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, Her heirs and successors according to law.

And that I am duly qualified as required by law for the office of Deputy Warden of the Municipality of the County of Victoria.

And that I will truly, faithfully and impartially execute the duties of the office to which I have been elected to the best of my knowledge and ability.

And that I have not received and will not receive any payment or reward or promise thereof for the exercise of any partiality or other undue execution of the duties of my office.

Sworn (or affirmed) by Larry Dauphinee at Baddeck, in the County of Victoria and Province of Nova Scotia, this 15th day of October, 2018, before me

**Leanne MacEachen
Chief Administrative Officer**

ISLAND FOOD NETWORK

Courtesy of Council was extended to Eric Eleviten-Reid and Jody Nelson, who were in attendance to present on the Island Food Network (copy attached).

Jody Nelson indicated that she operates a small farm on Hunter's Mountain and is employed by the Ecology Action Centre as the Community Food Coordinator for Cape Breton. Mr. Eleviten-Reid is employed with New Dawn Enterprises and is a member of the Steering Committee for the Island Food Network.

Ms. Nelson outlined the Island Food Networks shared vision for food in Cape Breton – Unama'ki. Sharing food connects people and builds healthy communities. The Island Food Network was started in 2015 to support and advocate for local food initiatives.

Ms. Nelson advised that a Farmer to Farmer Retreat was held in Big Baddeck last fall which was well attended and received. They also hosted an upscale food festival in the Sydney area and there is interest in doing both again this year.

The Cape Breton food system is complex, with multiple actors and sectors. There are 5 municipal councils and 5 band councils and making them all connect takes a great deal of work and coordination.

Food at the local level includes:

- Agricultural and land-use planning
- Support for food-based businesses
- Healthy eating policies
- Community gardens and food-scaping
- Policies to support local food
- Food access programs
- Respecting treaties and rights for the Mi'kmaq people
- Evolving food bank model
- Strategic food action plans

The process for the shared food vision was outlined. In October to December, 2018, community food conversations will be held and a food forum will be held in the spring of 2019. After the Forum, they will work with stakeholders to develop a strategic food action plan for Cape Breton – Unama'ki.

Ms. Nelson outlined how the Municipality can contribute. She requested consideration be given to appointing a person to maintain communication, join their communication email list, and attend Island Food Network events. Municipal involvement will be essential to future work on an island-wide strategic food action plan.

Farmers markets are a common occurrence in many Cape Breton communities and there is a spike in interest in local foods and products.

Ms. Nelson distributed a number of pages on Cape Breton Food Facts for Council's review and information.

Further discussion took place and Warden Morrison extended a thank you for the presentation and indicated that the Council would appoint someone as a representative/contact person later in the meeting and will advise the Island Food Network of the appointment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 24, 2018

The minutes of the September 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 September 24, 2018, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Councillor Patterson indicated that he did not receive the mail out on dog control. The CAO indicated that the flyer was sent out to the areas of District #5 that were affected, not the entire district.

Warden Morrison indicated that work has begun on the remediation of the parking area and side entrance at the Baddeck Post Office.

NEW BUSINESS

Leanne MacEachen brought up the list of exempt properties. There are a few that do not have charitable numbers and it was felt that the list should be reviewed for accuracy and whether they fulfill the requirements for exemption.

A meeting to review the tax exemptions listing will be held at 4:00 p.m., prior to Council on Monday, October 29, 2018.

CAO REPORT

Leanne MacEachen brought up the doctor recruitment initiative to recruit family physicians to both the Baddeck and Neil's Harbour coverage area. She spoke with Lisa Hardy, NSHA Recruitment Officer, and she indicated there is a Family Medicine Forum in Toronto on November 14-17, 2018. This would be a good forum at which to have a presence.

The possibility of having a Victoria County booth at this recruitment forum was discussed. The Municipality of the District of Guysborough have attended in the past and Leanne MacEachen is to contact Guysborough to see if they would be interested in sharing a booth.

Local physicians will be asked to attend this forum and the Municipality will cover the costs associated with the booth and their attendance. Leanne MacEachen will contact physicians for both areas of the County to see if they will attend this event.

It was moved and seconded that the Municipality sponsor a booth and cover the costs for two physicians to attend the Family Medicine Forum at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, from November 14-17, 2018. Motion carried.

The CAO met with representatives from the Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC) on Thursday past and was advised that the assessment for the Keltic Resort and Highland Links has been decreased significantly.

Whether the NSFM could be contacted to talk to the PVSC on the County's behalf was discussed. PVSC will be in attendance at the NSFM Annual Conference in early November.

A petition to change the road name for a private road on Highway 205 was received. The three residents on this road have requested that the private road be renamed to Lighthouse Lane.

It was moved and seconded that the road name petition for Lighthouse Lane be forwarded to the Department of TIR and EDPC for approval. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

It was moved and seconded that the recommendations contained in the Committee of the Whole meeting of October 15, 2018, be approved. Motion carried.

RECESS

Warden Morrison advised that Council would recess for 10 minutes.

ISLAND FOOD NETWORK

It was moved and seconded that Alix Redden, CFO, be appointed as representative for the Island Food Network. Motion carried.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

The list of Council Committees will be brought to the next meeting for review.

PROVINCIAL ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS

The Strait Area Chamber of Commerce is hosting an information session on the new provincial accessibility standards and how they will impact your business on Wednesday, October 17, 2018, at 12:00 noon at the Bras d'Or Yacht club.

TAXATION UPDATE

Leanne MacEachen advised that arrears are down \$249,000.00 over this time last year. Since the last meeting \$37,000.00 has been collected. Collection of the current levy is a little bit behind and she has discussed this with Tax Office staff.

Overall tax collections are going in the right direction and the next Tax Sale is scheduled for February, 2019. She indicated that she hopes to have 30 properties on the sale.

Council is pleased with the improvements and urged the Tax Office staff to continue their collection efforts.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #1

Councillor MacNeil brought up a concern with regard to Ross Road which is in need of maintenance and brush cutting and Red Point Road which is in need of gravel. He will bring these items to the meeting with the TIR officials on Wednesday.

Councillor MacNeil has received a number of questions about waste, recycling and composting and where waste items should go. He is to refer these inquiries to Jocelyn Bethune.

It was moved and seconded that \$1,000.00 be approved from the District #1 budget for Branch 124, Royal Canadian Legion, for assistance with the cost of a new sound system. Motion carried.

Keith Bain's assistant, Dianne Timmins indicated that at a Harbour Authority meeting in Moncton, the cleanup of discarded ropes and traps was addressed. Whether the Municipality would put in a bin for collecting these materials for recycling was questioned. This matter is to be referred to Jocelyn Bethune.

District #2

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Lands and Forestry requesting that they leave the signage for Uisge Ban Falls up all year, continue to maintain the trail and place additional signage from the Big Baddeck Road to the falls. Motion carried.

The legalization of cannabis comes into effect on October 17, 2018. Whether the Municipality will be providing information on this issue was questioned. Work has begun on a publication and the Communications Officer has been posting on twitter, Facebook and other media avenues on the legalization.

District #4

It was moved and seconded that Merrill MacInnis be authorized to attend the Minister's Conference on the Fisheries in Halifax on February 27-28, 2019. Motion carried.

District #5

It was moved and seconded that a street light relocation order be placed removing the light on a pole located .4 km from Cape Breton Regional Municipality boundary to 981 Old Route 5. Motion carried.

District #6

It was moved and seconded that \$250.00 be approved for the Neil's Harbour/New Haven Development Society Halloween fireworks, \$350.00 for the Ingonish Development Society and \$1,500.00 for Ski Cape Smokey from the District #6 budget. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee indicated that he is receiving calls with regard to the paving through Ingonish. Residents do not want a passing lane in this area and request that the speed limit be reduced from 70 km to 50 km. He will bring this issue forward at the meeting with TIR officials.

It was moved and seconded that \$500.00 be approved for the Municipality's Parade of Lights float for the December 1, 2018, parade. Motion carried.

District #7

Councillor Budge indicated that he had a concern with low water pressure on the Neil's Harbour/New Haven Water supply but he has been advised that this matter is being taken care of.

District #8

It was moved and seconded that a street light relocation order be placed for removal from 29680 Cabot Trail to new location at 613 Dingwall Road. Motion carried.

It was moved and seconded that \$250.00 be approved for the Neil's Harbour/New Haven Development Society's Halloween fireworks from the District #8 budget. Motion carried.

Councillor MacDonald indicated concern on the public washroom issue in District #8. This is a concern all over the Municipality.

Councillor MacDonald indicated that there was no literature and the EHS were not notified that the Englishtown Ferry was put back in service for Celtic Colours. He questioned on the continuing status of the ferry. This will be addressed with TIR officials at the October 17th meeting.

The water survey conducted in the Cape North/South Ridge Road area was completed and the Department of Public Works is currently tabulating the results. Councillor MacDonald requested that a Public Works Meeting be held in Cape North prior to October 31, 2018, if possible.

District #4

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the Premier requesting that the Auditor General be requested to conduct an inquiry on the Englishtown Ferry issue. Motion carried.

The fact that TIR officials had no communications on this issue and the Seal Island Bridge issue is to be brought up with TIR officials on Wednesday.

District #3

It was moved and seconded that \$1,000.00 be tentatively approved from the District #3 budget for the Salty Dogs boating event held this past summer. Motion carried.

Warden Morrison will advise on the status of this request after his meeting on Friday.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received from the Wreck Cove General Store thanking Council for the port-a-potties located at the store during the tourist season.

POLICIES

It was moved and seconded that the Employee Code of Ethics and the Employee Code of Conduct policies be approved. Motion carried.

A Drug and Alcohol Policy is currently being drafted and will be brought to the next meeting for consideration.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councillor MacNeil indicated he attended a meeting in Truro on the Provincial Broadband and nothing has changed since the past few months. More information and funding will be in the New Year, with some money spent by March 31, 2019.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Council will be held on Monday, October 29, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. in the Court House, Baddeck.

ADJOURN

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

Leanne MacEachen, CAO

Bruce Morrison, Warden.