

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
January 19, 2009

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, January 19, 2009, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Warden Bruce Morrison in the Chair.

Present were:

District #1 – Paul MacNeil
District #2 – Keith MacCuspic
District #3 – Bruce Morrison, Warden
District #5 – Fraser Patterson, Deputy Warden
District #6 – Larry Dauphinee
District #7 – David Donovan
District #8 – Robert MacLellan

Also present were:

Sandy Hudson, CAO
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Morrison called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 8, 2008

The minutes of the December 8, 2008, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that the Victoria County Council minutes of December 8, 2008, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Victoria County Website

The status of the new Victoria County website was questioned. It is taking longer than anticipated and it was suggested that a meeting of the Victoria County Municipal Community Development Committee be scheduled to deal with this and other issues when the new Committee is formed.

A date will be set after Committees have been established.

Waste Oil

Councillor MacCuspic questioned on his request concerning a site for waste oil disposal. Sandy Hudson will check with the RRFB concerning the possibility of a site at the Transfer Station for accepting waste oil.

Meeting – Neil’s Harbour/New Haven Water

Councillor Donovan questioned on the status of the water meeting for Neil’s Harbour/New Haven. Sandy Hudson advised that Robert Dauphinee is in the process of determining quantities of water produced and used and hopefully a meeting will be scheduled for late January or early February.

The Utility and Review Board Hearing for the Victoria County Water Utility application will be held on January 29, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at the Court House, Baddeck.

Meeting – Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal

Roy MacDonald has advised that he will meet with the Councillors from Northern Victoria County and this meeting will be arranged in the near future.

BAY ST. LAWRENCE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Amy MacKinnon, Bay St. Lawrence Community Centre, was unable to be in attendance this evening and Councillor MacLellan indicated that Ms. MacKinnon was requesting financial assistance from the Municipality.

The Community Centre has received \$100,000 funding from the provincial government and \$20,000 from the federal government and is requesting the County to provide whatever they are able to provide.

Councillor MacLellan indicated that due to power interruptions this afternoon, he was unable to print out Ms. MacKinnon’s presentation and he advised he would contact Ms. MacKinnon to forward the presentation to the Municipal Office for circulation to Council members.

VICTORIA COUNTY EMERGENCY PLAN

Courtesy of Council was extended to Barry Campbell, Emergency Measures Coordinator for the Municipality of the County of Victoria.

Mr. Campbell was in attendance with regard to approval of the updated Victoria County Emergency Plan. Council was provided with a copy of the plan for review prior to the meeting.

Mr. Campbell gave an overview of the plan and its contents. In the event of an emergency, this plan provides the blueprint for Victoria County's emergency management. It is important that Council is aware of the contents and their responsibilities in the event of an emergency.

Mr. Campbell advised that the Emergency Planning Group, the Canadian Red Cross and Department of Community Services have all reviewed the document and agree with the contents.

Discussion took place on the Victoria County Emergency Plan.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that the Victoria County Emergency Plan be adopted. Motion carried.

Mr. Campbell indicated that a Basic Emergency Management course will be held in Baddeck from May 1-3, 2009. He also indicated that eventually he would like to see all Council members attend the Emergency Operations Centre course in Ottawa.

Councillor MacLellan indicated that Barry Campbell is requesting that an alternate EMC be appointed for Victoria County to act in his absence.

It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that Lyle Donovan be appointed the alternate Emergency Measures Coordinator (EMC) for Victoria County. Motion carried.

Councillor Donovan brought up the concern with regard to power outages and the loss of availability of fuel sources in a power outage. He suggested the possibility of providing assistance to identified service stations to locate a panel to run their pumps during power outages.

Also the 72 hour period during an emergency when people should be self-sufficient was discussed. This was considered a long period of time and discussion took place on the setting up of comfort centres prior to the 72 hours.

These matters will be addressed with the Committee and Barry Campbell will investigate costs, etc.

Councillor MacCuspie expressed a concern that the Weather Network on television does not include Victoria County when it issues weather bulletins and warnings for the Cape Breton area.

Barry Campbell indicated that EMO Nova Scotia is looking at a plan within the next couple of years which will see weather warnings and bulletins streamed across television screens.

After further discussion, Mr. Campbell was excused.

SILVER DART CENTENNIAL

Courtesy of Council was extended to Eleanor Anderson who was in attendance to update Council on the flight of the Silver Dart Centennial Celebrations.

Ms. Anderson extended a vote of thanks to Council for the financial support received to assist with two major events during the February celebrations. There are sixteen (16) events scheduled from February 20-23, 2009. She presented an overview of the events to Council.

The AEA 2005, a group of aviation enthusiasts from Welland, Ontario, has built a replica of the original Silver Dart and plans are in place to fly the replica during the February celebrations, weather permitting. The plane will be disassembled in Ontario and transported in two tractor trailers and reassembled here upon its arrival.

Ms. Anderson presented a mockup of a poster for the events, as well as two stories on the events that were published in the *Airforce Magazine*.

The Silver Dart Centennial is a year long event with educational events, an air show in June and week long celebrations in August and September, 2009.

Ms. Anderson advised of the financial commitments received from ECBC, the Provincial Department of Tourism and the Air Canada Pilots Association. Corporate sponsorship continues and she indicated that the funding received from the Municipality provides leverage for receiving funding from others.

An updated Schedule of Events for the February celebrations will be provided for distribution to Council.

Ms. Anderson was extended a vote of thanks for her report and was excused at this time.

RECESS

Warden Morrison advised that Council would recess for 10 minutes.

NSPI GRANT IN LIEU PROGRAM

Council was advised that since the last session of Council; the Warden, CAO and Keith Bain, MLA, met with the former Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, Honourable Jamie Muir, with regard to reassessment initiative concerning NSPI's grant in lieu program. Also the Warden, Deputy Warden and CAO met last Friday with representatives from the UNSM.

The current reassessment initiative has resulted in a new value assigned to the Wreck Cove Power Generating Station of \$64 million dollars, up from \$1 million dollars. The point presented at both meetings was to emphasize that Victoria County, as well as other municipal units, have been bearing the brunt of the NSPI grant in lieu program over many years and that any discussion of a phased in approach to the current redistribution is unacceptable.

Keith Bain, MLA, was in attendance. He has been bringing forward Council's concerns to government and has written a letter to the new Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, Honourable Richard Hurlburt. A copy of this letter was forwarded to the Municipality.

A letter addressed to Warden Keith Hunter, President of the UNSM Rural Caucus, was read outlining the Council's position. A copy of this letter was provided to Keith Bain. The letter outlined Victoria County's position.

A meeting of the UNSM Rural Caucus will be held in the Amherst area on February 6, 2009, at which time Victoria County's position will again be presented.

Mr. Bain advised that he will meet with Minister Hurlburt on Wednesday, January 21, 2009, and will request a timeline on the decision on this matter. He will continue to bring Council's position before Cabinet and Caucus and as he receives information, he will provide same to Council.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that the Warden's letter be forwarded to Warden Keith Hunter, Chairman of the Rural Caucus, with copies to Rural Caucus members Jim

MacAlpine and Fred Whalen; UNSM President Lloyd Hines; and Lyle Goldberg, UNSM. Motion carried.

Mr. Bain requested permission to share this letter with Minister Hurlburt and permission was granted.

Council will be kept informed on this matter as information is available.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. A letter was received from Roy MacDonald, Area Manager, Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, with regard to Council's request for lighting at Roper's Brook and Beach Crossing Road, as well as road signage for Brandon Lane. Both Roper's Bridge and Beach Crossing Road do not meet DOT general guidelines for highway lighting and the Department will not move forward with Council's request. Brandon Lane is not a listed public road and signage is not the responsibility of the Department.

Councillors will bring these issues up during their scheduled meeting with Roy MacDonald in northern Victoria County.

Councillor Donovan requested that private road signs be ordered for "Brandon Lane" and "Ryerson Lane".

Councillor MacNeil requested that Roy MacDonald be invited to a future Council session to discuss concerns that have arisen since he last met with Council, in particular snow removal.

2. Letter from Roy MacDonald, Area Manager, Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, regarding a request for ditching on MacLeod Street, Baddeck, modifications to the left turn land at Exit 10 westbound on Highway 105 and a culvert replacement on the Cabot Trail near Doucette's Road in Ingonish Beach. Ditching of MacLeod Street will be scheduled for the upcoming construction season. The left turn at Exit 10 has been forwarded to the District Traffic Supervisor for review. It is the Department's position that a larger Culvert is not required at Doucette's Road.
3. A copy of a letter forwarded to the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve Association from the Mining Association of Nova Scotia and a copy of the reply from Teresa MacNeil, Chair of the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve Association to the Mining Association of Nova Scotia.

The Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve Association would like to have Council's decision by the end of February for application to UNSECO in March, 2009. A unanimous decision of area Councils is required for the application to proceed. Inverness County has not made a decision in this regard to date.

Discussion took place on this matter and it was decided that Council would defer a decision until a decision is made by Inverness County.

4. Card of thanks from Jamie Fricker for Council's support in having a mountain in Aspy Bay named after her father, Theodore Fricker. Approval was received by all parties to have the mountain named "Theodore Fricker" Mountain.

APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

Expressions of Interest for serving on various Council Committees were requested.

The Cape Breton Regional Library Board requires 2 members. Gina Reid has reapplied to serve on the Board.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that Gina Reid be appointed as a Victoria County representative on the Cape Breton Regional Library Board. Motion carried.

Five applications were received for membership on the Victoria County Municipal Community Development Committee – Cathi Pierrard, Jim Morrow, Douglas Arthur Brown, Amy MacKinnon and Norman Matheson.

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that Cathi Pierrard, Jim Morrow, Douglas Arthur Brown, Amy MacKinnon and Norman Matheson be appointed to serve on the Victoria County Municipal Community Development Committee. Motion carried.

No expressions of interest were received for membership on the Police Advisory Board.

Councillor MacLellan, Chairman of Highland Manor, presented names of people interested in serving on the Highland Manor Board. Four names were presented which would make the majority of the Committee made up of lay people. By approving all four, it would mean that Victoria County Council would have minority membership on the Board. This may require a change in the Highland Manor by-laws.

It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Councilor Donovan, that three representatives – Lyle Donovan, Wayne Budge and Lawrence Walsh, be appointed to serve on the Highland Manor Board. Motion carried.

One expression of interest was received for the Planning Advisory Committee.

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspic, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that David Parkinson be appointed to serve on the Planning Advisory Committee. Motion carried.

Victoria County Home Support Agency requires two members on their Board. Councillor Donovan was previously appointed to serve.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that the successful District #4 candidate in the upcoming by-election be appointed to serve on the Victoria County Home Support Agency Board. Motion carried.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #6

Councillor Dauphinee indicated that Lyle Donovan, Victoria County Chief Officers Association, wished to make a presentation at a future Council session.

Depending on the by-election, Council will tentatively be held on February 16, 2009, and the Fire Services presentation will be included on this agenda.

Councillor Dauphinee requested that a street light be ordered for installation on the first pole in from the intersection on the Beech Crossing Road.

District #7

Councillor Donovan questioned on the status of water meters for the Neil's Harbour/New Haven Water System. Sandy Hudson advised that the meters for Little Narrows and Neil's Harbour/New Haven have been ordered and hopefully all will be installed by the end of June, 2009.

Councillor Donovan indicated that the Six Ports Harbour Authority, an amalgamation of six ports from Ingonish to Dingwall, wish to make a presentation before Council.

Councillor Donovan indicated that his project with regard to a skating park for sport and recreation in his district has been submitted to ECBC and other departments for funding and he would like it referred to municipal budget talks.

District #8

North Highlands Elementary School, Aspy Bay, is presently fundraising for a “sensory room” for special needs students at the school.

The School Board representative North of Smokey, Jackie Organ, was contacted concerning this matter and it was felt before proceeding further, a reply should be received from the School Board as to whether they will assist with such projects.

District #5

Deputy Warden Patterson advised that Eli Mina Consulting Group are providing training sessions in Halifax on March 26-27, 2009, on Effective Decision Making and Meetings & Rules of Order.

Deputy Warden Patterson expressed an interest in attending, as well as Councillors MacNeil and Donovan. Warden Morrison and Sandy Hudson, CAO, have previously been registered.

Deputy Warden Patterson indicated that there are a number of streetlights out on the Seal Island Bridge.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that a letter be forwarded to Roy MacDonald, Area Manager, Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, requesting that the streetlights on the Seal Island Bridge be repaired. Motion carried.

District #1

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that \$1,000.00 be approved from the District #1 budget for the Iona Volunteer Fire Department for an ice survival suit. Motion carried.

Councillor MacNeil advised that there are lights out also on the Barra Strait Bridge. Lynk Electric carry out these repairs.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Deputy Warden Patterson, that a letter be forwarded to Roy MacDonald, Area Manager, Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, requesting that they

contact Lynk Electric to carry out necessary repairs to streetlights on the Barra Strait Bridge. Motion carried.

District #3

Deputy Warden Patterson assumed the Chair.

It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that a certificate of congratulations be forwarded to Jessie Wong on being an integral part of the National Under 18 Women's Hockey Team who were Silver Medal recipients at the recent IIHF World Championships. Motion carried.

Warden Morrison resumed the Chair.

NEW BUSINESS

Some time ago the Gaelic College were included in our by-law exempting them from taxation and a motion is required to write off existing taxes.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the existing taxes owing for the Gaelic College be written off. Motion carried.

Sandy Hudson advised that he received a bill for derelict vehicles hauled from northern Victoria County. The hauler charged \$100 per vehicle and some time ago the rates were established that the Municipality would pay \$60 for vehicles taken to municipal sites and \$40 per vehicle if taken to the hauler's private salvage yard. As result, Mr. Hudson has adjusted the bill to pay \$40 per vehicle.

The 2009/10 budget process will begin shortly and Mr. Hudson questioned on how Council wished to proceed. He will draft a couple of scenarios for Council's consideration.

NEXT MEETING

The next session of Council will be held as soon after the by-election as possible – tentatively February 16, 2009.

DINGWALL TRANSFER STATION

Councillor MacLellan brought forward a concern with regard to overtime at the Dingwall Transfer Station site. This will be brought up with Robert Dauphinee.

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Victoria County Municipal Community Development Committee will be held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, January 26, 2009, beginning at 5:00 p.m. The five new members will be contacted and advised.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Deputy Warden Patterson, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO