

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
January 8, 2007

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, January 8, 2007, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Warden Wayne Budge in the Chair.

Present were:

District #1 – Dan E. MacNeil
District #2 – Keith MacCuspic
District #3 – Bruce Morrison
District #4 – John Graham MacInnes, Deputy Warden
District #5 – Fraser Patterson
District #6 – Lawrence Barron
District #7 – Wayne Budge, Warden
District #8 – Robert MacLellan

Also present were:

Sandy Hudson, CAO
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Budge called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was indicated that Mark Eyking, MP, would not be in attendance and Charlie MacDonald, Department of Transportation and Public Works, would be present.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that the agenda be approved with the noted changes. Motion carried.

CHARLES MACDONALD, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Courtesy of Council was extended to Charlie MacDonald, Area Manager, Department of Transportation and Public Works.

Mr. MacDonald was questioned on the Department's snow removal policy for roads within Victoria County. He indicated that there are different classes of roads and the first class is 1A and this is the 100 series highway and 1B the trunk connectors. These roads are given first priority for snow removal. Class 2 roads such as Highway

205 and 223 are the next priority, followed by Class 3 roads which are all other paved roads. The final class is Class 4 roads and these are all the gravel roads within the County.

Mr. MacDonald was also questioned on the complement of snow removal equipment covering Victoria County. There are 17 pieces of snow removal equipment located in Victoria County – 5 in Baddeck, 2 in Little Narrows, 3 in Boularderie, 1 in North River, 2 in Ingonish and 4 in Cape North.

Mr. MacDonald explained the snow removal policy to Council and indicated the pieces of equipment that are used on the roads. Truck plows are never run on gravel roads. There is a Supervisor on call 24 hours a day who is responsible for dispatching the snow removal equipment.

The condition of the roads within Victoria County was discussed. There are many roads that require repaving. Mr. MacDonald indicated that the lifespan of paved roads is 12 to 15 years and there are some roads in the County that have not been repaved for upwards of 30 years.

Deputy Warden MacInnes questioned on the difference on the level of care between the North River and North Shore roads. North River is maintained from the Baddeck Depot, while Ingonish is responsible for the North Shore. A lot of time is spent maintaining Smokey Mountain and this at times can delay the service to North Shore.

Discussion took place on signage and the seasonal signs that are removed in the winter, leaving the framework, which is unsightly. There is no policy with regard to signage.

The graffiti on both Smokey and Kelly's Mountain was discussed. A letter was received from the Department of Transportation in reply to Council's concern that the removal of graffiti is not within the mandate of the Department of Transportation. The property on which the graffiti is located is owned by the Department of Transportation. A further letter will be forwarded to the author of the letter received.

Snow removal on Alexander Drive was discussed. As this is a gravel road, it is not done when the paved streets are done. The salt truck does not travel on gravel roads and this road is done by the loader. Sanding of dirt roads is done by the Department's own trucks.

Discussion took place on the budget received and how it is divided. Mr. MacDonald indicated that the first item taken out of the budget is the winter snow removal. This is determined by removing the high and low year's costs over a five year period and averaging the remaining three years.

Mr. MacDonald indicated that the biggest challenge is the need to have local roads repaved. There is just not sufficient money to achieve this.

Discussion took place on the proposed interchange at Port Hastings. This is still on the books; however, an agreement has not yet been signed with the federal government.

The Cabot Trail was discussed and Mr. MacDonald indicated that there is a 7 or 8 years program in effect that will see the entire Cabot Trail repaved during this time period.

Discussion took place on the recycled paving material and how it stands up to traffic. The possibility of utilizing this material for the Baddeck Municipal Solid Waste Facility roadway was discussed.

Discussion took place also on the schedule for replacement of guardrail at the Baddeck exits. Mr. MacDonald also indicated that when the Exit 8 intersection is redone at some point in the future, consideration will be given to cutting of the incoming traffic entrance to Shore Road.

After further discussion, Mr. MacDonald was extended a vote of thanks and excused at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 11, 2006

The minutes of the December 11, 2006, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that the December 11, 2006, minutes of Victoria County Municipal Council be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Department of Community Services

A letter was forwarded to Marion Tyson, Deputy Minister of Community Services, with regard to a meeting with her and Regional Manager, Rosemary Lewis, to discuss staffing concerns. No reply has been received to date.

MARKETING LEVY UPDATE

Mr. Hudson advised that he spoke with Tom Wilson today and he indicated that BABTA met with regard to the marketing levy and a letter should be received in the near future from them approving the implementation of the levy. The Northeast Highlands Chamber of Commerce will be meeting this week and should also forward a letter indicating their decision after the meeting.

Mr. Hudson also indicated that there is a possibility of a meeting of Cape Breton Mayors and Wardens to further discuss the marketing levy.

VICTORIA COUNTY LOGO

Courtesy of Council was extended to Ross MacDonald, Director of Community Economic Development.

At a previous Council meeting, a decision was made on the new logo for the Municipality and the contract allowed for minor revisions to the selected logo. Ross MacDonald presented Council with some proposed revisions for consideration.

Council reviewed the proposed revisions and discussion took place.

It was moved by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that the #1 version of the logo with the “Naturally Connected” tagline be accepted. Motion carried.

ROAD NAME – BLACK ROCK

Courtesy of Council was extended to Joanne MacDonald and Murray Ryan with regard to a road name located on their property on Black Rock Road.

Mr. Ryan presented Council with documentation related to the land owned by his wife, Joanne MacDonald, in Black Rock, that was purchased by her father in 1962. There is a private road on this property that she wished to name in memory of her father after he passed away. It was discovered that this roadway had previously been named and received approval from the Municipality for the name “Black Rock Light” in 1999.

Ms. MacDonald indicated that her family was never contacted about the naming of the road back in 1999 and she questioned how this could have been done when in fact the roadway was owned by her family.

The residents on the roadway have no legal right-of-way on the private roadway, with the exception of the Coast Guard who obtained a right-of-way to access the lighthouse at the end of the roadway.

Mr. Ryan indicated that they have had several discussions with the Eastern District Planning Commission regarding this issue. Ms. MacDonald wants to be able to name the road, as she owns the road.

Discussion took place on this matter and it was felt that further investigation should be undertaken.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that this matter be referred to Solicitor MacDowell for review. Motion carried.

Warden Budge extended a vote of thanks to Mr. Ryan and Ms. MacDonald for their presentation and advised that they would be informed of the Solicitor's findings with regard to this matter.

DOG BY-LAW

A copy of the existing Dog By-Law with recommended changes was presented to Council for review. This matter will be addressed at the Committee of the Whole meeting on January 22, 2007, and the redrafted by-law should be ready for first reading at the February Council Session.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #4

Deputy Warden MacInnes brought up the reply received from Gerard Jessome, Department of Transportation and Public Works, with regard to the graffiti on both Kelly's and Smokey Mountain.

It was moved by Deputy Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that a letter be forwarded to Gerard Jessome, District Director – Eastern, DOT&PW, in response to the letter received. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden MacInnes presented a notice of motion that upon review of the application submitted, the Municipality, at the next meeting, lend support for the Gaelic College's application for funding for a new sewage treatment facility.

This facility is not a septage facility, but a sewage treatment facility for the Gaelic College only. More information will be obtained before passing the motion at the next meeting.

District #3

Councillor Morrison indicated that Vibe Communications has been retained for the 100th Anniversary Celebrations of the Silver Dart Flight and will be looking for continued municipal representation and support once the process is up and running.

District #2

Councillor MacCuspic indicated that EHS is using the Crown Jewel air strip for landing its medicvac helicopter and Mr. Korem of the Crown Jewel Resort has indicated that there is not sufficient signage to direct ambulances to the location. He may, in the future, be looking for support from the Municipality, to access adequate signage.

District #5

Councillor Patterson indicated that he received an inquiry about a summer soccer program in his area and questioned when the next Recreation Committee meeting would be held.

Councillor Patterson distributed a copy of a letter he received from Voluntary Planning. He had forwarded an application to serve on the Voluntary Planning's Community Development Task Force project and the letter advised that this project has been suspended by the Office of Economic Development.

It was moved by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor Barron, that a letter be forwarded to the Minister of Economic Development, with a copy to Ron Smith, Chair of Voluntary Planning, questioning why the Community Development Task Force project was suspended. Motion carried.

District #8

It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that:

- \$1,000.00 be approved from the District #8 budget for the North Highlands Elementary School, Aspy Bay**
- \$1,000.00 be approved from the District #8 budget for the North Highlands Nordic Ski Club**
- \$1,000.00 be approved from the District #7 budget for the North Highlands Nordic Ski Club**

Motion carried.

Councillor MacLellan brought up an issue with regard to staffing and snow removal at the Dingwall Transfer Station site. This issue should be addressed through the proper channels and referred to the Director of Public Works.

NEXT MEETING

There will be a Committee of the Whole meeting held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, January 22, 2007, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Hudson indicated that he would like some indication as to where Council wishes to go in terms of budget for the next fiscal year. Council directed that the starting point be to maintain the present tax rates and proceed from there.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacCuspik, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Wayne Budge, Warden

A. W. (Sandy) Hudson, CAO