

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

July 29, 2019

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, July 29, 2019, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Deputy Warden Larry Dauphinee in the Chair.

Present were:

District #1 – Paul MacNeil
District #2 – Perla MacLeod
District #4 – Merrill MacInnis
District #6 – Larry Dauphinee, Deputy Warden
District #7 – Wayne Budge
District #8 – Norman MacDonald

Also present were:

Leanne MacEachen, CAO
Jocelyn Bethune, Communications Officer
Heather MacLean, Recorder

Absent were:

District #3 – Bruce Morrison, Warden (Personal Reasons)
District #5 – Fraser Patterson (Due to Illness)

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Deputy Warden Dauphinee 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.

BADDECK & AREA CAT RESCUE

Courtesy of Council was extended to Judy Ross representing the Baddeck & Area Cat Rescue Society.

Council provided introductions to Mrs. Ross.

Mrs. Ross indicated that the Baddeck & Area Cat Rescue Society was incorporated as a Society in May, 2016. The Society is a group of volunteers who are committed to reducing the population of feral cats, and finding homes for abandoned cats in the Baddeck and surrounding area.

The Society is not a shelter. They serve the Baddeck area from Middle River to Wreck Cove including, Bucklaw, Nyanza, Big Baddeck, Big Harbour, St. Ann's and all the area in between. They provide rescue, foster homes and fundraise and are dedicated to helping abandoned cats.

In order to continue their work in helping these cats/kittens, they need more funds for their spay and neuter program, for the de-flea and de-worm of these cats, so they have a better chance of finding permanent homes. There are costs involved for the basic essentials of food, litter, traps, cages, etc.

Judy Ross advised that since they began their work, over 300 cats have been rescued. In 2017 they helped 102 cats/kittens and in 2018, 76 cats/kittens. The biggest cost is veterinary bills. Although they receive a substantial discount, the bill amounted to \$15,256.00.

The Baddeck & Area Cat Rescue is made up of a small number of volunteers and most of the funds they receive are done through fundraising. They have operated the reuse centre making \$1,000.00. They have also had golf tournaments, 50/50's, sold calendars and have received memorial donations.

They are asking the Municipality for financial assistance to assist with their veterinary bill.

Mrs. Ross advised that further information can be found on their website – www.baddeckcatrescue.com.

Whether they have sought funding from other organizations and whether Wagmatcook First Nations was approached was questioned. They have forwarded letters to Wagmatcook, with no response.

Mrs. Ross was advised that the County have a Community Grant Program with a deadline of March 31 of each year and she was advised that the Society would qualify to apply for funding from the County through this Program.

The possibility of funding through District Grants was mentioned and Mrs. Ross was advised the request would be given consideration.

Council extended a thank you to Mrs. Ross and the other volunteers for the work that they do and she was excused at this time.

EASTLINK

Deputy Warden Dauphinee extended the courtesy of Council to Logan McDaid, Wireless Site Planner for Eastlink.

Since 2011 Eastlink has been providing cell service and offers a full range of communications services to communities across Canada. Eastlink is headquartered in Halifax.

Eastlink is continually working to fill the gaps identified and he presented site specific information on the proposed tower location in Hazeldale, Victoria County. The tower design is a 91.4m (300 feet) guyed telecommunications tower with no moving parts. There will be no noise and they will be transmitting on radio frequencies 2100, 1700 and 700. There will be a red strobe light on the top of the tower that will be pointing upward.

Mr. McDaid advised that Health Canada regulates the health and safety of telecommunications antenna installations to ensure public safety. They are continuously reviewing health and safety associated with the transmission of radio frequencies. Their Safety Code 6 standards were updated in 2015.

Based on analysis of Safety Code 6, they confirm compliance for the general public for this proposed installation is at 1.0% of the Code's allowable limit. Common household devices which emit higher levels are Wi-Fi routers, baby monitors, and cordless phones. He provided comments from Health Canada in this regard.

Concern has been expressed by an adjacent property owner with regard to devaluation of surrounding property and concern for health and safety.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that he has received a few calls of concern with regard to this proposed construction, mainly in terms of property values. Whether a decline in property values has occurred in other areas of installation was questioned. Mr. McDaid indicated he was unaware of a change in property values.

Mr. McDaid indicated how the notification process works and the guidelines they follow through the Eastern District Planning Commission. Public notification is required for public within a 273 meter radius. An advertisement is placed in a local paper.

Mr. McDaid indicated that there was only one property owner willing to work with Eastlink. Others were contacted but not interested.

The tower in question will cover the areas of Hunter's Mountain, Little Narrows, Hazeldale through to Washabuck.

Councillor MacInnis indicated there are quite a few dead zones from the North Shore to the TCH 105 and he questioned whether there were any initiatives in this area.

Mr. McDaid indicated that projects are dictated by volume, budget and customer complaints also can spur the process.

Councillor MacNeil questioned on when the actual project will be built and he was advised that the 30 day notice ends on August 10, 2019, and then they will go to the EDPC for a letter of concurrence and follow the process. They will work with David MacKenzie, Building Inspector.

The possibility of hosting a community meeting in the area was questioned and Mr. McDaid indicated he could bring this request to the appropriate people.

It was moved and seconded that Eastlink be requested to hold a public meeting in the community with regard to the proposed telecommunications tower to be located in Hazeldale. Motion carried.

Mr. McDaid indicated a letter or email would suffice and he would work with Councillor MacNeil on location for the meeting.

Mr. McDaid left at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JULY 16, 2019

The minutes of the July 16, 2019, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved and seconded that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of July 16, 2019, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to come to Council.

NEW BUSINESS

Leanne MacEachen indicated that she contacted Dawn Sutherland, Lunenburg, to discuss the Airbnb issue. They have both similar and different issues and at present there is no real solution.

The CAO indicated that a meeting was held with Brent Partland, Wreck Cove General Store, with regard to washrooms. This is the next location for public washrooms.

Mr. Partland called today to say the two portable units at his location are full and the operator cannot pump them until Thursday. If necessary, the units will be closed.

Leanne MacEachen indicated that she attended two meetings with PVSC officials – once with Victoria County individually and with the AMANS Board. The AMANS is in the process of appointing a Land Committee to work on title issues. This is in cooperation with the PVSC and Land Registration Office.

The Cape Breton Partnership is seeking sponsorship for their 2020 Investor Summit to be held at the Keltic Resort. The levels of sponsorship were outlined and Councillors are to advise on the appropriate sponsorship by the end of the week.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that the invoice for pumping the washroom at the Port of Iona was \$230.00. Arrangements will be made to have the County cover this invoice.

The Community grant application received from the Ross Ferry Volunteer Fire Department was discussed. This application was received on July 24, 2019, long after the March 31, 2019, deadline. The department is seeking 1/3 of the project total projected to be \$17,938.85. The request is for \$5,919.82.

Other applications received after the deadline were approved and there is \$23,000.00 remaining in the community grant budget.

Concern was expressed that Council are not following the policy deadline and Leanne MacEachen advised that they are looking into new protocol for funding in future years.

It was moved and seconded that \$4,000.00 be approved for the Ross Ferry Volunteer Fire Department community grant application. Motion carried.

Whether the cat rescue could access this funding was discussed.

Discussion took place on the washroom issue and all year access to facilities. The CAO advised that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is being signed with each location that the Municipality is prepared to cover a fair and reasonable amount for operating and cleaning the washroom facilities.

RECESS

Deputy Warden Dauphinee announced that Council would recess for 10 minutes.

TAXATION UPDATE

The CAO advised that total outstanding as of today is \$8,074,160, compared to \$8,675,806, this time last year. We are almost \$602,000 ahead. Current outstanding is \$496,729, ahead of last year and arrears are over \$100,000 ahead at \$104,917.

Excluding the recent billing, we are almost caught up with last year's current and are \$109,500 ahead in prior arrears.

The CAO advised that over \$1 million has come in since the July 16, 2019, Council meeting for current bills and \$44,216 has been collected in arrears. Things are moving in a positive direction.

Leanne MacEachen presented a list of tax accounts that have all been made inactive by the PVSC for various reasons, i.e. non-existent, double assessment, etc. The outstanding tax balances remain in our system and the amount to \$11,771.05.

Alix Redden will continue to work on identifying outstanding accounts.

It was moved and seconded that inactive tax accounts in the amount of \$11,771.05 be written off. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL

A new section for Department of TIR requests was added to the agenda and will be an ongoing agenda item.

- Full grading of all gravel roads in District #1
- Patching on the Washabuck Road, especially between the Church and the crossroads
- Gillis Point Road needs more patching
- Mowing and brush cutting of the roads in District #1
- Improvements to the South Cove Beach road (Birch Point Road) as the water is level with this section of road (an email was received from a resident concerning this road)
- Full grading and ditching of gravel roads in District #2, including the West Side Big Baddeck (Glen) Road, Zion Road, MacCharles Cross, MacPhee's Cross.
- Brush cutting and mowing along all the main roads in District #2
- Request a meeting with Stephen MacDonald, Area Manager, TIR
- Something needs to be done with the two bumps in the road in the Port Bevis/Glen Tosh area
- Full grading of all gravel roads in District #8 and work on the Dingwall and Meat Cove Road as the roads are in terrible condition
- Question why there is only one grader for all of Victoria County
- Brush cutting and mowing throughout District #8. Very dangerous in the intersection of the service station and Dingwall Road. Accidents have occurred
- Repairs to the Dingwall Road in the area of the Markland Inn were only a band aid solution. Additional and larger armour stone should be placed at this location
- Full grading of gravel roads in District #7
- Line painting in parts of the North Shore and Ingonish not completed. Two accidents have occurred on Smokey due to poor visibility and no lines painted

- Status of the traffic study through Ingonish – not in agreement with passing lands from the Freshmart to Ingonish Centre
- Calcium chloride be spread on all roads after grading is complete

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to Stephen MacDonald, Area Manager, TIR, requesting that action be taken on all concerns addressed by Council. Motion carried.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #8

Councillor MacDonald brought up the causeway leading to the Dingwall Beach and questioned whether it is a provincial or federal responsibility. The causeway is almost completely eroded.

He expressed concern that there are people tenting on the beach and have fires burning in the evening and there are no Department of Lands and Forestry patrols after 5:00 p.m.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the provincial minister of Lands and Forestry and federal minister of Natural Resources questioning on who has jurisdiction over the causeway leading to Dingwall Beach and request that action be taken to repair the eroded causeway. Motion carried.

Councillor MacDonald indicated that the Bay St. Lawrence Crab Fest held on July 21, 2019, was a great success.

Councillor MacDonald indicated that the 20th anniversary celebrations for Buchanan Memorial Hospital will be held on Sunday, August 4, 2019, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis questioned on the status of the transit service for Victoria County.

Leanne MacEachen advised that it is now before the UARB for approval. There will be flyers sent and a launch arranged when the service is ready to commence. Two drivers have been hired for the southern area of the County and one for the northern area. An additional driver is required for the northern area of the County.

District #2

Councillor MacLeod was requested that the Municipality fly the aboriginal flag during next June's Aboriginal Day.

Investigation will be made into flag protocol.

The next *Festiville Baddeck* will be held on Monday, August 5, 2019. Councillor MacLeod questioned if the teepee that is located on the Court House lawn could remain there for an extended period of time as a tourist attraction. This will be investigated.

Councillor MacLeod brought up the recent Council Corner newsletter that was mailed throughout the County. This is a positive communication avenue.

District #1

Councillor MacNeil requested that Eastlink be requested to broaden their radius for public notification for tower placement.

Highland Village Day will be held on August 3, 2019 and the Washabuck Community Festival will be held from August 2-11, 2019.

Councillor MacNeil questioned on the \$1,000.00 fee for connection to the Victoria County Water Utility.

The CAO indicated that this issue is currently being investigated.

Councillor MacNeil read a letter received from the Little Narrows Community Development Association thanking the Municipality for the assistance provided.

District #6

Deputy Warden Dauphinee indicated he had inquiries regarding fishermen's reserves in particular, access and responsibility. There is one in the Ingonish area.

This matter will be investigated.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received from Paul Oldford, Cape Breton-Victoria Regional Centre for Education, advising that the repairs to the road leading from Baddeck Academy are the responsibility of the Village of Baddeck, as it was they who dug up the roadway to repair a water issue.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council will be held at the North Shore & District Fire Department Hall, Indian Brook, on August 26, 2019, beginning at 11:00 a.m., followed by a cruise hosted by Councillor MacInnis.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Leanne MacEachen, CAO

