

**VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**  
**December 7, 2015**

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, December 7, 2015, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Warden Bruce Morrison in the Chair.

Present were:

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

Also present were:

Sandy Hudson, CAO  
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

Absent were:

District #1 – Paul MacNeil (Health Related Absence)  
District #8 – Johnny Buchanan

**CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Warden Morrison called the meeting to order and presented the agenda for approval. He indicated that a couple of items concerning the Cape Breton Open golf proposal request and BABTA would be added to the agenda. Deputy Warden Patterson indicated he would like to add the Victoria County survey and the Seniors Day Supper to the agenda.

**It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved with the additions as noted. Motion carried.**

**CAPE BRETON OPEN**

At the previous meeting, Sandy Campbell made a presentation on the Cape Breton Open and requested municipal support for the event; \$20,000.00 per year for a three year period.

**It was moved and seconded that \$20,000.00 per year for a three year period beginning in the 2016/17 year be approved for the Cape Breton Open. Motion carried.**

**BABTA**

Council met with the BABTA Executive earlier this afternoon and they indicated that they would like to begin work for 2016 that will help reposition the Welcome Centre to become a County of Victoria Welcome Centre. They would like to see an Advisory Committee established with representatives from each district within the County. The Councillor for each district is to appoint a member and Councillors are to participate as non-voting members.

**It was moved and seconded that the Councillors for each district appoint a representative from their district to serve on the Advisory Committee and Councillors sit on the Committee as non-voting members. Motion carried.**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICER**

Nicole Lucas-Richardson, Economic Development Officer, indicated that she is working on arranging business roundtables in each of the districts in the County and would like Council to provide her with 10 to 15 names of business owners in their districts that she can contact.

A meeting of the Economic Development Committee has been scheduled for December 21, 2015, at 4:00 p.m.

**COUNCILLOR PAUL MACNEIL**

Warden Morrison advised Council that Councillor Paul MacNeil has experienced further cardiac issues and is in the Cape Breton Regional Hospital at present. His health is a concern to all of Council and they extend get well wishes and hope he is back at the Council table in the near future.

Warden Morrison also advised that Councillor Buchanan was not available to attend tonight's meeting.

**FAMILY HOME DAY CARE PRESENTATION**

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Lisa Brewster, Consultant, Cape Breton Family Place Resource Centre, who was in attendance to make a presentation on the Family Home Day Care Agency.

Ms. Brewster indicated that she is two months into the job and the Cape Breton Family Place Resource Centre was the last the 15 agencies approved to receive their license as a Family Home Day Care Agency by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. The Government of Nova Scotia is presently undertaking a review of childcare in the province and there will be a number of changes. These changes should be known by February, 2016.

Ms. Brewster then began her presentation on Family Home Day Care (copy attached).

Family Home Daycare is regulated child care offered in a home environment. Providers care for children in their own home. The children are in a mixed age group and care can be more personalized, flexible and individual. The home is regulated and monitored by the Agency licensed through the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

Anyone who is approved by the Family Home Day Care Agency can provide child care in their home. The family homes are managed and monitored by the Family Home Day Care Consultant.

Ms. Brewster outlined the benefits for families and the benefits for the child care providers of a Family Home Day Care Agency. The roles of the care providers, Agency and Consultant were explained.

Ms. Brewster concluded her presentation with a video, "Change the First Five Years and You Can Change Everything!"

Ms. Brewster indicated that in her role as the Consultant, she visits the approved facility once every thirty days. She indicated she would be meeting with three potential providers in the area to explain Family Home Day Care and what they can offer. She will be attending a meeting of the Baddeck playgroup next week to provide information on the program and has spoken with Cheryl MacDonald and will arrange a public meeting in the North of Smokey area to share the information on Family Home Day Care facilities.

The seasonality of the workforce in Victoria County was discussed and whether the earnings could be insurable was discussed. The flexibility in the hours that care could be provided was discussed.

The Family Home Day Care program has different standards than that of a regular day care facility. Training in CPR, First Aid, WHMIS is required and a yearlong training program for the care providers approved by the Department of Education and delivered by the Family Home Day Care Agency is required.

The age mix allowable in a Family Home Day Care setting was questioned and Ms. Brewster indicated that ages could be a mix, but no more than 2 of the 6 could be infant age.

The Child Care Subsidy eligibility was reviewed and Ms. Brewster presented a document outlining the income eligibility and how to apply for same. She provided information on Canada Revenue Agency's booklet on using your home for day care which would assist in determining the expenses that can be claimed and the importance of keeping good records.

Ms. Brewster also presented a one page document outlining regulated Family Home Day Care, what the Agency offers, and her contact information.

The qualifications for a Family Home Day Care operator were again questioned and Ms. Brewster advised that an early childhood education certificate is not required. A one year in home program will be provided.

Melanie Garland indicated that the Baddeck Employment and Resource Centre have a program to provide up to 40 weeks EI for those eligible to get a business started. This may assist those wishing to get into providing Family Home Day Care. Ms. Garland also requested permission to provide information on the Family Home Day Care Program in her newsletter and Ms. Brewster provided her approval.

After further discussion, Warden Morrison extended a thank you to Lisa Brewster for her presentation and the information provided.

**RECESS**

Warden Morrison advised that Council would recess for 5 minutes, after which Deputy Warden Patterson will be taking the Chair, as Warden Morrison had to leave for the remainder of the meeting.

**VICTORIA COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL PRESENTATION**

Deputy Warden Patterson extended the courtesy of Council to Rose Surette, Facility Manager, Victoria County Memorial Hospital, and Eileen Woodford, Director of Rural Health, Nova Scotia Health Authority.

Rose Surette introduced Lorianne MacLean, Physician Recruitment Coordinator, to Council and acknowledged members of the Community Health Board who were also in attendance.

Ms. Surette then presented an update on the Victoria County Memorial Hospital's physician recruitment, the renovation and expansion and collaborative care (copy attached).

A timeline of the recruitment process was provided and she indicated that one prospective physician had indicated a desire to practice in Baddeck and will be coming to practice here. Another prospective physician visit which was to have been held on December 4, 2015, was cancelled due to weather conditions and will be rescheduled.

The timeline of renovation/expansion to the Victoria County Memorial Hospital was outlined. Victoria County Municipal Council agreed to provide financial assistance of \$200,000.00 over two years to support the hospital renovations. In October, a Memorandum of Agreement was signed between the NSHA and Victoria County Council. A RFP for Architectural Services was sent by the NSHA. In November, the Architectural Services RFP was awarded to A49. A49 will be developing construction tender drawings and submitting these

drawings to the Office of the Fire Marshal for review and approval. It is anticipated that the tender for construction will be posted in February/March, 2016, with work to commence on site in March, 2016.

Ms. Surette indicated that the need for colocation and collaborative care practice environment was identified from feedback received from prospective physicians. The work done to date was outlined. In July, 2015, the initial meeting of the Eastern Zone Primary Health Care Leadership and Baddeck Medical Staff, including First Nations Health Centres, was held to discuss primary health care in Victoria County. Follow up meetings to discuss the logistics of providers located in the Victoria County Memorial Hospital will be ongoing.

The Victoria County Memorial Hospital Foundation was contacted to assist with expanded parking at the VCMH and they agreed to support same.

Council offered their appreciation for the work undertaken to keep this project on track.

After further discussion, Deputy Warden Patterson thanked Ms. Surette and Ms. Woodford for the update.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NOVEMBER 23, 2015**

The minutes of the November 23, 2015, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

**It was moved and seconded that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes for November 23, 2015, be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

#### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

An email was received from Stephen MacDonald, Area Manager, TIR, in reply to concerns addressed by Council.

A letter was forwarded to Honourable Geoff MacLellan, Minister of TIR, with regard to snow removal concerns in the North of Smokey area this winter season.

Some work has been completed on the dangerous and unsightly premises located at 37921 Cabot Trail, Ingonish. An inspection will be conducted to see if the work done is acceptable.

Council met earlier today with Dave Williams with regard to Protected Areas. There appears to be some movement with regard to the Ingonish Trail, but no movement on other public roads. It is anticipated that the French River and Ingonish sections will not be included in the Protected Areas that will be designated by yearend.

**STRAIT AREA TRANSIT**

Deputy Warden Patterson advised that Brenda Chisholm-Beaton, Port Hawkesbury Town Councillor, who is the owner of the Fleur de Lis Restaurant in Port Hawkesbury, will be hosting a free Seniors Dinner at the Bear Head Room, Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre, on December 20, 2015, from 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm.

It is anticipated that Strait Area Transit will be bussing interested seniors to this event. A bus will be travelling from the Baddeck area.

Deputy Warden Patterson advised that more details will be known in the next couple of days and Councillors will be advised.

**PHYSICAL ACTIVE LIVING SURVEY**

Deputy Warden Patterson indicated that he received some calls with regard to a phone survey in conjunction with Physical Active Living. 300 people were to be surveyed by Nova Insight.

Some of the questions asked did not pertain to Victoria County, and whether this was a legitimate survey was questioned.

The CAO will follow up on this matter.

**DISTRICT CONCERNS**

**District #2**

Councillor Grant brought up the matter of Protected Areas. A letter was sent to the Minister that no additional Protected Areas be designated until concerns are addressed. A meeting was requested with the Minister of DNR and Environment in this regard.

Councillor Grant brought forward some thoughts he had related to taxation, tax sales and possible solutions with regard to uncollected taxes; including hiring a title searcher, hiring a full-time solicitor and putting caveats on tax sale notices with regard to title. He requested information be provided on the questions asked and Sandy Hudson replied with answers to some of the questions.

Discussion took place on taxation matters.

**It was moved and seconded that the CAO investigate entering a two year contract for a paralegal dedicated to title searching. Motion carried with Councillor Grant voting against the motion as he did not feel this would solve the tax arrears issue.**

**BADDECK K147 SEA CADETS**

There will be a public meeting held on Wednesday at the Baddeck Community Centre at 7:00 p.m. concerning the Baddeck K147 Sea Cadets. They are in need of instructors. They are the only Sea Cadet core in Victoria County and western Cape Breton.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council will take place on Monday, January 11, 2015, at 5:00 p.m. in the Court House, Baddeck.

A meeting of the Economic Development Committee will be held at the Court House, on Monday, December 21, 2015, at 4:00 p.m.

**ADJOURN**

**There being no further business, it was moved to adjourn at 6:50 p.m.**

**Bruce Morrison, Warden**

**Sandy Hudson, CAO**