

**VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**  
**November 18, 2013**

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, November 18, 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 #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. It was noted that the RCMP presentation has been cancelled for this evening and will be rescheduled for a later date.

**It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that the agenda be approved with the noted change. Motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NOVEMBER 4, 2013**

The minutes of the November 4, 2013, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

**It was moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that the November 4, 2013, minutes of Victoria County Municipal Council be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**Transit Business Plan**

Councillor Grant questioned whether it would be possible for the Small Business Development Centre to do the Business Plan as a follow up to the recently completed Transit Feasibility Study.

Sandy Hudson will check on this matter, to determine if there may have to be an RFP issued.

### **Waste Transfer Services**

Whether any Council member received calls regarding Council's decision on waste transfer services was questioned. Councillor Grant indicated he was approached by three people and it was an item of discussion at a meeting of a local community group.

Any questions on this decision can be supported with background information and costs and this information can be provided to the public for their information.

### **Community Halls**

Councillor MacInnis again questioned on community hall taxation. Sandy Hudson advised that taxes for the four community halls in District #4 prior to the reduction from commercial to residential taxation amounted to \$6,237.00. Actual taxes paid were \$3,564.00 when reduced to the residential rate. The amount written off was \$2,660.00.

County-wide the taxation for community halls is \$30,000.00, with the total amount written off when the residential rate is applied being \$13,133.00. The total taxes collected county-wide is approximately \$17,000.00.

Community hall taxation is becoming a big issue. Sandy Hudson indicated that the Municipality does not have the power to write-off these taxes completely.

Council are to be provided with information pertaining to their districts with regard to community hall taxation.

### **Bell Aliant**

Kevin Hashem, Regional Manager, Bell Aliant, was in today and indicated that they are looking into obtaining property in Cape Dauphin to erect a tower that will provide coverage to the North River/North Shore area.

He also addressed the recent telephone outage in the Baddeck area and will be providing information in writing on this issue.

### **Wagmatcook Band Council**

Wagmatcook Band Council will not be available to meet on December 9, 2013.

Sandy Hudson advised that the Honourable Peter MacKay will be in Wagmatcook on November 29, 2013, concerning an announcement with regard to NSCC/Learning Centre initiative in Wagmatcook. The possibility of meeting with the Wagmatcook Band Council that day will be investigated further and Council will be advised if the meeting is arranged.

### **Cabot Trail**

The request that the Cabot Trail be designated a heritage highway was discussed. Whether this request should be that the Cabot Trail be part of the national highway system was questioned.

Warden Morrison indicated that he brought up with issue with the Honourable Lisa Raitt, Federal Minister of Transport.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **CANADA POST**

The matter of Canada Post rural mail delivery and the mailbox location issue was discussed. The location of some community mailboxes was questioned.

**It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that a letter be forwarded to Canada Post expressing concerns with regard to the rural mail box issue in Victoria County. Motion carried.**

### **DISTRICT CONCERNS**

#### **District #1**

Councillor MacNeil again brought up the matter of the dangerous and unsightly condition of the former Rankin School property, Iona.

Whether Sean Donovan, Dangerous and Unsightly Administrator, EDPC, has conducted a further inspection was questioned and will be investigated.

Whether a water audit was conducted on the Joe MacDonald property, Little Narrows, was questioned. An update will be provided for the next meeting.

#### **District #2**

Councillor Grant updated Council on recent meetings he attended, including a biomass meeting at the Strathlorne Forestry Nursery in Inverness.

He also hosted a trails meeting at the Court House, Baddeck, on Thursday past, with approximately 30 people in attendance. The public in attendance included snowmobilers, ATV enthusiasts and hikers.

Councillor Grant questioned on the possibility of setting up a Trails Committee comprised of members from all sectors (snowmobile, ATV and hikers) and Council representatives. Whether this Committee should be a Council Committee or a Committee with Council representation was discussed and will be considered. A decision will be made at a future meeting.

**District #4**

Councillor MacInnis indicated that it was encouraging to see all three groups (snowmobile, ATV, hikers) in attendance at the Trails meeting and that they are all willing to work together.

Councillor MacInnis brought up the recent whale rescue at Jersey Cove. The Marine Animal Response Society responded to this rescue. An investigation is to be done on those who responded to this rescue and appropriate recognition be provided.

**It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that a \$500.00 donation be made to the Philippine Relief efforts. Motion carried.**

Councillor MacInnis requested that Warden Morrison provide a report on his trip to Scotland at a future meeting. Warden Morrison indicated he would do so.

Councillor MacInnis brought up concerns with regard to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal.

**It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor Budge, that the Honourable Geoff MacLellan, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, be requested to meet with Victoria County Municipal Council. Motion carried.**

**District #7**

Councillor Budge questioned on whether a response was received from the DOTIR on the issues of concern in his district.

Nelson Dixon was to investigate these issues and a follow up will be done with DOTIR on these matters.

**District #3**

Warden Morrison reported that the Asaph property on the Old Margaree Road has been cleaned up.

Warden Morrison, Councillor Dauphinee and Councillor MacInnis attended the recent NSPI hosted meeting in Sydney and were disappointed with NSPI's message which indicated they are hitting and exceeding their standards. There was no discussion on local issues.

It was felt that contact should be made with Rob Wadden, NSPI, suggesting they change their message and address locals concerns and issues in any future meetings.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Economic Development Committee**

The minutes of the November 14, 2013, Economic Development Committee were presented.

**It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Deputy Warden Patterson, to accept the Economic Development Committee's recommendation to engage the Cape Breton Partnership to oversee business development for the Municipality and the Cape Breton Centre for Small Business be engaged to oversee community economic development for the Municipality and the \$60,000.00 previously earmarked for the REN be used for these initiatives. Motion carried.**

The future of the REN was discussed and at the meeting with the Minister held during the UNSM Conference, it was indicated that some type of model will be in place and rolled out on April 1, 2014, with CBRM, Richmond County, Victoria County and possibly Inverness County included.

A representative from ERDT will be happy to meet with the Economic Development Committee or Council on December 9, 2013.

The MOU between Small Business Development and the Municipality was discussed. Sandy Hudson is to review the document and come back to Council with a recommendation.

**Public Information Sessions – Wind Turbines**

The two public information sessions on the proposed Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-Law Regarding Wind Turbines will be held on:

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- Tuesday, November 19, 2013 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Baddeck Community Centre, Baddeck
- Wednesday, November 20, 2013, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at St. John's Church Hall, Ingonish

Council members not travelling to Ottawa were asked to attend these sessions if possible.

**Waste Management Committee**

An initial meeting of the Waste Management Committee should be held in the near future. Councillors Budge, MacInnis, Grant and Buchanan are members of this Committee.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Warden Morrison indicated that a follow up to the Stacy Pineau report may be provided in January. In conjunction with this report, eligible staff members are to be acknowledged for years of service.

**CHRISTMAS PARTY**

The Council/Staff Christmas Party will be held at the Gaelic College, St. Ann's, on Friday, December 6, 2013, at 5:00 p.m.

**TAX SALE UPDATE**

An update was provided on the tax sale. Sandy Hudson advised he has received 15 property searches recently and there should be a tax sale scheduled for January, 2014.

Tax sale searches are continuing and the CAO indicated he is satisfied to date with the progress in regard to title searching.

**CHRISTMAS PARADES**

The Christmas Parade will be held in Ingonish on November 23, 2013, at 6:00 p.m. The Baddeck Christmas Parade is scheduled for November 30, 2012, at 2:00 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council will be held on Monday, December 9, 2013, at 5:00 p.m.

Dr. David Wheeler, CBU, will be in attendance at this meeting.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, on motion of Councillor Buchanan, seconded by Councillor Budge, the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO