

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
January 21, 2002

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, January 21, 2002, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Present were:

District #1 – Dan E. MacNeil
District #2 – Shane Toms
District #3 – Bruce Morrison, Deputy Warden
District #4 – John G. MacInnes
District #5 – Gerald Sampson, Warden
District #6 – Lawrence Barron
District #7 – Wayne Budge
District #8 – Robert MacLellan

Also present were:

Brian Trask, CAO
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Sampson called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/TIME TO ADJOURN

It was moved by Councillor Toms, seconded by Deputy Warden Morrison, that the agenda be accepted as presented and the time for adjournment be set at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried.

MINUTES

The minutes of the January 7, 2002, Council meeting were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Barron, that the minutes of the January 7, 2002, session of Victoria County Municipal Council be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Liability Insurance

The increase in the Municipality's liability coverage to \$10,000,000.00 has been put in place.

Smoking By-Law

Brian Trask presented a draft of a Smoking By-Law to each Council Member for review.

NSPI

A letter was forwarded to the Utility and Review Board opposing any increase in NSPI's power rates until an adequate delivery system is in place in Victoria County.

Department of Transportation

A letter was forwarded to the Department of Transportation requesting a copy of their snow removal policy for roads put under private contract for snow removal.

Dingwall Water – Ingonish Beach Water

Brian Trask advised that he received a call from Public Works and Government Services regarding the Dingwall Water System.

Councillor Barron indicated that he spoke with Marvin MacDonald, Canada/Nova Scotia Infrastructure Program, and he is willing to come to the Ingonish area to meet with the Water Committee concerning Ingonish Beach Water. This meeting will be held on January 28 or 29, 2002, at the National Park Headquarters, Ingonish Beach. Bruce Langille, Risk Manager, Department of Transportation will be invited to attend and Tim Reynolds will be in attendance representing Parks Canada. Councillor Barron will advise when the date is confirmed for this meeting.

Discussion took place on the Dingwall Water System. It was felt that a public meeting should be held in Dingwall to inform the residents on what has been done and to determine to proceed to upgrade this system. This meeting will be held on Monday, January 28, 2002, at 7:00 p.m. Councillor MacLellan will advise of the location for this meeting tomorrow.

JOHN BAIN – BUILDING PERMIT REVENUES AND FEES

Courtesy of Council was extended to John Bain, Director, Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission. Mr. Bain was in attendance with regard to a proposed increase in building permit fees.

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Building permit fees have remained unchanged since April 1, 1995. In December, 1997, an attempt to increase the fees was made but was defeated at Inverness County Council and did not proceed to the other Councils. The present fee structure is based on providing three mandatory inspections, however; now the inspections have increased to five.

In 2000/01 fiscal year, the cost per inspection amounted to approximately \$108. The cost to conduct a complete set of inspections ranges from \$430 to \$540. The building permit fee for a standard new home is \$144.60.

The following changes are proposed for consideration:

Part Nine buildings (Small Residential): (including modular homes)	\$20 + 14 cents/sq.ft. (each floor) + 8 cents/sq.ft. (finished or unfinished) + \$100 refundable deposit
Mobile Homes:	\$75.00
Part Three buildings (Assembly):	\$20 + 18 cents/sq.ft.
Agricultural Buildings	\$20 + 8 cents/sq. ft.
Additions and Alterations	\$20 + \$2.50 per \$1,000
Accessory Buildings	\$50 flat fee

Mr. Bain advised that the proposed change has received 1st reading at Inverness and Richmond County Councils and has received final approval by the Town of Port Hawkesbury. Council agreed that tonight constitute the first reading for Victoria County Council.

A date for the second reading (public hearing) will be coordinated. Mr. Bain will contact the County office tomorrow in this regard.

Discussion took place on the possibility of the building inspectors taking over the responsibility of fire inspection. Mr. Bain updated Council on the status of same.

Mr. Bain was extended a vote of thanks and was excused at this time.

NEIL'S HARBOUR/NEW HAVEN ENVIRO-DEPOT

The Neil's Harbour/New Haven Volunteer Fire Department, who operate the Neil's Harbour/New Haven Enviro-Depot, have been operating a sub-depot in the Ingonish area. Over the past year they have been running a deficit operating the sub-depot that has resulted in a net loss of approximately \$11,000 in the 11-month period ending November 30, 2001. Discussion took place.

It was moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Deputy Warden Morrison, that the Municipality not subsidize the sub-depot operated by the Neil's Harbour/New Haven Volunteer Fire Department in Ingonish and contact be made with the Resource Recovery Fund Board Inc. requesting that they subsidize this operation. Motion carried.

Brian Trask advised that he inspected the Neil's Harbour/New Haven Enviro-Depot in December. The depot is being operating in a very efficient manner, however; an expansion is required to allow for storage of baled cardboard, blue bags and car batteries. Some form of heating is required for the Enviro-Depot and the possibility of obtaining a forklift, that could be shared with the water utilities, to enable safe handling of the cardboard bales, beer bottle pallets, etc. was discussed.

Brian Trask is to determine the overall costs of expanding the present building and obtaining the necessary equipment.

NEW BUSINESS

ROAD NAME CHANGE

The Department of Transportation and the Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission have no objections to Private Road #6009 (P), Washabuck Center, being renamed to Birchill Lane.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, to approve the change in the name of Private Road #6009 (P), Washabuck Center, to "Birchill Lane". Motion carried.

FERRY WHARF, BIG BRAS D'OR

Paul Burt conducted an inspection of the Ferry Wharf, Big Bras d'Or. This area is being used as a dumpsite. Contact was made with Charlie MacDonald, Department of Transportation, and this department will be cleaning and removing debris from this area.

BADDECK INTERNATIONAL MEDIA FESTIVAL

Discussion took place on the Baddeck International Media Festival and the possibility of locating a permanent office in the Baddeck area. Whether the Municipality could provide office space for the festival office was questioned.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that the Baddeck International Media Festival be offered office space in the Court House building for a period of one year and they cover their own office setup expenses. Motion carried.

BADDECK SEWER DIVERSION

Bruce Morrison advised that he reviewed the invoices for the Baddeck Sewer Diversion with Denise MacKinnon and he requested permission to take these invoices to Halifax for clarification to determine if they will be covered under the Provincial Capital Assistance Program.

It was moved by Councillor Toms, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that Deputy Warden Morrison be authorization to go to Halifax with the Baddeck Sewer Diversion invoices for clarification. Motion carried.

SMOKING REDUCTION MEETING

Warden Sampson indicated that a daylong seminar of the reduction of smoking will be held at the North Star Inn, North Sydney, on February 6, 2002, and he will be attending.

The possibility of making the Court House building a "Smoke Free" building was discussed.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. The Annual General Meeting for Tourism Cape Breton Inc. will be held at the Delta, Sydney, commencing at 10:00 a.m. on January 23, 2002.

Warden Sampson will represent Victoria County at this meeting.

EXCUSED

Councillor MacInnes was excused at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE

2. Letter from Solicitor Arthur Pickup reporting on the review of the law with respect to contracts and public tender regarding the Baddeck Sewer Design Study. He indicated that should the Municipality decide to put this project out to tender, it would be advised to reserve the right not to accept the lowest bid and to give bidders notice it will consider the APENS quality-based selection system criteria in making the contract award. This would ensure that the award was not tied purely to the lowest bid, but also to factors of professional competence and suitability for the project.

Discussion took place on a purchasing policy for the Municipality.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Toms, that the CAO be directed to develop a purchasing policy for the Municipality. Motion carried.

3. Copy of the position statement of the Municipality of the County of Victoria regarding the potential of oil and gas exploration and drilling within exploration licenses, 2364, 2365 and 2368 as granted to Hunt Oil Canada Inc., and Totalfina elf E & P Canada Ltd.

Warden Sampson indicated that this presentation was made before the Commissioner at the hearings at Wagmatcook Heritage and Cultural Centre earlier today.

4. Copy of a press release from Jerry Blumenthal, President, UNSM, regarding the cancellation of the municipal equalization.

INFORMAL COUNCIL MEETING

Warden Sampson brought up the possibility of having an informal meeting of Council. This matter will lay on the table until the spring, 2002.

DINGWALL WATER SAMPLES

The bench scale jar testing using DAF (Dissolved Air Flootation) technology presently being conducted by ABL Environmental on the Dingwall Water System was discussed. Brian Trask is to contact Gordon Balcombe to determine if the results of this testing are complete.

CAPE NORTH TRANSFER STATION

Councillor MacLellan indicated that he has retained Robert Gwinn to do the snow removal at the Cape North Transfer Station.

ADJOURN

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