

**VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**  
**November 3, 2020**

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Tuesday, November 3, 2020, beginning at 2:00 p.m.

Present were:

District #1 – Paul MacNeil  
District #2 – Perla MacLeod  
District #3 – Bruce Morrison  
District #4 – Barbara Longva  
District #5 – Fraser Patterson  
District #6 – Larry Dauphinee  
District #7 – Jackie Organ  
District #8 – Norman MacDonald

Also present were:

Leanne MacEachen, CAO  
Stephanie MacLeod, Recording Secretary  
Blair Gallop, Returning Officer  
Dan Coffin, Tourism and Development Officer  
Jocelyn Bethune, Communications Officer

Leanne called the first session following the October 17, 2020 Municipal Election to report and administer the oath of allegiance to the newly declared councilmen/women and welcomed Blair Gallop to give the results on the 2020 Municipal Election.

Blair Gallop, Returning Officer, advised of the results of the October 17, 2020, Municipal Election.

*The results of the election were as follows:*

**District 1**

Paul MacNeil was acclaimed, there was no election.

**District 2**

Perla MacLeod was elected with 281 ballots.

Norman Matheson received 70 ballots.

With 2 spoiled ballots there were a total of 353 ballots.

**District 3**

Bruce Morrison was acclaimed, there was no election.

**District 4**

Barbara Longva was elected with 304 ballots.

Rosella Born received 222 ballots.

With 3 spoiled ballots there were a total of 529 ballots.

**District 5**

Fraser Patterson was acclaimed, there was no election.

**District 6**

Larry Dauphinee was acclaimed, there was no election.

**District 7**

Jackie Organ was elected with 201 ballots.

Jeffery Gwynn received 83 ballots.

Lawrence Seymour received 59 ballots.

Kim Stockley received 54 ballots.

With 1 spoiled ballot, there were a total of 398 ballots.

**District 8**

Norman MacDonald received 365 ballots.

John Buchanan received 183 ballots.

With 1 spoiled ballot, there were a total of 549 ballots.

**Municipal election report and statistics presented by the Returning Officer, Blair Gallop**

The election ran very smoothly, no issues, no complaints and there was an extremely high voter turnout. The overall turnout for eligible voters was about 66% and 35% across the county as there were some areas that did not vote as there was no election.

This year's election was done completely by electronic voting; either by phone or internet.

***Electronic voting:***

Blair indicated that electronic voting went very well and with no real issues. The busiest days of voting were the first and last days of the election.

He then went on to list the advantages of electronic voting:

- there was an increase in voter turnout
- easier for people to vote
- timeframe was very good
- cost effective (estimated that \$7-\$10K was saved)
- less paper,
- reduced resources from the County
- simple and easy to run
- results came in quicker
- easier to prepare the results

Blair recommended that electronic voting should be done on a go forward basis.

***Polling stations:***

- four of them were not well used
- there were a total of 33 people across all four locations
- the busiest one was Cape North who saw 14 people
- any issues that were addressed at the polling stations, could have been settled via telephone.

His suggestion was that if the County were to use electronic voting in the future, there should be a reduction in the number of polling stations. North of Smokey and one in the village of Baddeck would be the most pragmatic locations.

***List of the electors:***

- Provided by the province of Nova Scotia.
- It was free of charge and it was a more accurate and up to date list.
- Prior lists were generated through the tax rolls
- Disadvantages of tax rolls:

- Doesn't show an accurate representation of the eligible voters.
- The name on the tax rolls also include people who own property in the County but are not permanent residents, thereby making them ineligible to vote.
- 110 people added to the list.
- 200 people removed.
- Deceased residents of Alderwood and Highland Manor also made up for some names on the removal list.
- Returned mail (about 120)
- Approximately 20-30 people deceased.
- The rest were from various other reasons.

***Closing Remarks:***

-Renumeration of the County would be expensive. He recommended that the list continue to come from the province.

-Blair thanked the candidates for running a clean election said that there was a very high voter turnout, 2000 people voted.

-He also thanked everyone for their help on the administration of the election.

***Called for questions***

Councillor for district 5, Fraser Patterson, asked how many people voted on Election Day.

428 people voted on election day, which was about 22% and 17% voted on the first day of the election and 12.5% voted on October 16, 2020.

Councillor Patterson thanked Blair for his great work and said he was looking forward to working with him again in Blair's next role.

Next on the agenda was the swearing in ceremony. Prior to the swearing in; Leanne went over COVID-19 safety protocols including using hand sanitizer and not sharing pens. All present

wore masks and were only removed by some to take the oath and only when social distancing allowed for it.

Leanne then called upon the Councillors Elect to individually take the Oath of Allegiance and of Office.

### ***OATH OF ALLEGIANCE AND OF OFFICE***

***I, the undersigned, 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 Councillor 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.***

***Signed:***

***District #1 – Paul MacNeil***

***District #2 – Perla MacLeod***

***District #3 – Bruce Morrison***

***District #4 – Barbara Longva***

***District #5 – Fraser Patterson***

***District #6 – Larry Dauphinee***

***District #7 – Jackie Organ***

***District #8 – Norman MacDonald***

***Sworn to (or affirmed) by each of the Councillors who have hereto subscribed their names to the Oath of Allegiance and of Office of Councillor at Baddeck, in the County of Victoria and Province of Nova Scotia, this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of November, 2020, before me***

***Leanne MacEachen***

***Chief Administrative Officer***

Leanne then asked councillors to sign the Code of Conduct.

Leanne advised that the next item on the agenda was the election of Warden for a two year term.

**ELECTION OF WARDEN**

Any Councillor is eligible for the Office of Warden and the selection is by secret ballot. Should Council be unable to agree on the choice of Warden, the decision will be determined from the two leading candidates by lot as provided in the *Municipal Elections Act*.

Leanne then called for nominations for the position of Warden.

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

Leanne 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.*

**Signed:**

**Warden – Bruce Morrison**

**Sworn to (or affirmed) by Bruce Morrison at Baddeck, in the County of Victoria and Province of Nova Scotia, this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of November, 2020, before me**

**Leanne MacEachen, Chief Administrative Officer**

Leanne then turned the Chair over to Warden Bruce Morrison who thanked Council for their support as Warden for the next two years. He acknowledged the two newcomers to Council.

Warden Morrison indicated that the next agenda item was the election of Deputy Warden for a two year term.

**ELECTION OF DEPUTY WARDEN**

Warden Morrison called for nominations for Deputy Warden.

**It was moved and seconded that Larry Dauphinee be nominated for the position of Deputy Warden.**

Warden Morrison called three times for further nominations.

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

Deputy Warden Dauphinee thanked Council for their support.

**OATH OF ALLEGIANCE AND OF OFFICE – DEPUTY WARDEN**

Warden Morrison declared Larry Dauphinee elected as Deputy Warden for a two year term. He then administered the Oath of Allegiance and of Office to Deputy Warden Dauphinee.

***OATH OF ALLEGIANCE AND OF OFFICE***

***VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, November 3, 2020***

***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.***

***Signed:***

***Deputy Warden – Larry Dauphinee***

***Sworn to (or affirmed) by Larry Dauphinee at Baddeck, in the County of Victoria and Province of Nova Scotia, this 3rd day of November, 2020, before me***

***Leanne MacEachen  
Chief Administrative Officer***

Warden Morrison then indicated the next item on the agenda was committee appointments.

**COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

**Public Works Committee**

All Council

**Economic Development Committee**

All Councillors

**Housing Committee**

Barbara Longva  
Larry Dauphinee  
Perla MacLeod  
Norman MacDonald

**Broadband Committee**

Larry Dauphinee  
Paul MacNeil  
Fraser Patterson

**Planning Advisory Committee**

Perla MacLeod  
Bruce Morrison  
Paul MacNeil (alternate)

**Cape Breton Regional Library Board**

Barbara Longva

**Pitu'paq Committee**

Paul MacNeil  
Barbara Longva

**Alderwood and Highland Manor Committee**

Paul MacNeil	Larry Dauphinee
Perla MacLeod	Jackie Organ
Bruce Morrison	Norman MacDonald
Barbara Longva	Barbara Longva
Fraser Patterson	

**CEPI**

Barbara Longva

**Inverness-Victoria Federation of Agriculture**

Fraser Patterson

**LFA 27 Management Board**

Jackie Organ

**Victoria County Home Support**

Jackie Organ

Fraser Patterson

Norman MacDonald

Bruce Morrison

**Age-Friendly Committee**

Larry Dauphinee

Barbara Longva

Fraser Patterson

Norman MacDonald

**Seniors Safety Committee**

Perla MacLeod

Bruce Morrison

Fraser Patterson

**Transit Committee**

Fraser Patterson

Norman MacDonald

Perla MacLeod

Larry Dauphinee

**Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve**

Perla MacLeod

**Audit Committee**

All Council

**Budget Committee**

All Council

Mr. Morrison then instructed the next and last item on the agenda was a round table discussion for any issues or concerns that have come up. Each district welcomed the 2 new councillors for Districts 4 and 7.

Councillor Dauphine for District 6 raised an issue with the Irving garage in Ingonish and the concerns that rural gas stations are facing. Irving wanted to end the supply of fuel to that station and there was a massive public outcry and were granted an extension but it is a short term basis.

**It was moved and seconded to have a Letter be sent to Irving stressing the importance of this gas station and that it is a vital service for residents and emergency services in the area. Motion carried.**

**It was moved and seconded that a letter also be sent to UARB for appropriate fuel taxation rebates for rural gas station survival. Motion carried.**

Councillor MacLeod for District 2 brought up the cancellation of the daily Air Canada flight from Halifax to Sydney and the impact it would have on local residents.

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be sent to the Minister of Transportation requesting this flight be kept. Motion carried.**

Councillor Morrison for District 3 informed council that the Province of Nova Scotia is providing property tax relief for businesses. The municipality was not consulted on this, nor was there any indication as to how the Province would then pay us as it has an impact on our revenue.

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be sent to the Minister MacLellan asking;**

- 1) Why we were not told of these changes?
- 2) How these changes are going to be implemented?

**Motion Carried.**

*Next Council meeting scheduled for November 18, 2020 at 5:00pm.*

**ADJOURN**

**There being no further business, it was moved to adjourn at 3:35 p.m.**

**Bruce Morrison, Warden**

**Leanne MacEachen, CAO**