

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

January 12, 1998

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, January 12, 1998, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Present were:

District #1 - Gerald Yetman
District #2 - Shane Toms, Deputy Warden
District #3 - Bruce Morrison
District #4 - John Graham MacInnes, Warden
District #5 - Gerald Sampson
District #6 - Lawrence Barron
District #7 - David Donovan
District #8 - Robert MacLellan

Also present were:

Brian Trask, Chief Administrative Officer
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Warden MacInnes called the meeting to order.

SET TIME FOR ADJOURNMENT

It was decided that Council would adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

TOM WILSON, RECREATION AND TOURISM DIRECTOR

Courtesy of Council was extended to Tom Wilson, Recreation and Tourism Director.

Mr. Wilson advised that four approvals were received for CAP (Community Access Program) sites in Victoria County - Baddeck, Boularderie, St. Ann's and North Shore. These approvals will go along way in improving technology opportunities and skills of our residents. It is expected that these new sites will be up and running by the end of March or April.

Victoria County's web site has been lost in the takeover of Auracom by two companies. Quotes were requested from 4 companies to develop a new County site. Highland Network - \$950.00

Cape Breton Web Solutions - \$1,350.00

Municipal Training & Development Board - \$2,200.00

Morandan - \$2,352.00

Mr. Wilson indicated that on reviewing the proposals from the 4 companies, he was recommending Cape Breton Web Solutions, with Highland Network being the second choice. Highland Network and Morandan are Victoria County companies.

It was moved by Councillor Yetman, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that we go with Highland Network to produce our Victoria County homepage on a 6 month trial basis. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that the following events receive cultural event assistance funding under the 1998 Victoria County Winter Games.

Big Wave - \$100

Ingonish Home & School - \$100

North Shore Senior Citizens Group - \$100

Highland Gaelic Society - \$100

Alexander Smith Community Hall - \$100

Englishtown Community Hall - \$100

Motion carried.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Toms, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that prior to the 1999 Victoria County Winter Games, definite criteria be developed in order to qualify for funding under the cultural event assistance program. Motion carried.

BILL FRASER, JOB DEVELOPER

Courtesy of Council was extended to Bill Fraser, Job Developer, who updated Council on the status of the Nova Scotia Works Program.

This program is now running for the 1998 year, although jobs have not yet been posted. Program funding starts January 5th and closes June 13th, 1998. Job must run at least 8 weeks and cannot exceed 23 weeks. Non-profit organizations are eligible for a wage subsidy of \$5.00 per hour. Subsidized hours of work must be at least 28 hours per week and cannot exceed 40 hours per week.

Application was made for 61 jobs for Victoria County and Economic Development and Tourism has made funding provision for 29 positions. There is a slight possibility of additional jobs as the program actually gets underway.

Individuals to be hired must have an existing EI claim of 4 weeks or less, no TAGS and preference is given to social assistance recipients.

Discussion took place on whether any money could be accessed to top-up the funding received. Mr. Fraser indicated he did not have access to any funds for same. He indicated that he and Marian MacDonald are presently working with the Department of Community Services to see what can be done, however, if anything is forthcoming it will be for social assistance recipients only.

After further discussion on this and related matters, Warden MacInnes extended a vote of thanks to Mr. Fraser for his report.

MINUTES

The minutes of the December 17, 1997, Council Session were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor Yetman, seconded by Deputy Warden Toms, that the December 17, 1997, Council minutes be approved. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from the Provincial Volunteer Association regarding Volunteer Week 1998.

This correspondence is to be forwarded to the Recreation Director for recommendation and to coordinate events for Volunteer Week.

Letter from the Victoria Highland Civic Centre Board of Directors outlining the list of proposed improvements to the Centre and requesting a grant of \$10,000 for operating expenses.

It was moved by Councillor Yetman, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that it be recommended that this matter lay on the table until budget deliberations for the 1998/99 year. Motion carried.

CRESCENT GROVE WATER LINE EXTENSION

Councillor Morrison advised that he was approached by the President of the Crescent Grove Water Company advising that the residents will come up with 25% of the required funding, provided the

Municipality approves the remaining 25%. 50% funding was received under the Infrastructure Works Program. The total project cost is \$75,000 and 25% of same amounts to \$18,750.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Sampson, that 25% of the funding for the extension of the Baddeck Water supply to residents serviced by the Crescent Grove Water Company be approved provided:

The project receives approval from the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board.

The funding not exceed \$18,750.00.

Crescent Grove Water Company provide legal intent to provide their portion of the funding (\$18,750.00)

The project be approved prior to the termination of 50% funding for infrastructure projects provided by the Provincial/Federal Government.

If the funds are not available in the 1997/98 budget, then it be the first project approved in the 1998/99 fiscal year.

Motion carried.

COUNCIL/COMMITTEE(S) STIPENDS/ALLOCATION AMOUNTS POLICY

A proposed policy regarding Council/Committee(s) Stipends/Allocation Amounts was previously distributed to Council for review. Discussion took place on the proposed policy.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor Yetman, that Council adopt the Council/Committee(s) Stipends/Allocation Amounts Policy effective immediately. Motion carried.

OPEN PERIOD/DISTRICT CONCERNS

DISTRICT #1

Councillor Yetman advised that he attended the interviews for the replacement caseworker in Ingonish, along with the Warden and Councillor Donovan.

Councillor Yetman also indicated that he met with Little Narrows Gypsum regarding the extension of the waterline to a home owned by the Company. It is their intention to demolish the home once the current resident no longer resides in same.

A number of concerns were received by Councillor Yetman regarding passes for the Little Narrows Ferry. He has been in contact with the Minister's office and was informed that the Minister has not dealt with same as yet, however, he will. We will await the Minister's reply and if not received, this will be addressed at the next meeting.

EXCUSED

Councillor Barron was excused at this time.

DISTRICT #3

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that \$200 be approved for Baddeck Minor Hockey Society from the District #3 budget; \$17.50 monthly be approved from the District #3 budget for a streetlight at the Baddeck Academy; and the vacuum at the Court House be repaired or replaced. Motion carried.

DISTRICT #5

It was moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Yetman, that a letter be forwarded to the Cape Breton Regional Municipality requesting a mutual aid agreement between fire departments in both municipalities. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that a letter of support be forwarded to the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, with a copy to NSPI and Ken MacAskill, MLA, supporting a 3 phase power line for the New Campbellton/Cape Dauphin area. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Yetman, that a letter of support be forwarded to the Department of Education for the early commencement of the new gym for Boularderie School. Motion carried.

DISTRICT #7

Councillor Donovan questioned on the status of the land at White Point Road. Brian Trask indicated that we were still waiting for Stora to sign off their timber rights on this property.

Councillor Donovan questioned on a worker to maintain the Neil's Harbour/New Haven Water System when same is completed. This should be completed within the next couple of months and discussion will be held with Washburn & Gillis in this regard.

The easements for the properties at New Haven have gone back to the Solicitor's office and will be completed as soon as possible.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Yetman, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

John G. MacInnes, Warden

B. E. Trask, CAO