

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
February 14, 2005

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, February 14, 2005, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Warden Wayne Budge in the Chair.

Present were:

District #1 – Dan E. MacNeil, Deputy Warden
District #2 – Keith MacCuspic
District #4 – John Graham MacInnes
District #5 – Fraser Patterson
District #6 – Lawrence Barron
District #7 – Wayne Budge, Warden
District #8 – Robert MacLellan

Also present were:

Sandy Hudson, CAO
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

Absent was:

District #3 – Bruce Morrison (Out of Town)

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Warden Budge called the meeting to order and presented the agenda for approval. He indicated one addition to agenda, being a presentation by Lillian MacLeod on behalf of the Middle River Concerned Citizens Group.

It was moved by Deputy Warden MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that the agenda be approved with the noted addition. Motion carried.

LILLIAN MACLEOD, MIDDLE RIVER CONCERNED CITIZENS GROUP

Courtesy of Council was extended to Lillian MacLeod, Middle River Concerned Citizens Group.

Mrs. MacLeod was in attendance with regard to the invitation received from William Lahey, Deputy Minister of the Environment and Labour, to participate in a community liaison process regarding the close out of the Crowdis Mountain septage facility site of Island Vacuum and Portables Limited.

There were a number of organizations invited to sit on this committee, however, Mrs. MacLeod indicated there were two glaring omissions – StoraEnso and the Department of Natural Resources. She has submitted a request that these two organizations be requested to participate. She indicated there were also a number of other organizations that she felt should also participate in this process.

Councillor MacCuspic has been appointed as the Council representative to sit on the Liaison Committee.

Mrs. MacLeod indicated that at present a desktop review of the closure plan is being conducted by CBCL. This consists of a review of the October, 1994, septage plans, the 2005 draft plans and the closure plan submitted by Island Vacuum. Mrs. MacLeod outlined the closure plan to Council. The review does not include a site visit or allow for any public input.

The community liaison process was discussed. Mrs. MacLeod indicated that the concerned citizens group have advised they will attend, but have stated their concerns with the process and reiterated that the close out process of the septage facility is the responsibility of the Department of the Environment and Island Vacuum. She outlined many concerns with the process.

Discussion took place and Mrs. MacLeod addressed questions from Council.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that a letter be forwarded to the Department of the Environment requesting that they follow the most recent Environment Act and Regulations in the close out of the septage facility at Crowdis Mountain and request that remediation of the site be carried out in an environmentally sound manner. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES – JANUARY 10, 2005

The minutes of the January 10, 2005, session of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Deputy Warden MacNeil, that the minutes of the January 10, 2005, Council session be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Councillor Barron questioned on the status of a couple of dangerous and unsightly premises that Paul Burt had been working on in his district. Councillor Barron was advised that Cyril LeBlanc is now handling building inspection duties in Victoria County until a permanent replacement is found for Paul Burt. He should be contacted with regard to these unsightly premises for an update.

RECESS

Warden Budge advised that Council would recess for 10 minutes for coffee.

BUDGET 2005-2006

Council Members were provided with a copy of the 1st draft of the 2005/2006 budget, maintaining the present tax rates of \$1.22 residential and \$2.10 commercial.

Sandy Hudson reviewed the draft with Council and indicated that the total budget is in the vicinity of \$7.5 million. He reviewed the revenue and expenditure categories in detail.

It was felt that a policy should be developed on requests for funding. There has to be a limit placed on this spending and suggestions were discussed.

Council will review the budget draft in more detail and it will be again addressed at a future meeting.

EXCUSED

Deputy Warden MacNeil expressed thanks for the support he and his family have received from Council since the reoccurrence of his illness. He was excused at this time.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – JANUARY 31, 2005

The Committee of the Whole minutes of January 31, 2005, were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that the January 31, 2005, Committee of the Whole minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

SOLID WASTE CONTRACT

Sandy Hudson presented a contract document received from the Municipality of the District of Guysborough for accepting solid waste from our County beginning on January 1, 2006. He indicated that the contract was in order and all municipal units east of Pictou have received the same contract from Guysborough.

Tenders for the construction of a 2nd generation landfill site in the Municipality of the District of Guysborough have been called and this site will be ready for operation in January, 2006.

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspig, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that the Warden and CAO be authorized to sign the contract with the Municipality of the District of Guysborough. Motion carried.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #2

Councillor MacCuspig advised that the streetlight requested for the Beverly's Hill area has been put on hold because there is no power in the vicinity and the cost to put in the 6 plus poles necessary is prohibitive.

Councillor MacCuspig advised that he was approached Anton Jansen with the idea of developing a festival in conjunction with the Christmas Parade in Baddeck. A similar festival is held in Germany and is quite successful. There is funding available and the deadline for application is February 25. Councillor MacCuspig will make contact with Rev. Lloyd Murdock in this regard.

District #5

Councillor Patterson indicated that a notice was included in Council Binders that Victoria County's Phase I Broadband Launch will take place on Friday, February 25, 2005, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Big Bras d'Or Fire Hall.

Councillor Patterson advised that he will also be attending a meeting regarding strip mining on Sunday, as a portion of Victoria County in Black Rock could be affected.

Councillor Patterson advised that on two consecutive Mondays in January, the Boularderie area did not have regular garbage pickup due to weather. An alternative pickup was held on Thursday during these two weeks and he will check with the Collector to see if this will be the policy at all times if Monday pickup is not possible.

Councillor Patterson indicated that Gina Reid, Library Board representative, contacted him regarding a book drop-off to be located at the Victoria Regional North Branch Library. Councillor Barron will bring this matter to a future library board meeting.

It was moved by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor Barron, that \$1,000.00 be approved for the Big Bras d'Or Community Hall from the District #5 budget. Motion carried.

District #6

A letter was received from Rob Costello regarding the upgrade of the Cabot High Soccer Field.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that this matter be referred to the Recreation Committee. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received from Brooke Oland, Chairman of Cape Breton Island Pathways Association, requesting funding in the amount of \$1,000.00 in this fiscal year and the appointment of an ex-officio member to represent Council at a strategic planning session to be held on February 19, 2005, at the Victoria County Memorial Hospital Board Room.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that this request be forwarded to the Tourism Committee. Motion carried.

COUNCIL MEETING DATES

A Committee of the Whole meeting will be held on Monday, February 28, 2005, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

The dates for the next Council meetings will be as follows:

March 21, 2005

April 25, 2005

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Councillor MacLellan, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Wayne Budge, Warden

A. W. (Sandy) Hudson, CAO