

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
June 29, 2015

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, June 29, 2015, 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

The agenda was presented for approval.

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.

VICTORIA COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Rose Anderson, Facility Manager, Victoria County Memorial Hospital; Eileen Woodford, Director of Rural Health, Nova Scotia Health Authority and Dr. David Heughan and Dr. Elena Garcia Del Busto, Family Practice Physicians.

Ms. Anderson advised that a proposed expansion of the Victoria County Memorial Hospital, Baddeck, was completed in 2013. A planning team worked with James Torbert & Associates, Health Care Planners, to come up with a plan based on the challenges of the present space and the requirements for future space. The plan was submitted to the District in March, 2014.

The plan was a 2 storey addition, 5000 sq. foot addition to the front of the existing building. The project at the time was estimated to be \$7.2 million.

With the new Nova Scotia Health Authority just being established, it is very unlikely any expansion project will be completed until years down the road.

This project is on a long list of projects waiting for provincial approval and as time is of the essence, a short term solution is being considered. Trifos Design was retained to provide a design using the existing space while awaiting the expansion approval.

The plans were provided to Council and outlined and reviewed. The current space is being reconfigured to provide office space for 2 additional doctors.

Dr. Heughan indicated that when he and his wife were looking for a place to live and work, finding a spot that was turnkey ready in the hospital was very important. He indicated that there is an active committee working really hard to recruit new doctors to the area.

Dr. Garcia Del Busto indicated that when Dr. Chow retires at year end, Dr. Genge is looking to scale back and wants to have office space in the hospital and this work is needed to accommodate Dr. Genge.

Councillor Grant indicated that with Dr. Chow retiring in December, 2015, if something is not done to attract new physicians, a lot of people will be without a doctor.

Council have agreed to consider providing \$100,000.00 this year and next towards the cost of the renovations. It was felt it was important to get this message to the appropriate parties that the Municipality is willing to partner to make sure the renovations happen.

It was moved and seconded that Victoria County Municipal Council offer a partnership with the Nova Scotia Health Authority to provide renovations to the Victoria County Memorial Hospital to assist with the immediate needs and recruitment of future physicians. Motion carried.

Eileen Woodford suggested that this letter be forwarded to Mary Lou O'Neil, Eastern Zone Operations Executive Director, and Dr. Jeremy Hillyard, Eastern Zone Medical Executive Director.

After further discussion, Warden Morrison extended a vote of thanks to the representatives for their presentation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JUNE 22, 2015

The minutes of the June 22, 2015, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved and seconded that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of June 22, 2015, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Water Issue – Little Narrows

Councillor MacNeil indicated he has received a number of calls from cottage owners in the Red Point area and other areas within his district, with regard to access to water.

This is to be investigated with the Water Committee and the Utility and Review Board.

NEW BUSINESS

SURPLUS PROPERTY – DEPARTMENT OF TIR

Three properties identified as surplus to the needs of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal were received. The Department of TIR are requesting if the Municipality has any interest in acquiring the properties.

The first property is located in the North Shore area. There is no waterfront access. Council agreed they had no interest in acquiring this property.

The second property is located of Yetman Lane, Little Narrows. There is waterfront access. The adjacent property owner has expressed an interest in acquiring this property. A redrafted plan was presented which outlined some of the surplus property going to the adjacent property owner, while maintaining the waterfront access for the Municipality if interested.

The status of whether Yetman Lane was a private or public road was questioned and is to be investigated.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that the proposal resolves the issue, while maintaining the waterfront access.

It was moved and seconded that the proposal with regard to the Yetman Lane surplus property be accepted pending clarification of the road status. Motion carried.

The third property is an unused road reserve located off Ross Street, Baddeck, and extends to the area of the Cape Breton Boat Yard.

Discussion took place on this matter and a number of issues with regard to this property were addressed.

It was moved and seconded that the Municipality advise that they are not interested in obtaining the surplus property located off Ross Street, Baddeck. Motion carried.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

The Budget Committee minutes of May 28, 2015, were presented for approval.

It was moved and seconded that the May 28, 2015, Budget Committee minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Councillor Budge advised that he would obtain and provide the requested information from the N-ENS Snow Crab Association for the next meeting.

DRAFT SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

The draft Sexual Harassment Policy currently being reviewed by Council will be forwarded to staff for comment.

UNSM

Sandy Hudson provided information on proposed changes to the legislation with regard to wet/dry areas and the requirements for plebiscites that are being considered by the Province.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #6

Councillor Dauphinee brought up a concern with regard to the Street Lighting Policy. At present, the policy allows for installation on public roads only and he felt that the policy should be revisited to allow lights to be installed on private roads also.

Council will review the Street Lighting Policy.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis questioned whether there was any contact from the Allan's with regard to the surplus property issue at Big Harbour. The CAO advised that he has had no contact from the Allan's recently.

Councillor MacInnis questioned whether Tom Wilson had been contacted with regard to the LFA 27 website link on the County website.

Councillor MacInnis questioned on whether a student position was received for identifying abandoned cemeteries this summer. He was advised that Logan Courtney has been hired for a 9 week position under the Canada Summer Jobs Program and will be working in the North of Smokey area.

District #2

Councillor Grant again brought up concern with regard to traffic concerns in the area of Tim Hortons/Irving on the TCH 105, Baddeck.

Sandy Hudson advised that he has not received a reply from Irving with regard to this matter.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to Irving requesting that they meet to discuss the traffic concerns at Irving/Tim Hortons by August 1, 2015, and failure to do so will result in a public meeting being held with regard to these concerns. Motion carried.

Councillor Grant indicated that he was approached by Ginny Baechler with regard to the Dalhousie University Graduate Student projects.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the Dalhousie University Graduate Program projects requesting they conduct a study on ways to monetize the parks and protected areas in Victoria County. Motion carried.

Councillor Grant indicated that he was contacted by Paul Jamieson with regard to the editor of the World Cruising Organization Magazine coming to Cape Breton and in particular the Bras d'Or Lakes.

Financial assistance is being requested from the Municipality. The deadline for funding assistance is past for this year. Whether this should be a responsibility for Destination Cape Breton Association was discussed.

Councillor Grant indicated that this past winter, two videos were produced for the County and he would like to see two more summer videos – one North of Smokey and one South of Smokey - done also. These are used in the physician recruitment process and are worth the money.

This matter is to be referred to the Director of Finance and CAO for review.

District #1

Councillor MacNeil questioned on the meeting held with the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal.

The Gillis Point Road was brought up and the Minister was to travel the road. Ferry rates were discussed and options are being investigated. The highway access between Exits 8 and 9 for snow mobiles was discussed, as was permanent crossings for Englishtown and Little Narrows.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that some of the gravel roads in his district were graded and some were not. Darren Blunden, Area Manager, DTIR, is to be contacted to have the remainder of the roads in District #1 graded.

District #3

Deputy Warden Patterson took the Chair.

Warden Morrison indicated that a seminar on housing for the ageing will be held in Halifax, on July 13, 2015, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. if any Council members are interested in attending.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to Bruce Fitzner and Stephen MacDonald, Department of TIR, concerning the subsidence issue in the area of Bell Bay Golf Course in Baddeck Bay. Motion carried.

Warden Morrison requested that a letter be forwarded to NSPI concerning litter at the substation on Queen Street, Baddeck and ditching at the guardrail down.

Warden Morrison then returned to the Chair.

District #6

Councillor Dauphinee questioned on the proposed Cabot Trail Symposium that was to have been scheduled.

The date and participants for this meeting is to be determined.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO