

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
April 25, 2005

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, April 25, 2005, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Warden Wayne Budge in the Chair.

Present were:

District #1 – Dan E. MacNeil, Deputy Warden
District #3 – Bruce Morrison
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 #2 – Keith MacCuspik (Out of Town on Vacation)

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Budge called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Deputy Warden MacNeil, that the agenda be approved with the addition of an In Camera Session at the end of the meeting. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Council minutes of March 21, 2005, were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of March 21, 2005, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Councillor Patterson indicated that he had sign up sheets for the Atlantic Burn Care Bowl-A-Thon to be held at the Heather Bowling Lanes, Sydney, on May 7, 2005. Council members wishing to participate can sign up with him before the end of the meeting.

BLACKHEADED BUDWORM PRESENTATION

Courtesy of Council was extended to Eric Jorgenson and Andrew Hanam, Department of Natural Resources, who were in attendance to make a presentation on the blackheaded budworm.

Mr. Jorgenson advised that the blackheaded budworm is a small native moth that looks very much like the spruce budworm moth, although it is a brighter green in colour and has a black head. He provided an outline of the life cycle of the blackheaded budworm. The larvae are the defoliators. The first symptom that can be seen from a distance is red foliage. Major outbreaks will result in significant tree growth loss and tree mortality.

The blackheaded budworm is found all across Canada, but Cape Breton has been an area where major outbreaks have occurred in the past. Past damage as a result of the blackheaded budworm has occurred in 1929-31 when 250,000 hectares were affected, with 45,000 hectares totally defoliated. Outbreaks again occurred in the period 1949-51 and in again in the 1970-1980's, however this outbreak was masked by the more serious eastern spruce budworm outbreak.

Mr. Jorgenson indicated that last summer there was a report of defoliation and trees turning red. An egg survey was undertaken in the Highlands and everywhere where samples were taken, eggs were found. There are no registered products for use on the blackheaded budworm. It is felt that 2004 was year one of a possible 2-4 year infestation. The blackheaded budworm is a rapid defoliator, a possible precursor to a spruce budworm infestation.

The Canadian Forestry Services have developed research and development action that will

- Develop a monitoring toll to be used as an early warning system
- Study the insect and its natural predators and diseases
- Study the impact of the defoliation on forest stands
- Conduct a spray trial using BTK (*Bacillus Thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki*), a naturally occurring bacteria
- Use the above research to develop forest management tools for the future

BTK is the only product used in Nova Scotia. It is highly probable that it is effective on the blackheaded budworm and it has no impact on humans or animals. The product has been used for 30 years and there is a great deal of scientific information available on BTK. The BTK spray will be conducted this summer. All federal permits have been obtained and work is now being done on obtaining the appropriate provincial permits.

Andrew Hanam advised that StoraEnso is the main leaseholder in the area. They need green wood for processing in their new super calendared machine. He indicated that if diseased trees died in the fall of the year, they would have until the next spring to harvest these trees. The same would apply to stud wood.

After further questioned and discussion, Warden Budge, on behalf of Council, extended a vote of thanks to Mr. Jorgenson and Mr. Hanam for the presentation.

RECESS

Warden Budge advised that Council would recess for 10 minutes to allow the next presenter time to set up for his presentation.

BIOSPHERE RESERVE PRESENTATION

Warden Budge extended the courtesy of Council to Dr. Jim Foulds. Dr. Foulds made a presentation to Council on Biosphere Reserve: An Opportunity for the Bras d'Or. (copy attached).

Biosphere Reserves are areas of terrestrial and coastal/marine ecosystems. They are internationally recognized with the framework of UNESCO's (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) Man and the Biosphere Program. They are designed to balance economic interests with the need for conservation. There are 459 biosphere reserves internationally, with 13 in Canada – one of which is Southwest Nova in Nova Scotia.

Dr. Foulds outlined the work that has been undertaken by the local steering group towards the hopes of designating the Bras d'Or Lakes and its watershed as a biosphere reserve. He indicated that he has taken on the responsibility of speaking to municipalities and organizations on this topic. To date, Victoria County is the only municipality to be visited and he is in hopes of reaching other municipalities and the Pitu'paq Committee in the near future.

Education on the topic was felt to be the biggest obstacle and Dr. Foulds indicated that in time public meetings will be held to discuss the biosphere reserve concept.

After further discussion, Warden Budge extended a vote of thanks to Dr. Foulds for his presentation.

RECESS

Council recessed for 5 minutes.

JOHN BAIN, RURAL CAPE BRETON DISTRICT PLANNING COMMISSION

Courtesy of Council was extended to John Bain, Director, Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission.

Mr. Bain thanked Council for allowing him time on the agenda and addressed the misunderstanding that occurred at the last meeting with regard to the Building Inspector position for Victoria County.

Mr. Bain then introduced David MacKenzie, the new Building Inspector/Fire Inspector for Victoria County. He outlined Mr. MacKenzie's qualifications to Council and indicated that he has already taken two courses and is working towards becoming fully certified.

Due to the number of changes with the staff of the Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission, Mr. Bain requested that Council make new appointments.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that the following appointments be made for Victoria County:

- **Jamie Burke, Alternate Development Officer**
- **Cyril LeBlanc, Alternate Fire Inspector**
- **David MacKenzie, Building Inspector, Alternate Fire Inspector, and Administrator for Dangerous and Unsightly Premises**
- **Gary Wong, Alternate Building Inspector**
- **John Bain, Alternate Development Officer**
- **Alfred Fougere, Alternate Building Inspector**
- **Cyril LeBlanc, Alternate Building Inspector**
- **Leon LeBlanc, Alternate Building Inspector**
- **Leon LeBlanc, Fire Inspector**
- **Wanda Ryan, Development Officer**

Motion carried.

Councillor Barron brought up the matter of two unsightly premises in his district which no action has taken place on since last fall. John Bain indicated that he would look into this matter tomorrow.

Warden Budge extended a vote of thanks to John Bain and David MacKenzie for their attendance and they were excused at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

QUIT CLAIM DEEDS

Sandy Hudson presented two quit claim deeds for execution by the Municipality. He reviewed the circumstances with Council and advised that Solicitor MacDowell has reviewed these matters and is recommending approval.

The first quit claim deed is for Melvin and Edna MacAskill for lands at North River and the second is for Andrew and Jean MacLellan for lands at Ingonish.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that a quit claim deed be issued to Melvin and Edna MacAskill and Andrew and Jean MacLellan. Motion carried.

UNSM SPRING WORKSHOP

The UNSM Spring Workshop will be held at the Inverary Resort, Baddeck, on May 12 and 13, 2005. Deadline for registration for the workshop is May 2, 2005.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #3

Last year \$5,000 was approved for extension to the sewer line on Alexander Drive. This money has not been used to date, however, another project was done in the Grant Street area connecting 4 homes. Councillor Morrison requested permission to access \$1,000 of the \$5,000 allocated to go towards this project.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that \$1,000 of the \$5,000 approved for the Alexander Street sewer line extension be allocated to the Grant Street project. Motion carried.

District #1

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Deputy Warden MacNeil, that the 15 sites and budget for Phase I of the Victoria County Broadband Project be approved. Motion carried.

District #4

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that three (3) streetlights be approved for each district in the 2005/06 budget. Motion carried.

District #5

It was moved by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Deputy Warden MacNeil, that two Development Committee representatives, plus Ross MacDonald, attend the Atlantic Immigration Conference to be held at Pier 21 in Halifax on May 16 and 17, 2005. Motion carried.

Councillor Patterson indicated that a recent announcement in the paper concerning priority list for road paving indicated the Millville Highway was included. He questioned on whether the entire Old Route Five would be included in this paving, including the Victoria County section. This matter will be investigated.

Councillor Patterson indicated that there will be another meeting regarding strip mining held at the Millville Community Centre on May 4, 2005. The Department of the Environment has requested proposals for an impact study. Councillor Patterson indicated that he wants to ensure that the part of Victoria County included in the proposed strip-mining area be included in the impact study.

District #6

Councillor Barron indicated that he received complaints about the location of the "Ferry Operation" sign when traveling west at Exit 12 onto Highway 312. The sign is not visible before entering Highway 312.

This matter was brought to Council sometime ago and a letter was previously sent on this matter and a reply was received. A further letter will be forwarded to the Department of Transportation requesting they review this matter.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from the Residents of Capstick Manor enclosing a letter forwarded to the Cape Breton Island Housing Authority concerning the inadequate parking at Capstick Manor.

It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that a letter be forwarded to the Cape Breton Island Housing Authority, with a copy to John MacKillop, County representative on the Housing Authority Board, supporting the residents concerns regarding inadequate parking facilities at Capstick Manor. Motion carried.

2. Letter from Robin Stuart, Director, Englishtown Community Hall, requesting a plebiscite be held in Englishtown to allow the Englishtown Community Hall to obtain a full-time liquor license. The area to be covered in the plebiscite is to from the Trans Canada Highway at Exit 12, down Highway 312 to the end of the Black Head Road.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that a letter be forwarded to the Nova Scotia Alcohol and Gaming Authority requesting that a plebiscite be conducted in the community of Englishtown. Motion carried.

3. Letter from Richard Gwinn, Chair, Home Support Nova Scotia Conference Committee, requesting financial support from the Municipality to assist with funding their annual awards banquet.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that \$750.00 be approved to assist with the annual awards banquet in conjunction with Home Support Nova Scotia's Annual Conference at the Inverary Resort, Baddeck, in October, 2005. Motion carried.

4. Correspondence from Recreation Nova Scotia advising that June has been proclaimed Recreation Month in Nova Scotia.

It was moved by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that this matter be referred to the Victoria County Municipal Recreation Committee. Motion carried.

5. Letter from Jamie Chisholm. P. Eng., Construction Manager, Department of Transportation, acknowledging receipt of Council's letter requesting paving of 7 roads in Victoria County and questioning whether the Municipality is interested in cost sharing on a 50/50 basis the paving of these roads.
6. Letter from the Honourable Ronald Russell, Minister of Transportation and Public Works, advising that Hilltop Crescent, Baddeck has been approved for paving at an estimated cost of \$60,400.00.

Discussion took place on the J Class roads and whether the municipality could afford to fund paving a couple of the roads in question.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that the matter of paving J Class Roads be referred to budget talks for consideration. Motion carried.

7. Letter from David Briggins, Manager, Water and Wastewater Branch, Department of the Environment, advising that the Maritime Provinces Regional Municipal Meeting will be held in Amherst on May 17, 2005. This meeting is to provide information to stakeholders on the development of a Canada-wide Strategy for managing municipal wastewater effluent.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that Councillor Bruce Morrison attend the meeting for the management of wastewater effluent to be held in Amherst on May 17, 2005. Motion carried.

8. Letter to the Premier from Warden Wayne Budge regarding the blackheaded budworm.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that Victoria County Municipal Council endorse Warden Budge's letter to Premier John Hamm supporting biological control of the blackheaded budworm. Motion carried.

9. Correspondence from the following:
 - Feed Nova Scotia
 - Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal

These matters will be referred to budget talks.

10. Letter from Craig MacLaughlan, EMO Nova Scotia, advising that National Emergency Preparedness Week will be held from May 1-7, 2005.
11. Summary report of the Cape Breton Island Field Team – Communities Speak to Issues – March 2005, from the Nova Scotia Sustainable Communities Initiative.
12. Copy of the Province's Gaming Strategy from Marie T. Mullally, Nova Scotia Gaming Commission.

IN CAMERA

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, to adjourn to an In Camera meeting.

Council then returned to regular session.

OPERATIONAL REVIEW

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that in September 2005, the services of an independent company be retained to carry out an operational review of the administration of Victoria County. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING

The meeting schedule is as follows:

Budget Meeting – May 9, 2005 – 5:30 p.m.

Committee of the Whole – May 16, 2005 – 5:00 p.m.

Victoria County Municipal Council – May 24, 2005 – 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Councillor MacInnes, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Wayne Budge, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO

