

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
March 11, 2013

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, March 11, 2013, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Warden Bruce Morrison in the Chair.

Present were:

District #1 – Paul MacNeil
District #2 – Athol Grant
District #3 – Bruce Morrison, Warden
District #5 – Fraser Patterson, Deputy Warden
District #6 – Larry Dauphinee
District #7 – Wayne Budge
District #8 – Johnny Buchanan

Also present were:

Sandy Hudson, CAO
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

Absent was:

District #4 – Merrill MacInnis (Out of Town)

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Morrison called the meeting to order and presented the agenda for approval. An In Camera session is to be added to the agenda.

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor Grant, that the agenda be approved with the noted addition. Motion carried.

VILLAGE OF BADDECK

Courtesy of Council was extended to Eddie Keeling, Chairman, Village of Baddeck.

Mr. Keeling was in attendance with regard to the two lighthouses on Kidston Island. The Village has acquired the two lighthouses on Kidston Island and their objective is to restore the lighthouses to like new condition. The plans are to repair, re-shingle and paint the lighthouse at the eastern side of the island and the one at the west end of the island will have some minor work done, painted and armour stone placed along the shoreline to protect it.

Mr. Keeling indicated that this is a \$150,000.00 project and he requested Council to give consideration to a financial request of \$25,000.00 towards the project.

It was moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Councillor Grant, that the Village's financial request for \$25,000.00 be referred to budget. Motion carried.

Warden Morrison brought forward correspondence from the Village with regard to the Silver Dart replica. The replica has been gifted and will be housed in the AG Bell Museum this spring. The possibility of the County and Village hosting a dinner to celebrate this contribution was discussed.

This correspondence will be tabled for further discussion.

REGIONAL ENTERPRISE NETWORK

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Eileen Oldford, CBCEDA, and Blaine Gillis, SHRDA, who were in attendance to discuss the proposed Cape Breton Island Regional Enterprise Network (CBI-REN).

Ms. Oldford thanked Council for the opportunity to appear. She indicated that as the report was previously provided to Council, they felt that a question and answer session would be more beneficial than a formal presentation.

Ms. Oldford indicated that the initial report provided on the proposed CBI-REN had all five island municipal units included. CBRM have provided a commitment to join the REN. She explained the Governance Model for the CBI-REN.

Councillor Grant questioned on why Inverness County and Victoria County would be paying the same amount when Inverness County has double the population. Mr. Gillis explained the funding formula that has been in place since the beginning of the SHRDA. Based on this calculation, Victoria County would pay \$48,150. It has been indicated that Victoria County wish to have a full-time Development Officer, so salary and benefits have been added to this figure to come up with the \$65,000.00 amount.

Inverness, Richmond and the Town of Port Hawkesbury have expressed an interest in joining with the quad-County REN. As a result, Ms. Oldford advised that a proposal has been drafted with two municipalities - CBRM and Victoria County in the CBI-REN. She presented a copy of this proposal to Council. The Interim Board composition was outlined and Ms. Oldford indicated that the goal is to have the Interim Board in place and registered under the Societies Act by April 1, 2013.

The organizational structure of the new CBI-REN was explained. CBRM have agreed to join the REN with a financial contribution of \$250,000.00. Victoria County's anticipated share would be \$65,000.00 and the Province of Nova Scotia would contribute \$365,335.00. ECBC

will provide \$200,000.00 in potential project funding. The total projected budget for 2013-2014 would be \$680,335.00.

Ms. Oldford advised that the Transition Team has left the door open to the other Cape Breton Island municipalities – Inverness, Richmond and Port Hawkesbury – to join the CBI-REN if they decide not to join with the quad-counties.

Discussion took place on how a CEO would be chosen. The CEO would then hire the staff of the REN.

Ms. Oldford was questioned as to whether there is any indication of the status of the three remaining municipal units and their membership in a quad-county REN. She outlined that they have met with Inverness County and they are considering three options. They have yet to meet with Richmond County or Port Hawkesbury.

The date of March 20, 2013, has been set as the date to advise of membership in the CBI-REN.

Ms. Oldford provided Council with a report on the activities in Victoria County as a result of the CBCEDA and Victoria County MOU.

Sandy Hudson questioned on who would pick up the severance pay should the CEO retire in a couple of years from now. Ms. Oldford indicated that RDA's are legally finished on March 31, 2013, and that has been addressed. The new REN will bear no responsibility. As far as the assets of the RDA's goes, Ms. Oldford indicated that a letter will be forwarded to the Minister requesting that the assets be transferred to the REN at no cost to the entity.

An explanation on community economic development vs. business economic development was requested. Ms. Oldford outlined that most activities are core business activities and she outlined what these entailed. In community economic development, any project has to demonstrate economic development and has to show impact for economic development.

Ms. Oldford indicated that she has had discussions with Bob Book, Director of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism. The province has mechanisms in place for community economic development and it is expected that municipalities access these processes.

Henry Fuller questioned on how this information will be provided to the taxpayers. Taxpayers must be informed and see the benefits before they will have confidence on the job being done.

Ms. Oldford indicated there would be a marketing campaign and annual economic forum and other commitments for providing public information.

Mr . Fuller indicated that they have a responsibility to provide the taxpayers with the information and provide it before the fact, not after it is established.

There is a 3 year period commitment for ECBC's contribution and this included project staff and cost of operations.

Ms. Oldford indicated that membership in the REN would be a five year commitment, in principle and the organization would come each budget year to provide an annual report to Council.

The date of March 20, 2013, was established by the transition team as a date for commitment to the REN. Warden Morrison advised that Council would be meeting on March 25, 2013, and a decision will be made at that time. Council have established a committee to deal with the REN issue and recommend to Council and as a result of the information provided today, they have a clearer perspective and will take time to meet and recommend prior to March 25, 2013.

Further discussion took place and Warden Morrison extended a thank you to Ms. Oldford and Mr. Gillis for their attendance and the information provided.

Ms. Oldford indicated that she respects that the decision is important and will only work if working in the same direction of success.

Ms. Oldford and Mr. Gillis agreed to stay during the break period to answer any other questions Council or the public may have in this regard.

RECESS

Warden Morrison advised that Council would recess for 15 minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 25, 2013

The minutes of the February 25, 2013, session of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of February 25, 2013, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Cabot Trail Paving

Whether additional paving of the Cabot Trail was included in the DOTIR 5-year plan was questioned. No additional paving is planned for this construction season, but it is anticipated that a section will be completed in the 2014 season. A letter was sent to the Minister concerning this matter.

Property Lease

The lease document for the Dingwall Recreation Society lease of County owned land at Dingwall is presently being drafted by the Solicitor. Additional information such as the term of the lease, payment for the lease and whether permanent structures can be located on the property are to be determined.

It was suggested that a 10 year term would be appropriate and the cost be \$1.00 per year. The Municipality will retain control of the development that will take place on the property.

It was moved by Councillor Buchanan, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that the Municipality approve the lease for the Dingwall Recreation Society at a cost of \$1.00 per year for a 10 year term and the Municipality oversee any future permanent structures that may be planned for this site. Motion carried.

Volunteers of the Year

Murdell and Larry MacNeil have been selected as Victoria County's Volunteers of the Year to attend the provincial ceremony in Halifax in April.

Sewage Disposal

Sandy Hudson advised that he contacted Warren Olson, CAO, Richmond County, regarding their intentions with regard to the purchase of a sludge dewatering pump truck to pump out residents' sewage tanks. They would be willing to enter negotiations with Victoria County.

Concern was expressed that Victoria County would have to have a disposal site. Sandy Hudson advised that they are considering burying the septic waste materials in Richmond Council.

Richmond County are looking at purchasing a used unit in the range of \$400,000.00. New units cost approximately \$700,000.00. Concern was expressed as to why a vehicle would be for sale and it was felt references should be investigated to see why it is being sold.

EASTERN DISTRICT PLANNING COMMISSION

A letter was received from John Bain, Director, Eastern District Planning Commission, requesting Council make staffing appointments for 2013-2014.

It was moved by Councillor Grant, seconded by Deputy Warden Patterson, that the following appointments be approved by Council:

- **Administrator – Dangerous and Unsightly Premises – John Bain**
Sean Donovan, Alternate
- **Building Inspector – David MacKenzie**
Cyril LeBlanc, Alternate
Leon LeBlanc, Alternate
Harry Martell, Alternate
- **Development Officer – Beth Schumacher**
John Bain, Alternate
Wanda Ryan, Alternate
Andrew Jones, Alternate
- **Fire Inspector – Cyril LeBlanc**
Sean Donovan, Alternate
David MacKenzie, Alternate
Leon LeBlanc, Alternate

Motion carried.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #5

Deputy Warden Patterson advised that the condition of the roads in his district is a concern and attempts are being made to contact the Minister of TIR to have him come to a meeting in the community.

District #6

Councillor Dauphinee questioned whether the funding request for the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 105, had been received and he was advised it has been received and forwarded to budget.

The Community Crime Group in the northern area of the County, wish to meet with the three area Councillors and the Warden. Janet Bickerton is the contact it was suggested that the date of March 26, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. be provided to her for this meeting. The Councillors in the northern area will look after obtaining a location for the meeting.

District #7

Councillor Budge indicated his concern would be brought to the In Camera portion of the meeting.

District #8

Councillor Buchanan questioned whether Inverness County's funding to the Bay St. Lawrence Volunteer Fire Department will be an annual thing. Sandy Hudson will contact Joe O'Connor in this regard.

District #2

Councillor Grant brought up the Strategic Tourism Expansion Program which is geared to expanding the tourism communities in Baddeck and Louisbourg.

Councillor Grant attended a financial training session for Councillors in Port Hawkesbury. He indicated a list of questions the he would copy and forward to Council members. He advised of the Municipal Indicators statistics provided on the SNSMR website.

Councillor Grant commended Tom Wilson on the online marketing conference that was held last week. The conference was well done and informative.

Councillor Grant indicated that he and Donna MacDonald, VCCAPS, would like time on the March 25, 2013, agenda to discuss a website venture. Time will be allotted prior to DOTIR's presentation.

Councillor Grant indicated that a possible day care site has been identified and he and the Warden will be meeting with the Department of Community Services representatives to tour the site and determine whether the site would be suitable for a daycare.

Councillor Grant brought up a concern with regard to the loss of 5 permanent DNR jobs from Victoria County. Three positions vacated by retirement will not be filled and 2 positions are being transferred to another site.

It was moved by Councillor Grant, seconded by Councillor Budge, that a letter be forwarded to the Minister of DNR, Deputy Minister of DNR and the Premier further expressing Council's concern with regard to the loss of five DNR jobs in Victoria County, and in particular the two positions that are being transferred from the County. Motion carried.

Councillor Grant advised that a Planning Advisory Committee will be established for the wind turbine issue. Two to three public will be added to the Committee and this action should take place within the next month.

A public participation policy as required under the *Municipal Government Act* is to be adopted. The draft Public Participation Policy was previously forwarded to Council for review.

It was moved by Councillor Grant, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that the Public Participation Policy as required under the *Municipal Government Act* be adopted. Motion carried.

District #1

Councillor MacNeil indicated that he has road issues that will be addressed with the DOTIR representatives at the March 25, 2013, meeting.

Councillor MacNeil requested a copy of the Road Name Change Form.

Councillor MacNeil gave notice that the Iona Food Bank will be erecting a new building and a request will be coming to budget for this project.

The Pitu'paq Committee will be meeting in Baddeck on Friday, March 15, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. Councillor MacNeil indicated he is unable to attend and Warden Morrison advised he would be available to attend.

Councillor MacNeil brought up the matter of the funding for the outdoor rinks and the approved amount will be investigated.

District #3

Deputy Warden Patterson assumed the Chair.

Warden Morrison brought up the rumoured downsizing by the Royal Bank and that the Baddeck Branch may be scheduled for possible closure.

It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that a letter be forwarded to the Branch Manager of RBC questioning on any planned changes for the operation of the Baddeck Branch. Motion carried.

The letter from the Village of Baddeck concerning the possible hosting of a supper to coincide with the gifting and location of the Silver Dart Replica at the AG Bell Museum was discussed.

It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that the Municipality would be interested in entertaining shared sponsorship with the Village of Baddeck of a dinner to celebrate the gifting of the Silver Dart Replica. Motion carried.

It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that \$1,000.00 be approved from the District #3 budget to support the public washrooms located at the Bras d'Or Yacht Club. Motion carried.

Warden Morrison returned to the Chair.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from Right Some Good for sponsorship of the two Victoria County venues at Iona and Baddeck.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that the Right Some Good request be referred to budget. Motion carried.

2. Approximately two years ago a Fire Services Study was completed for the Municipality by Marathon Human Resources. A note was received from Dwayne Symes, Secretary-Treasurer of the Chief Fire Officers Association, indicating that a number one priority of the study was the hiring of a Fire Services Coordinator. A proposed job description was included and a wish to meet with Sandy Hudson regarding financial information and the County training fund was requested.

It was felt that further information was required to determine what is being requested. A copy of the Fire Services Study and the proposed job description is to be forwarded to Council for review.

3. A request was received from Buchanan Memorial Hospital, Neil's Harbour, that the Municipality pick up the solid waste from the hospital. At present the Municipality collect the bag limit from Highland Manor on the regular collection day.

Highland Manor is a municipally owned entity and the hospital is not. Neither Alderwood nor the Victoria County Memorial Hospital receives municipal collection. Buchanan Memorial is to be advised that the Municipality will not assume collection of their solid waste.

The lack of night security at the Buchanan Memorial Hospital was discussed. Whether night security was in place at the Victoria County Memorial Hospital was questioned.

It was moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that a letter be forwarded to the CBDHA requesting that night time security be provided at both Buchanan Memorial and Victoria County Memorial Hospitals. Motion carried.

TRANSIT FEASIBILITY STUDY

Sandy Hudson advised that eight responses were received for the RFP for the Transit Feasibility Study. The three lowest submissions were reviewed, the prices being \$29,893, \$29,963 and \$29,964. After reviewing the submissions, it was felt that the third lowest submission from IBI Group was the best deal for the Municipality. The start date for the study was deferred to April 1, 2013, to allow access of provincial funding.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that IBI Group's submission for the Transit Feasibility Study be accepted. Motion carried.

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION REPORT

An RFP for the development of a Climate Change Action Plan, in conjunction with the Town of Port and County of Inverness, was advertised and a total of 17 submissions were received. The prices varied from a low of \$7,000.00 to a high of \$117,000.00. The CAO's from Inverness, Port Hawkesbury and Victoria will be meeting to review the proposals next week.

CAPE BRETON CENTRE FOR CRAFT AND DESIGN

Councillor Grant advised that the Cape Breton Centre for Craft and Design will be holding a two-day conference, *Growing a Creative Economy Together*, and have requested municipal leaders to attend. The dates are March 26 and 27, 2013, and Councillor Grant expressed an interest in attending.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor Grant, that any Council member interested in attending the two day conference sponsored by the Cape Breton Centre for Craft and Design be approved to attend. Motion carried.

SEASIDE WIRELESS

Sandy Hudson outlined a joint undertaking of the Municipality and Seaside Wireless to provide financial and service support to Volunteer Fire Departments within the Municipality and within Seaside's service areas. Both the Municipality and Seaside will commit to contribute \$4,000.00 per annum for a period of 5 years.

In each of the 5 years, on a random basis, two volunteer fire departments within the Municipality will be selected. Each department will only receive the donation once.

It was moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that the 5 year Joint Undertaking between Seaside Wireless Communications and the Municipality be approved. Motion carried.

IN CAMERA

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, to move In Camera. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, to return to the regular session of Council.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that the personnel issues outlined be addressed as recommended. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Grant, that the recommendation to Council to conduct an operational review of the four water utilities within the Victoria County Water Utility be approved. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO

