

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
November 23, 2015

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, November 23, 2015, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

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

Warden Morrison presented the agenda for approval. The presentation by the Baddeck K147 Sea Cadets has been cancelled. Victoria County's new Economic Development Officer, Nicole Lucas-Richardson, will be in attendance and introduced to Council.

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

CAPE BRETON OPEN – GOLF PROPOSAL

Courtesy of Council was extended to Sandy Campbell, who was in attendance to make a presentation on PGA Tour Canada Cape Breton Open that will be returning to Cape Breton the week of August 29, 2016.

Mr. Campbell indicated that he is the Tournament Chair and Bell Bay Golf Club will serve as the host for the event. This is a 3 year deal with the PGA Tour Canada. The event will be a week long and generate \$2 million in direct and indirect impact to our economy. Approximately 200 touring pros from around the world will participate in this event.

Mr. Campbell advised that Highland Links will be the host club for the first annual cut tournament from this event.

The operating budget for the event is approximately \$350,000.00, of which \$190,000.00 has been raised to date. A title sponsor has not been identified at this point.

Mr. Campbell indicated that government and business support is required to make this event a reality. \$25,000.00 from the operating budget will be allocated to local charities. 150 to 200 volunteers will be required for this event.

Mr. Campbell is requesting Council support for the event; \$20,000.00 per year for a three year period. \$10,000.00 per year will be earmarked for the cut tournament hosted by DCBA and the other \$10,000.00 to the main event to help with the operating budget.

Mr. Campbell indicated that at present, the Cape Breton Open in Baddeck is a three year event, but there is the potential to host for five years.

Cape Breton Island receives the highest ranking of any other visit on the Tour. The week showcases Cape Breton's beauty, history, sport, culture, hospitality and Cape Breton's strong golf product.

Mr. Campbell indicated that event is now 9 months away and they are hoping to make an announcement in late December, early January, on the event and its national sponsor.

Councillor Dauphinee felt it would be better if the event was held the first week of September and Mr. Campbell advised that 2016 will be held the last week of August, but going forward the event will take place the first week of September.

Whether GolfNorth had been contacted with regard to this event as yet was questioned and Mr. Campbell indicated they would be meeting with them. Highland Links, Cabot Links and Cabot Cliffs are all aware of this event.

What Council would receive for their sponsorship was discussed and is up for negotiation.

Mr. Campbell reiterated that the Cape Breton Tour is a Cape Breton event and initiative. Further discussion took place.

It was moved and seconded that the request for funding be referred to budget. Motion carried.

NICOLE LUCAS-RICHARDSON, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Warden Morrison introduced Nicole Lucas-Richardson, the new Economic Development Officer for Victoria County.

Council provided introductions to Nicole and she then provided an introduction of herself. She has owned her own business, worked as an assistant project manager and a commercial banker and has her Masters of Business Administration from the Schulich School of Business at York University

Council welcomed Nicole to the County and expressed their excitement to have an Economic Development Officer for the County.

RECESS

Warden Morrison advised that Council would recess for 10 minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NOVEMBER 9, 2015

The minutes of the November 9, 2015, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved and seconded that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of November 9, 2015, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Department of Transportation

A reply has not been received from Stephen MacDonald, Area Manager, TIR, regarding the concerns from the last meeting.

The tender was awarded for shoulder repairs for the Baddeck Bay Road and is being completed at present.

The tender for the area on the hill by the Knotty Pine Cottages has been put on tender. The tender should be awarded shortly.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that he spoke to Robert Digou, TIR, and was advised that not all the gravel roads in his district will be graded this year.

Warden Morrison indicated that he exchanged emails with Geoff MacLellan, Minister, TIR, regarding the Englishtown Ferry ramps, the study of the bridge at Englishtown which should be completed by year end, and whether there were sufficient operators and equipment for snow removal in the north of Smokey area to which the Minister replied that adequate staffing and machinery is in place.

Ferry fees and the Cabot Trail designation are outstanding. Sandy Hudson indicated that he has been in contact with Inverness County to come in on the Cabot Trail highway designation issue as it is located in both Counties.

Warden Morrison will continue to contact Minister MacLellan with regard to a meeting with Council.

Family Home Daycare Presentation

Lisa Brewster, Cape Breton Family Place Resource Centre, will be in attendance at the December 7, 2015, Council meeting to make a presentation on Family Home Daycare.

Lifeline Syria Cape Breton

Councillor Grant indicated two meetings were held in the Baddeck area and a proposal has been submitted to Lifeline Syria Cape Breton and Pam Eyking, MLA, was provided a copy to give to the Minister of Immigration, for the sponsorship of two Syrian Refugee families.

Councillor Grant commended Jennifer MacDonald who took on the task of drafting the sponsorship proposal. She did a great job in a short time frame to get the proposal completed and submitted.

NEW BUSINESS

Dangerous and Unsightly Premises

A report was received from the Eastern District Planning Commission with regard to a dangerous and unsightly premises located at 37921 Cabot Trail, Ingonish. The property has been deemed to meet the criteria for dangerous and unsightly and it is recommended it be demolished.

A public hearing on this matter is required and the CAO indicated he would provide notice to the property owner and set the date for the public hearing prior to the next Council or if not enough time, in early January, 2016.

It was moved and seconded that a public hearing be scheduled for the dangerous and unsightly premises located at 37921 Cabot Trail, Ingonish. Motion carried.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #1

Councillor MacNeil indicated that he emailed both Pam Eyking, MLA, and Robert Digou, Operations Supervisor, TIR, outlining concerns in his district and Mr. Digou replied they would attempt to do what they can with the limited resources available.

A reply was not received from Pam Eyking.

District #2

Councillor Grant indicated that a community meeting was held at the Baddeck Forks Hall on Saturday past with 23 people in attendance. A good discussion was held and Eileen Lannon-Oldford and Sara Burke, Business Cape Breton, were in attendance.

Councillor Grant brought up the issue of trails located within protected areas and the 14 step process that must occur to allow use of these trails. He expressed concern that there will be additional protected properties proclaimed prior to yearend that will affect a number of districts.

Councillor Grant indicated the besides protected areas, there is a lot of land in the Highlands under Government Management Plan, with areas set aside to protect pine martens, lynx, etc.

He would like Council to make another effort to have government delay the proclamation of further protected areas.

It was moved and seconded that the Minister of DNR and the Minister of Environment be requested to attend a session of Council in early 2016 to discuss County concerns with regard to Protected Areas and Species at Risk Reserves within the County and the affect these reserves have on the economy. Motion carried.

It was moved and seconded to initiate discussion with the Department of Natural Resources regarding their policy on Government to Government land trades. Motion carried.

Copies of these letters are to be forwarded to Pam Eyking, MLA, for her assistance in having these concerns addressed.

Warden Morrison indicated that he spoke with Minister Lloyd Hines who was brought up in the Ingonish area. He is currently off from his duties due to a health issue and Warden Morrison advised that he has requested that any decisions with regard to protected areas be delayed until after Minister Hines returns to office. The Minister indicated his willingness to work on this matter.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis questioned whether a reply was received from the Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources (UNIR) with regard to coming to a meeting concerning the moose hunt.

Sandy Hudson advised that he received a reply from both the new Superintendent of the CBHNP and DNR confirming they will attend, but no reply has been received from UNIR as yet.

The condition of the shoulders of the road on Alderwood Lane was brought up. The Municipality own the road and Sandy Hudson advised they will investigate and remediate the problem.

Councillor MacInnis reminded Council of the meeting with BABTA on December 7, 2015, at 3:30 p.m. BABTA is hosting the meeting which will be held here at the Court House. Councillor MacInnis stressed the importance of the meeting as there are concerns with the information being provided by the Baddeck Welcome Centre.

District #8

Councillor Buchanan brought up the timing of the approval of the financial request for the Cape Breton Open.

The first Budget Meeting will be scheduled prior to Council on December 7, 2015, and a decision can be made at that time on this request.

District #7

It was moved and seconded that \$500.00 be approved from the District #7 budget for Cabot High to assist 42 students to participate in "We Day". Motion carried.

District #6

Councillor Dauphinee indicated that Ingonish Beach and Ingonish are surrounded by the CBHNP and the only avenue open to the Highlands is in back of Ski Cape Smokey. This area has historically been the access to the Highlands and he indicated that there are other areas in the County in the same position.

It was moved and seconded that no additional Wilderness Areas be proclaimed in Victoria County until issues with historic trails, within proposed protected areas, have been resolved in the areas that will be or have been affected by protected area restrictions including Ingonish, Middle River, Big Baddeck, Little Narrows, Indian Brook and Englishtown. Motion carried.

Councillor Dauphinee questioned on the status of the proposed Fire Services Coordinator position. Sandy Hudson indicated he would like to see the fire services submit a proposal in this regard.

District #3

During budget discussions in May, the Destination Cape Breton Association (DCBA) request for \$10,000.00 was not approved due to some outstanding issues with regard to the marketing levy.

Since that time the marketing levy accounts are in good standing and the DCBA request for \$10,000.00 for product development is being again brought up for consideration.

It was moved and seconded that to approve the \$10,000.00 funding request for DCBA for product development. Motion carried.

The tourism stats for this past season show an increase in all areas, which is very positive.

Warden Morrison reminded Council of the Island-Wide Municipal Conference at the Gaelic College, St. Ann's, on November 25 and 26, 2015, hosted by Inverness County.

The Annual Christmas Party will be held at the Gaelic College, St. Ann's, on Friday, December 4, 2015.

Council members will not participate in the Baddeck Christmas Parade this year due to unavailability.

The Parade of Lights North of Smokey will be held on November 28, 2015. A float will be in the parade and Councillor Dauphinee requested approval for \$200.00 to assist with lighting and float repairs. Council agreed to this request.

The Wellness Committee are holding a food drive and welcome donations of non-perishable food items from staff and Councillors.

The staff is also collecting for Christmas Daddies again this year. Council members wishing to donate can forward their donation to the Municipal Office.

It was moved and seconded that the money collected by staff and Council for Christmas Daddies be matched by the Municipality. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, it was moved to adjourn at 6:20 p.m.

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO