

***VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL***  
***June 25, 2007***

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, June 25, 2007, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Present were:

District #2 – Keith MacCuspie  
District #3 – Bruce Morrison  
District #4 – John Graham MacInnes, Deputy Warden  
District #5 – Fraser Patterson  
District #6 – Lawrence Barron  
District #7 – Wayne Budge, Warden

Also present were:

Sandy Hudson, CAO  
Zina MacNeil, Recording Secretary

**CALL TO ORDER**

Warden Budge called the meeting to order.

**SAFE COMMUNITIES INITIATIVES**

Courtesy of Council was extended to Fred Sanford and George Lahey with Safer Communities Initiatives.

The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act was put in place on January 7, 2007 in Nova Scotia. There are four such acts across the Country. The purpose of the act is to improve community safety by targeting and, if necessary, shutting down residential and commercial buildings and land that are used for illegal activities such as producing, selling or using illegal drugs, prostitution, illegal gaming or the unlawful sale and consumption of alcohol.

The legislation gives citizens the tools to take back their neighbourhoods by reporting problem residences and businesses. It also holds property owners accountable for threatening or disturbing activities regularly taking place on their property.

The act also creates a process to see to the removal of building fortifications that cause public safety concerns and/or exceed reasonable security measures for residential or commercial buildings. Fortification often include bullet proof glass or explosive-resistant materials, barbed wire, armour to

reinforce doors, and bars on windows or doors. These fortifications may prevent emergency response personnel, law enforcement, or occupants from gaining access to or escaping from these building in the event of an emergency.

An investigative unit is in place to respond to community concerns about suspected illegal activity. The unit includes a director, manager and three investigators. There is a toll free number for legitimate complaints 1-877-357 2337. Complaints are confidential and forbid the release of the identity of the individual. The investigators are all experienced in drug enforcement and all ex-police officers.

They work under Civil Law and can go further than the police with authority. They have been very successful and gave examples of some of the cases they have solved. They do not make a move without enough evidence and use very aggressive follow-up.

The “Community Safety Order” is the backbone of the operation. It can close an operation for up to 90 days. There is also the “Closure Order” which closes a property as a last resort if there is no cooperation.

Any information they find they turn over to law enforcement. They have a two way information flow. They have had 30 some complaints all over the province. If any questions you can go to website under [www.gov.ns.ca/justice](http://www.gov.ns.ca/justice).

Warden Budge thanked George Lahey and Fred Sanford for their presentation.

### **NS POWER**

Courtesy of council was extended to Ken Paruch and Richard Cook representing NS Power.

Staffing concerns had been an issue with council and Mr. Paruch would address this as well as explain the process since Hurricane Juan and how they were addressing changes. They developed a timeline after learning a lot from Juan in regards to weather circuit and environment Canada. This would hopefully give them a 36 hour window before the onset of a weather related event more specific to our areas.

Response levels were rated from 1-4. Level 1 being a Regional Response (one area) where the Ops manager declares the response (usually 50,000 customers out of power and take within 12 hrs to get back).

Level 2 being a multi Regional response (couple of territories hit) where the General Manager declares the response (up to 26 hrs outage with over 50,000 customers affected).

Level 3 being a Provincial Response Storm lead 3 Declares Command Centre role in this and usually look at 72 hrs with over 50,000 plus customers affected.

Level 4 being a Corporate Response with a storm lead of 4 declaring from Yarmouth to Cape Breton a province wide disaster.

Priorities are broken down into these stages as well:

1. Basic Restoration
2. Critical Infrastructure
3. EMO Critical Infrastructure
4. Main Line Distribution Feeders
5. Branch Line Distribution Feeders
6. Individual Customers

The maximum numbers of customers are restored the fastest.

Significant aspects of sub plans:

- Safety Management
- Environmental Management
- Geographic Based Restoration Philosophy
- Outage Management System Philosophy
- Damage Assessment
- Work Planning (Plan by Night)
- Work execution (Plan by Day)
- Logistics
- Customers
- Regular Business

Staffing Levels for Victoria County normal workload would not even justify current staffing levels. However, the localized response dictates that we maintain an appropriate staffing level. Historical experience and data tells us that the most optimum employment level is that which is outline below. Major power interruptions mandate us to staff according to our ESRP which we have reviewed. And example would be this past weekends lightening storm. Baddeck currently has two Power Line Technicians. There is a job posted and soon to be filled. There is one planner, one meter reader and Ingonish has two Power Line Technicians and Cheticamp has 3.

The reason for the two months to get a street light is due to the approval process.

Wreck Cove reclaiming has not been done since 1980 Ken Paruch will speak with Mary Beth Benedict who is Environmentalist and have her respond to Councillor Barron personally.

Victoria County will be staffed by three Power Line Technicians come the first of July.

Deputy Warden MacInnes excused himself at this time.

Customer Service - supervisor callback process if you call and leave a message, escalated customer issues tracking, lowest amount of customer issues eastern area, Municipal/Provincial/Federal representative/EMO Response interact regularly, claims resolution process where service is a designed report card metrics. 2007 Customer Focus claims process improvements, quality call enhancement call centre and new customer information package under development. They are taking a localized approach.

They also touched on the Good Neighbourhood Fund which raises money for a charity.

### **BREAK**

### **APPROVAL MINUTES**

The minutes of the May 28, 2007 meeting of Victoria County Municipal council were presented for approval.

**It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacCuspik, that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of May 28, 2007 be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

At this time Council gave the floor to David Grant to speak on a 911 Ambulance issue on the Kempt Head Road. David's father had to call the ambulance a couple of times and the response time was thirty minutes to get to his house. The whole area is called Kempt Head Road and the ambulance went on the wrong side. He had a petition circulated and all but 5 families out of 40 signed the petition to change the name of the road. He was interested in the policy for road name change and feasibility of changing name. Something needs to be done. There are three crossroads on the Kempt Head Road that EHS could take. He feels council should investigate the Policy as currently all residents on a road have to agree on the change of name or it can't be changed.

**It was moved by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor Barron, that Council undertake a policy review on road name changes and see what other municipalities have in place. Motion carried.**

It is recommended to look at 6-8 policies in other places and see where we want to go with ours. Unusual circumstances could be reason to change as well will contact planning and work in conjunction with them.

## **BUSINESS ARISING**

### **Economic Development**

Sandy Hudson advised that a meeting was held and they are still considering their options. Presentations will be given to council to give a balanced view on other alternatives.

### **Unsightly Premises**

Discussion arose on the process of unsightly premises and how to deal with it. David MacKenzie currently visits sites and sends letters. Maybe we should look at CBRM see if they have a policy that is different with more teeth to it.

## **NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

- Enquiry into the Little Narrows Water Extension the engineering is complete. Waiting on the Environmental Assessment to be delivered before it can go to tender. Looking at July and then be able to go to tender in August. We are looking at 17 Kilometers from the Department of Transportation building to Estmere to Jamesville to hill by Pius Campbell's. Then a 2 kilometer extension in Hazeldale.
- Charlie MacDonald from Department of Transportation received a promotion and is moving to Bridgewater. We should acknowledge his service.

**It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by councillor Patterson, that the County send a letter to Charles MacDonald acknowledging his service to Victoria County. Motion Carried.**

### **County Website**

Sandy Hudson and the Chair of Economic Development Committee will meet with Tom Wilson before the next council session in regards to Susan d'Fiore and the updating of the County Website.

- We should invite the new replacement at Department of Transportation to come in to council.

## **DISTRICT CONCERNS**

### **District#2**

The name change on Beverly's Hill Road should be given to David then comes back to Council for approval and then goes to District Planning and Transportation for final approval.

**It was moved by Councillor MacCuspic, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that a donation and card be sent in memory of Gordon MacRae who was a former councillor. Motion carried.**

**District #5**

**It was moved by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that Douglas Brown be added as a lay member to the Economic Development Committee. Motion carried.**

**District#6**

**It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that Department of Transportation be asked to replace two signs in Ingonish River and Power Brook. Motion carried.**

**District #7**

**It was moved by Warden Budge, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that letters be sent to all agencies such as fisheries, environment to take immediate action to resolve the issue with the blocked channel in South Harbour which leaves the low water levels and warm water which are causing the oysters to die. Motion carried.**

**Richard Apostle from Dalhousie University was given the courtesy of council to speak at this time.**

He is involved with a group doing a comparative study on local government. They are looking at a number of issues population being one. They are looking at comparing similar points and issues and the attempts and solutions from different national and historical circumstances. The group is made up of different nationalities such as Russians, Finland, and Norwegian. They are coming here this fall for a leader program on the November long weekend and would like the prospect of interacting with council to add some final touches to their manuscript.

Council agreed to meet with them on Saturday or Sunday. There are 15 people in total coming and staying at the Inverary Inn. Council is looking at maybe having a wine and cheese or something for them.

**Cape Breton Marketing Levy**

Mayors and Wardens met to discuss the Cape Breton Marketing Levy. ECBC is looking for a letter of support from each Municipality on the Cape Breton Highlands Marketing Strategy. Sandy Hudson read a letter drafted on behalf of council.

**It was moved by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic that Mr. Hudson send the letter he drafted to ECBC on behalf of Council. Motion carried.**

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for July 23 with Mark Peck and Grant Burgess being on the agenda for 20 minutes each.

**ADJOURN**

**There being no further business, on motion by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.**