

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
November 4, 2013

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, November 4, 2013, 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 #4 – Merrill MacInnis
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

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Warden Morrison called the meeting to order and presented the agenda for approval.

Councillor Grant requested that an In Camera meeting be added to the agenda.

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

MARKETING EFFORTS IN REGARDS TO THE FISHING INDUSTRY

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Art Drysdale, Senior Trade Executive, Economic and Rural Development and Tourism (ERDT).

Mr. Drysdale then provided a presentation on marketing with regard to the fishery (copy attached).

Mr. Drysdale outlined ERDT's International Business Development Program's functions, duties, roles and responsibilities.

The Chinese Fisheries & Seafood Expo is taking place right now in Dalian, China and Nova Scotia Seafood is an exhibitor at this event. Industry and government seafood export organizations around the world know that the China Fisheries & Seafood Expo is their best

opportunity to grow sales in the world's largest and fastest growing seafood market. More than 20 countries participate in this Expo.

Nova Scotia Seafood has had a booth at this event in the Canadian Pavilion since 2006. This show is a major platform for the China/Nova Scotia market. Seafood products include haddock, herring, ocean perch, pollock, snow crab, shrimp, sea cucumber, salted and smoked seafood and of course, lobster.

Atlantic Canada exported \$2.9 billion worth of seafood to global markets in 2012, with 23 percent of that total going to the Asian market. By 2020, China will need another 16 metric tons of seafood. By 2025, 500 million Chinese will belong to upper middle class with a combined disposal income of 13.3 trillion renminbi (Chinese currency).

Mr. Drysdale outlined the organizations involved in marketing of the fishery including, Pan Atlantic Seafood Agri-Food Planning Group, Federal/Provincial Market Development Council, International Business Development Agreement and Department of Foreign Affairs Investment and Trade. He also outlined the funding for the marketing.

He outlined other initiatives including the production of a Chinese Television Cooking Show in March, 2012, and a consumer focused "Brand Canada" Restaurant and Retail Promotion in Hong Kong in September, 2012.

Mr. Drysdale distributed Chinese magazine advertisements of Nova Scotia product and Trade Show specific materials which included a Nova Scotia Seafood Brochure, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Pavilion Brochure, Pan Atlantic Giveaway and the Trade Show banner.

Mr. Drysdale indicated that Europe is another market for expansion and the removal of the tariffs in the Canada-European Union Trade Agreement should be good for Nova Scotia exporting.

Councillor Dauphinee indicated that with the increase in the supply, the price for the local fisherman is still going down. The rural areas are not seeing any positive impact.

Councillor Budge questioned if there was anything the County could do to assist in this area. Mr. Drysdale indicated that taking residents questions and tracking down answers quickly and licensing and zoning of properties for processing facilities in the County would be of assistance.

Councillor MacInnis brought up the matter of handling and quality of the lobster fishery and the fact that the Lobster Council of Canada sees handling and grading quality as the first issue with processing second.

Mr. Drysdale provided his business card and contact information to Council.

Warden Morrison extended a vote of thanks to Mr. Drysdale for his presentation and he was excused at this time.

RECESS

Warden Morrison advised that Council would recess for five minutes.

MILE BROOK ESTATES LIMITED

Courtesy of Council was extended to Leo Fownes and Wayne Ryan, Mile Brook Estates Ltd. who were in attendance with regard to the extension of Alexander Drive, Baddeck.

Mr. Fownes presented a plan showing a subdivision of a portion of lands of Mile Brook Estates Ltd., Alexander Drive, Baddeck, from PID 85106458 including Lot 29 to Lot 37.

They are requesting that the Municipality provide approval as required by the Eastern District Planning Commission (EDPC) to approve the portion of Alexander Drive from Lot 29 to Lot 37 as a public road, in order that the Lots 31, 33 and 37 will be approved by the EDPC. Without this agreement, they cannot get approval for these lots.

Mr. Fownes indicated that upon sale of two of these three lots, Mile Brook Estates will cost share on the paving of this continuation of Alexander Drive. He also indicated that they would like to put off the paving until after the lots are sold and after development is completed. The length of the road extension is approximately 300 feet and the estimated cost to pave the remainder of the road is approximately \$28,000.00.

The existing subdivision has provided approximately ½ million dollars in tax revenue to the Municipality and has brought a number of young families into Baddeck. The development of the extension will provide future development and tax revenue for the County.

Whether the Municipality has the authority to cost share on road development was discussed. John Bain, Director, EDPC, who was in attendance, advised that the situation now is that the roadway is to be constructed and paved before the Municipality will take over the road. The public road standard in areas where there is the provision of water and sewer services is a paved road standard.

Mr. Bain indicated that the Subdivision By-Law outlines the regulations and he felt the County should look at adopting a policy relevant to public roads, as there is no authority to enter agreement without the appropriate policy support. It was also indicated that an amendment would have to be made to the existing Subdivision By-Law.

Mr. Bain is to conduct research into whether an agreement is possible and what is done in other areas with regard to same. Solicitor MacDowell will also be contacted with regard to the legal issues involved.

Mr. Bain will research the policy issue to see if a policy can be put in place that will apply to all public roads.

Mr. Fownes indicated that the road extension has been brought up to Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal standards now and has been signed off by an engineer.

Warden Morrison advised that once the appropriate information is received from John Bain and Solicitor MacDowell, contact will be made with Mile Brook Estates.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – OCTOBER 21, 2013

The minutes of the October 21, 2013, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

Councillor Grant indicated a correction to the minutes on Page 11 concerning the proposal of Bell Aliant to provide cell phone services to Middle River and the Bay St. Lawrence, Dingwall/Smelt Brook area. The project is a \$770,000 dollar project, not \$1 million as indicated in the minutes.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of October 21, 2013, be approved with the noted correction. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Cell Phone Coverage

Councillor Buchanan questioned if any further information was received from Kevin Hashem, Bell Aliant, concerning the cell phone coverage and Sandy Hudson indicated he has not received any further information.

The area covered from the two towers was questioned. The Hunter's Mountain tower will cover all of Middle River to Lake-O-Law, while the Money Point site will cover from Meat Cove to Smelt Brook.

Councillor MacInnis questioned if there was any mention of the North River/North Shore area.

The cost to the Municipality of \$500,000.00 was discussed. Why the Municipality would be requested to cover over half of the total project costs was questioned.

Discussion took place on possible other funding partners, such as the Province, Marine Atlantic and Department of Natural Resources.

The possibility of meeting with the Honourable Michel Samson when Councillors are in Halifax for the UNSM Conference was discussed and will be investigated.

Contact will be made with Kevin Hashem also.

Waste Transfer Services

Robert Dauphinee was requested to provide additional detailed information on the costs associated with the waste transfer services should the Municipality decide to assume providing waste transfer services by their own means.

Mr. Dauphinee presented the estimated costs for the Municipality to carry out the waste transfer services. The total annual costs are \$139,409.81 and he provided a breakdown on the categories which included:

- Personnel \$46,723.52
- Fuel Consumption \$34,852.96
- Contracted Trips \$10,000.00
- Equipment \$35,833.33
- Maintenance \$12,000.00

The present contracted service expires on December 31, 2013, but there is a 4 month extension available.

Deputy Warden Patterson indicated that he received a complaint from a resident in Southside Boularderie concerning illegal garbage dumping and he contacted Robert Dauphinee and the garbage was picked up by municipal workers today.

Discussion took place on the provision of the waste transfer service. The fuel rebate is not included in these estimated figures and depreciation has not been factored in.

Councillor MacNeil indicated it will be hard for him to go to the present contractor and justify paying more money to provide this service. The contractor is a Victoria County contractor who employs people from the County.

There are no guarantees that this contractor would be the successful bidder should this service be again contracted.

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, to accept the staff recommendation that the Municipality assume responsibility for waste transfer services.

Those voting in favour of the motion were Councillors MacInnis, Buchanan, Budge, Dauphinee, Deputy Warden Patterson and Warden Morrison.

Councillor MacNeil voted against the motion and Councillor Grant abstained from voting, which constitutes a nay vote.

Motion carried with 6 for and 2 against.

Wagmatcook Band Council

Brian Arbuthnot advised that the date of November 18, 2013, is not good for Wagmatcook Band Council.

He is to be provided with the date of December 9, 2013, as a possible meeting date between the two Councils.

NSPI

Nova Scotia Power Inc. will be hosting a meeting at the Hampton Inn & Suites, Membertou, on November 13, 2013, at 6:30 p.m. Councillors were encouraged to attend this meeting if available.

Community Halls – Taxation

Sandy Hudson advised that \$90,961.00 is written off for community halls that have a federal charitable tax number. Community hall taxation that has been reduced from the commercial to residential tax rate amounts to \$13,133.00.

Councillor MacInnis requested that the total revenue received from community halls be provided. Sandy Hudson indicated he was unsure if this information could be provided, but would check on this matter and if it is allowable, he will provide this information for the entire County.

Recognition

Appropriate recognition is to be provided Jim Bradley, Bert Doucette and Buddy MacDonald.

NEW BUSINESS

IBI GROUP

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that IBI Group be contacted to see if they are interested in doing a Business Plan as a follow up to the recently completed Transit Feasibility Study. Motion carried.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Sandy Hudson advised that the new Director of Finance for the Municipality of the County of Victoria is Leanne MacLellan, C.A. Ms. MacLellan is a Port Hood native. Her father, Malcolm MacEachen, formerly worked in the Finance Department of Inverness County and her sister, Erin MacEachen is the current Director of Finance for the Town of Port Hawkesbury. She will be commencing her duties in early January, 2014.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Annual Christmas Party will be held at the Gaelic College, St. Ann's, on Friday, December 6, 2013. Further information will follow at a later date.

BAY ST. LAWRENCE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Councillor Buchanan provided Notice of Motion at the last meeting regarding funding for the Bay St. Lawrence Community Centre. The requested financial information has been received.

It was moved by Councillor Buchanan, seconded by Councillor Budge, that the Municipality approve funding for the Bay St. Lawrence Community Centre in the amount of \$5,000.00 quarterly now and in December, 2013, for the remainder of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the request for annual funding in the amount of \$20,000.00 be referred to the 2014-15 budget. Motion carried.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #6

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor Budge, that a letter be forwarded to the Ministers of Transportation and Economic and Rural Development and Tourism requesting that the Cabot Trail be designated as Heritage highway. Motion carried.

Councillor Dauphinee brought up the matter of NSPI coverage in the northern area of the County. There is one lineman in the area and possibly another being located in the area. The workers are normally not in the area and there is a concern with regard to coverage in the event of a fire, as only NSPI officials can disconnect the power.

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that a letter be forwarded to NSPI expressing concern with regard to coverage in the northern area of the county and ask that they respond to this concern. Motion carried.

Councillor Dauphinee advised that the Veterans Affairs Office in Sydney is scheduled for closure and a March of Concern will be held on November 9, 2013, at 10:30 a.m. The marchers will be gathering in front of the Branch 12 Legion on the corner of George St. and Dorchester St. in Sydney and from there will march to the Department of Veterans Affairs office.

As many Councillors as available are requested to attend this March of Concern.

Councillor Dauphinee questioned if there was a response from DOTIR with regard to the concerns addressed. Sandy Hudson advised that Steve MacDonald will have Nelson Dixon look at the shoulders of the road, the area by the Neil's Harbour Post Office and the guardrails at Ingonish Ferry.

The chip sealing from the bottom of Smokey south on the Cabot Trail has been postponed for this year.

District #8

It was moved by Councillor Buchanan, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that the bridge on the South Ridge Road and all other bridges in the County be checked before the winter season. Motion carried.

Councillor Buchanan brought forward and unsightly premises located at 3218 Bay St. Lawrence Road, Bay St. Lawrence (PID #85079937), which he would like to have the EDPC investigate. The property is in the name of Anthony Hendriksen.

Councillor Buchanan indicated that Maureen and Melinda Cook and Scott MacKinnon are requesting to be put on the agenda of a future Council meeting.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis indicated on Saturday night past an open house was held in his district for newcomers to the area. A potluck supper was held with free entertainment in the evening. Over 100 people attended and introductions were provided outlining where the people came from and why they settled in the area. A good time was had by all.

Councillor MacInnis brought up the matter of the Cabot Trail possibly being designated a heritage highway. There is apparently a highway in New Brunswick designated as a heritage highway. Mention was also made that the federal Minister of Transportation is Lisa Raitt, a native of Sydney.

The Christmas Parade in Baddeck will be held on November 30, 2013, and the parade in Ingonish will be held on November 23, 2013.

Councillor MacInnis observed a rare occurrence tonight in that a father and son are both in the Council Chambers. Councillor Buchanan's father is in attendance.

District #2

Councillor Grant indicated that a few weeks ago the phone system went down in the Baddeck area. This included 9-1-1, debit machines, etc. He was told that there is a switch at the phone station that could have been reset to get the system operating.

It was moved by Councillor Grant, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that a letter be forwarded to Bell Aliant questioning on whether there is a switch that could have been used in the event of the phone outage to get it operating sooner and if so will it work for future situations. Motion carried.

Councillor Grant indicated that the gathering for newcomers mentioned by Councillor MacInnis is a good idea and one he might use in the future.

Councillor Grant updated on meetings he has recently attended including:

- Pan Cape Breton Food Forum
- Strategic Tourism Expansion Plan (STEP) meeting
- Big Baddeck – District #2 meeting
- PAC Training
- Guysborough Wind Turbine Tour

District #1

Councillor MacNeil presented a petition for a road name change in his district from Taylor Road to Mercer's Lane. This petition will be forwarded to the EDPC and DOTIR for their approval.

Councillor MacNeil brought up the Joe MacDonald water situation. A plumber will be doing an audit of the water system within the next couple of weeks.

Councillor MacNeil brought up the recent fundraising dinner for cancer held in District #1. In the nine years the supper has taken place over \$40,000.00 dollars has been raised.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that a letter recognizing this cancer fundraising achievement be forwarded to the Highland Village, Royal Canadian Legion, Iona, and St. Columba CWL. Motion carried.

Councillor MacNeil brought up the matter of flooding on the St. Columba Road. It has forced a lot of people to use the Gillis Point Road which is in deplorable condition. He also mentioned that the yellow line has been painted on the Gillis Point Road which based on the road condition is unreasonable. The condition of both roads is to be included in the letter to the DOTIR. DNR are also to be contacted in regard to the flooding on St. Columba Road.

District #3

Warden Morrison requested that concern with regard to the shoulder of the road on Highway 205 between Doug MacAulay's and John Pino's is to be included in the letter to DOTIR.

Warden Morrison advised that on November 20, 2013, a Business Development delegation will be travelling to Ottawa to meet federal officials. All Cape Breton municipalities are participating and will be sending delegates. Warden Morrison questioned on who would be interested in attending and a process of who will attend will be developed. Those expressing interest included Councillors Dauphinee, MacInnis, Deputy Warden Patterson and Warden Morrison. Councillors MacNeil and Buchanan will advise if they are available.

A letter was received from the Baddeck Lion's Club expressing appreciation to the Baddeck Solid Waste Facility staff on the excellent cooperation they received when transporting a large amount of recyclables for Jim Bradley. Council were pleased to receive this letter and acknowledged the staff for their excellent service.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Economic Development Committee

Councillor MacNeil, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, advised that the Committee met prior to Council and selected the citizen members to serve on the Committee.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that pending their acceptance, Amy MacKinnon, Alicia Lake and Tracey Campbell be appointed as members of the Economic Development Committee. Motion carried.

It was indicated that the applications for Canada Summer Grants will be received earlier this year. Applications can be submitted beginning December 2, 2013.

IN CAMERA

It was moved by Councillor Grant, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, to move In Camera. Motion carried.

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

ADJOURN

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

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO