

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

January 18, 1999

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, January 18, 1999, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Warden John G. MacInnes in the Chair.

Present were:

District #1 - Gerald Yetman

District #2 - Shane Toms

District #3 - Bruce Morrison

District #4 - John G. MacInnes, Warden

District #5 - Gerald Sampson, Deputy Warden

District #6 - Lawrence Barron

District #7 - David Donovan

District #8 - Robert MacLellan

Also present were:

Brian Trask, CAO

Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Warden MacInnes called the meeting to order. The agenda was reviewed and Councillor Yetman requested that the crisis in the mining communities be added to the agenda and also Donald Carmichael be congratulated for the award received from BABTA for his gardening at the Court House.

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

WINSTON MUSGRAVE, EMO

Courtesy of Council was extended to Winston Musgrave, EMO Zone Controller, Eastern Region.

Mr. Musgrave thanked Council for the opportunity to meet. Victoria County wish to proceed with the development of an emergency measures plan. He advised that the County received an Emergency Measures Operation Manual a couple of years ago and this manual outlines the procedure for developing a plan. He indicated that his office is available to help at all times.

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An EMO status report was conducted on all municipalities in 1995 and Victoria County received a poor rating at that time. A further status report was recently completed and Victoria County did not improve their status, and Mr. Musgrave indicated that in fact, the rating was worse than in 1995.

Mr. Musgrave advised that there is a 2 ½ hour presentation that he felt would be beneficial for Councillors. It was given in 1996, however, only 2 Councillors attended at that time.

Discussion took place on this matter and Mr. Musgrave indicated that the first step was to appoint an Emergency Measures Coordinator who will be responsible for developing an Emergency Measures Plan for Victoria County. Interest has been expressed by a couple of individuals in this regard.

Victoria County has the potential for major highway problems, as transfers travel through this County continually carrying hazardous materials. Mr. Musgrave indicated that Victoria County is on only area within the Eastern Zone which does not have an emergency plan in place.

One of the first things necessary is to appoint an Emergency Measures Committee. There was previously a Committee in place and it was felt this Committee should be reinstated.

It was moved by Councillor Yetman, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the Emergency Measures Committee (Safety/Environmental) be reinstated consisting of Councillors Sampson, Toms, Donovan and Barron. Motion carried.

There are at present three people who may be interested in the Coordinator position and it was felt that expressions of interest should be requested. The Committee will meet with the interested parties and bring forward a recommendation to Council during the February session.

Mr. Musgrave will be contacted when a Coordinator is in place and he will come and do the presentation to Council and the Coordinator at that time.

It was moved by Councillor Toms, seconded by Deputy Warden Sampson, that a letter be forwarded to the Honourable Kennie MacAskill requesting that the weigh scales at the Canso

Causeway be manned 24 hours per day and transport trucks coming across the Causeway be required to provide a copy of their manifest at the scales to indicate what materials they are carrying. Motion carried.

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A copy of this letter is to be forwarded all Cape Breton municipalities.

PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Courtesy of Council was extended to Jim Ryan, Chairman, Planning Advisory Committee, and Dan Nicholson, Planner, Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission.

Jim Ryan indicated that the PAC has been meeting regularly on a monthly basis since May, 1998. The two main concerns of the Committee are the review of the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-Law and the Baddeck Sewage Treatment System.

Mr. Ryan indicated that Council will be provided with a copy of all correspondence regarding the PAC to keep Council aware of what is happening.

Dan Nicholson presented Council with a brief report on the status of the review of the Baddeck Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-Law. Two open houses will be held in Baddeck to provide the public with an opportunity to review the existing documents and discuss the proposed amendments. The dates for the open houses are January 26, 1999, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and again on Saturday, January 30, 1999, from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. These open houses will be held at the Baddeck Community Centre.

Baddeck's Sewer Treatment Plant was discussed and is a concern. The Planning Advisory Committee has undertaken a great deal of work to find a feasible solution to the sewage treatment problems. ECBC have verbally indicated that they will provide 50% of the costs of a study up to \$20,000. Funding is also being requested from the provincial government and a meeting has been scheduled for January 28, 1999, with provincial representatives to discuss this issue.

Discussion took place. The issue of the sewage treatment plant will also be discussed at the open houses.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Yetman, that Council endorse the Planning Advisory Committee in their efforts to solve problems with the Baddeck Sewage Treatment Plant, and authorize the PAC to proceed with the pre-design study and administer any funding solicited by the PAC; that the County submit an application to the federal and provincial governments for funding and Council approve \$1,000 towards the cost of the pre-design study. Motion carried.

It was estimated that the cost of the study would be in the vicinity of \$15,000 to \$20,000.

Brian Trask discussed the motion made in November, 1998, regarding the Baddeck Sewage Treatment Plant being the first priority for any infrastructure funding which may become available. He advised on how this motion would effect the County's capital funding.

An application has been received from Scott MacAulay, Inverary Inn, to permit the construction of additional units at this facility. This matter has not be brought to the Village Commission as yet.

RECESS

Warden MacInnes announced that Council would recess for 10 minutes

BRAS D'OR STEWARDSHIP SOCIETY

Councillor Morrison presented copies of information received from the Bras d'Or Stewardship Society, along with a correspondence which is to be copied to all Councillors.

DONNIE MORRISON, TAX COLLECTOR

Courtesy of Council was extended to Donnie Morrison, Tax Collector.

Mr. Morrison advised that he is in the process of sending out 60 day tax sale notices to people in arrears. The tax sale is behind schedule, due to the fact that Mr. Morrison was off on sick leave for some time. Notices will be sent out in the next few days. Once these notices are received, money will start coming in.

\$193,000 has been collected on the arrears since the last report to Council. There is still \$417,363.01 owing in arrears.

Discussion took place on the gear sheds in the name of the Ingonish Ferry Fishermen's Association. There is \$7,500+ owing on this account.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Yetman, that a letter be forwarded to Charlie Smith, Ingonish Ferry Fishermen's Association, with a copy to Donald MacDonald, Small Craft Harbours, advising that the interest on this account will be forgiven if the principle amount is paid, and failure to do same, will result in legal action

being undertaken. Motion carried with Councillors Barron, Donovan and MacLellan voting against the motion.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Brian Trask presented Council with a financial report up to October 31, 1998, representing 58.33% of the 12 month year. To date 91% of the revenue has been received and total expenditures are 63.12% of the budget. He reviewed the various budget categories with Council.

Council was advised that in excess of \$90,000 in tipping fees is to be collected for contaminated soil taken at the Baddeck Landfill. It was felt that a special meeting should be held to deal with solid waste user fees and tipping fees.

The Court House/Sold Waste Committee is to be reinstated. This committee consists of Councillors Morrison, Toms, Yetman and MacLellan.

Discussion took place on liquor stores discontinuing accepting beer bottles as of February 22, 1999.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that a letter be forwarded to the RRF that we oppose liquor stores discontinuing acceptance of beer bottles until there is something in place in the Ingonish area where bottles can be returned, due to the problems that would be encountered during the busy tourist season. A copy of this letter is to be forwarded to the Honourable Kennie MacAskill and the Honourable Michel Sampson, Minister of the Environment. Motion carried.

Councillor Donovan requested that he be included in any committee discussions with regard to the Enviro-Depot.

INVERNESS/VICTORIA FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE

It was moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Yetman, that Bill Nicholson, R. R. #1, Englishtown, be appointed as

Council's representative on the Inverness/Victoria Federation of Agriculture. Motion carried.

HIGHLAND MANOR BOARD

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It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that Marilyn MacKay be appointed to the Highland Manor Board. Motion carried.

PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Yetman, that Dave Parkinson be appointed to serve on the Planning Advisory Committee. Motion carried.

COMMUNITY SERVICES OFFICE UPDATE

Brian Trask presented Council with an update on the status of the Community Services Office space. He will contact Keith MacMillan, Regional Manager, Department of Community Services, tomorrow in this regard.

OTHER BUSINESS

JOB CREATION

It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Councillor Barron, that \$2,000 be allocated for each district for job creation. Motion carried.

DONALD CARMICHAEL

A letter of congratulations is to be forwarded to Donald Carmichael for the award received from BABTA for the gardening at the Court House, if same has not already been forwarded.

SANDY HUDSON

It was moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that a letter of congratulations be forwarded to Sandy Hudson from Council on his admission to the Nova Scotia Bar. Motion carried.

FISHER HUDSON

It was moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor Toms, that a letter be forwarded to Fisher Hudson in appreciation of his years of service to the community. Motion carried.

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COAL INDUSTRY

Councillor Yetman advised that he attended a meeting at the CBRM today regarding the coal industry in

Cape Breton.

It was moved by Councillor Yetman, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that Council reaffirm its support opposing the privatization and supporting CBRM on their stand regarding the coal industry. Motion carried.

ATLANTIC CED INSTITUTE

Catherine Ann Fuller advised that HRDC has approved funding \$800 for each of the three representatives to attend the Certificate in Community Economic Development and Leadership at the Atlantic CED Institute. The County has previously approved funding for the expenses involved.

Mrs. Fuller advised that she would be forwarding a letter to Alice Almon thanking her for her assistance and indicated she would be willing to assist Councillors Sampson, Donovan and Morrison if required.

Mrs. Fuller also advised that the Strait-Highlands Regional Development Agency's Board meeting would be held at the Inverary Inn on Thursday, January 21, 1999, at 5:00 p.m. and it would be great to see a good representation from Council in attendance.

SEMPRA GAS MEETING

Deputy Warden Sampson reported on the meeting he attended on January 13, 1999, with Sempra Gas officials. The meeting was both upbeat and positive and it was indicated that they could achieve 75% coverage after 7 years. It was the first time a map was provided showing the location of the laterals. They have plans to service 1000 homes in Victoria County in the year 2006. They estimated that 300 to 500 jobs will be created.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Jim Morrow, Chairperson, Middle River Watershed Society, acknowledging Council's support regarding stabilizing the banks of Middle River.

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Letter from the Department of Health acknowledging receipt of Council's request for the generator from Buchanan Memorial Hospital and advising that the letter has been forwarded to John Higgins, CEO, Easter Regional Health Board.

Correspondence from Fred Bonnar re Community Wheels Program requesting a letter of support for the Bay St. Lawrence & Area Development Association attempts to obtain funding for a community based transportation program.

It was moved by Councillor Yetman, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that this request be acknowledged and Mr. Bonnar be advised that Council has already supported a shuttle service, which has access of a vehicle to transport the handicapped, servicing northern Victoria County. Motion carried.

Letter from Horner Associates Ltd. regarding the Dingwall Water System.

Brian Trask will contact Ricky Fraser, Dingwall Water Maintenance Man, to determine what is required at the Dingwall Water System.

Letters from the Department of Transportation concerning the following:

Speed Limit on the Black Rock Road

3rd piece of snow removal equipment for Boularderie

Speed Limit - Indian Brook

It was moved by Councillor Yetman, seconded by Deputy Warden Sampson, that this correspondence be received, placed on file and copies forwarded to the appropriate Councillors. Motion carried.

Correspondence from the Department of the Environment regarding municipal/village staff taking water samples.

This was viewed to be downloading on rural municipalities and felt Council should stand firm on our opposition to same.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Barron, that a letter be forwarded to Lawrence MacDonald, Regional District Supervisor, Department of the Environment, with a copies to Clive Oldrieve, Department of the Environment; and the Honourable Michel Sampson, Minister of the Environment, voicing Council's opposition to the province downloading the responsibility for collecting water samples to municipalities. Motion carried.

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NEXT MEETING

Councillor Yetman indicated that the time was getting late and as there was still agenda items remaining, he felt the meeting should conclude and another meeting be held on Monday, January 25, 1999, to complete the remaining agenda items.

DISTRICT #5

It was moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor Yetman, that \$200 be approved from the District #5 budget for the Big Wave Summer Festival. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Councillor Barron, the meeting adjourned.

John G. MacInnes, Warden

B. E. Trask, CAO