

# **VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**

**February 12, 2001**

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, February 12, 2001, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Warden Gerald Sampson in the Chair.

Present were:

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

Also present were:

Brian Trask, CAO  
Arthur Pickup, Solicitor  
John Anderson, Auditor  
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

## **CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Warden Sampson called the meeting to order. The agenda was presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor Toms, seconded by Deputy Warden Morrison, that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.

## **NORTHSTAR ENERGY**

Courtesy of Council was extended to Francis Gillies, Strait-Highlands Regional Development Agency, who introduced representatives from Northstar Energy – Jim Beattie, East Coast Coordinator, and Paul MacKay, Technical Advisor, in attendance to make a presentation on onshore conventional gas and oil exploration in the Bras d'Or area.

## **INGONISH COURT MEETING**

Warden Sampson reported on the meeting held with representatives from the Department of Justice and Attorney General and the RCMP concerning the elimination of Ingonish Court Sittings.

There is a new federal building proposed for the Ingonish area and the possibility of a partnership between the federal and provincial governments to include court facilities in the new building was discussed.

Another meeting is to be held with representatives from the Department of Justice and Attorney General in the next few weeks. The possibility of having this meeting in the northern area was discussed and Councillor Budge indicated that this meeting could be held at Cabot High.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor Budge, that Councillors Barron, MacLellan and Budge meet with Tim Reynolds, Superintendent, Cape Breton Highlands National Park, to discuss the possibility of providing Court facilities in the new federal building to be built in Ingonish. Motion carried.

## INGONISH WATER

Warden Sampson extended the courtesy of Council to Leo Gene Donovan, in attendance representing the residents of Ingonish Beach concerning a central water supply system for this area.

Mr. Donovan indicated that the residents seeking a central water supply system for the Ingonish Beach area wish to move forward with Council in a positive manner. He advised that he went door to door and obtained 135 signatures on a petition indicating that they would be willing to connect to a water supply system when installed. He also indicated that he received a letter from Nova Scotia Housing expressing an interest for the 10 senior citizens units and there is another 20 homes serviced by the National Park that would also connect to a system. The businesses located in the area have not been contacted as yet.

Points raised during the discussion included:

- Ingonish Beach does not expect to leapfrog over the two priority projects – Baddeck Sewer and Dingwall Water.
- Other communities are also looking for infrastructure funding for water supplies and extensions.
- Ingonish Water has been submitted on the list of projects forwarded to the Canada/Nova Scotia Infrastructure Program.
- For any money spent after October 5, 2000, the federal/provincial portions are recoverable through the infrastructure program.

- The Department of the Environment conducted testing on 10 wells as a result of the public meeting – 2 in Ingonish Centre and 8 in Ingonish Beach. These samples were taken at the request and cost of the homeowners.
- There is a 6-year window of opportunity to apply for infrastructure funding.
- The costs for borrowing money at today's rates were provided.
- Application is now before the FCM Green Municipal Enabling Fund for funding for a study.

Ed Carey indicated that he felt it would be best to have a pre-design study done prior to submitting a formal application under the Canada/Nova Scotia Infrastructure Program. This study would provide cost estimates, water source for system, and other information that is essential for making an accurate application.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the Municipality proceed with the steps outlined by Ed Carey, Carey Geoenvironmental, for a centralized water system for the Ingonish Beach area. Motion carried.

In the meantime, the Department of the Environment will monitor the current water problems, and when weather permits, investigation will be done on on-site sewage systems in the area. Information will be provided on the disinfection solutions for unsatisfactory water supplies.

#### MINUTES – DECEMBER 18, 2000

The minutes of the December 18, 2000, Committee of the Whole meeting were previously approved with the exception of Page 4 of these minutes, as there was conflicting motions made. In order to correct the problem, it is necessary to rescind the third motion that Ingonish Beach Water be moved to one of the top priority infrastructures on the list.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Toms, that the third motion contained on Page 4 of the December 18, 2000, Committee of the Whole meeting be rescinded. Motion carried.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that with the rescinding of the third motion on Page 4 of the December 18, 2000, Committee of the Whole minutes, the minutes now be approved. Motion carried.

#### RECESS

Warden Sampson announced that Council would recess for 15 minutes.

## PROCLAMATIONS

It was moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Deputy Warden Morrison, that March 1-31, 2001, be proclaimed "Library Card Month" in Victoria County. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that February 11-17, 2001, be proclaimed "Family Violence Prevention Week" in Victoria County. Motion carried.

## APPOINTMENT – SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES FIELD TEAM

It was moved by Deputy Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that Councillor Dan E. MacNeil be appointed as Council's representative on the Sustainable Communities Field Team. Motion carried.

## DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT OFFICE, BADDECK

Deputy Warden Morrison indicated that there are reports out of the closure of the Baddeck Office of the Department of the Environment. This office serves Victoria and Inverness Counties.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Toms, that a letter be forwarded to Lawrence MacDonald, District Manager, Department of the Environment, with copies to the Honourable Rodney MacDonald and the Minister of the Environment, questioning on the proposed closure of the Baddeck Environment Office and further requesting the reasons on which this decision is based. Motion carried.

## FINE OPTIONS PROGRAM

It was moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Councillor Barron, that the County not participate in the Fine Options Program. Motion carried.

## FCM'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Annual Conference of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities will be held in Banff, Alberta from May 25-28, 2001. It is policy that the Warden and two Council Members attend.

Warden Sampson, Councillor Toms and Councillor Barron will attend the Annual Conference.

## DISTRICT CONCERNS

### District #1

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Budge, that \$100 be approved from the District #1 budget for Rankin Memorial School. Motion carried.

### District #2

It was moved by Councillor Toms, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that \$1,000 be approved for the Middle River Home & School from the District #2 budget. Motion carried.

Councillor Toms presented a petition from residents residing on the “Old Margaree Road” from Bethune’s Corner to the foot of Hunters Mountain requesting that this road name be changed to the “Old Cabot Trail Road”.

It was moved by Councillor Toms, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that the petition to change the name of the “Old Margaree Road” to the “Old Cabot Trail Road” be accepted and forwarded to the Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission and the Department of Transportation and Public Works for approval. Motion carried with Deputy Warden Morrison casting a dissenting vote.

### District #3

It was moved by Deputy Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Toms, that \$100 be approved from both the District #1 and District #2 budgets and \$250 from the District #3 budget for the Victoria Highland Civic Centre. Motion carried.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that \$200 be approved from the District #3 budget for Baddeck & Area Minor Hockey. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Morrison questioned on the status of the waste collection contract for the County. Brian Trask advised that the County will be doing a shadow bid on this tender.

The status of the agreement with Wagmatcook First Nations with regard to their solid waste was discussed.

### District #4

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Deputy Warden Morrison, that \$100 be approved for the Victoria Highland Civic Centre; \$500 for the “Margaret” Project; and \$300 for the South Haven Guild from the District #4 budget and \$100 be approved for the “Margaret” Project from the District #3 budget. Motion carried.

#### District #7

It was moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that a letter be forwarded to Canada Post Corporation, with a copy of Mark Eyking, MP, that when the proposed work is done to the Neil’s Harbour Post Office, all work required be done to the building be at the time of these renovations. Motion carried.

#### District #6

Councillor Barron questioned on the status of the corrective deed for Seamount Development Corporation for the Ingonish Beach School property. The Solicitor is presently looking after this matter.

#### District #5

It was moved by Warden Sampson, seconded by Deputy Warden Morrison, that the following be approved from the District #5 budget:

\$200 – Drummond Memorial Church Choir

\$100 – Boularderie Historical Society

\$100 – “Margaret” Project

Motion carried.

#### ADJOURN

Council adjourned to an In Camera meeting at 7:50 p.m.