

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
February 12, 2007

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, February 12, 2007, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Warden Wayne Budge in the Chair.

Present were:

District #1 – Dan E. MacNeil
District #2 – Keith MacCuspic
District #3 – Bruce Morrison
District #4 – John Graham MacInnes, Deputy Warden
District #5 – Fraser Patterson
District #6 – Lawrence Barron
District #7 – Wayne Budge, Warden
District #8 – Robert MacLellan

Also present were:

Sandy Hudson, CAO
Zina MacNeil, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Budge called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that the agenda be approved. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the January 8, 2007 meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspic, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the January 8, 2007 meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Department of Community Services

A letter was forwarded to Marion Tyson, Deputy Minister of Community Services, with regard to a meeting with her and Regional Manager, Rosemary Lewis, to discuss staffing concerns. There has still been no reply received to date.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Barron, that another letter be sent to Marion Tyson, Deputy Minister of Community Services, with regard to meeting with her and Rosemary Lewis, Regional Manager, to discuss staffing concerns, and how the department can justify equitable service delivery to Victoria County. Motion carried.

Voluntary Planning Community Development Task Force Project

A reply has not been received to date as the letter was late going out to the Minister of Economic Development with a copy to Ron Smith, Chair of Voluntary Planning questioning why the Community Development Task Force project was suspended.

RCMP

Mr. Hudson advised that representatives for the RCMP are on the agenda for the Committee of the Whole Meeting scheduled for February 26, 2007.

CHIEF FIRE OFFICERS COMMITTEE

Courtesy of council was extended to the Chief Fire Officers. Lyle Donovan spokesperson for the Committee spoke to council. They came to council eight months ago with a proposal from the Victoria County Fire Chiefs Association this is the same proposal. Mr. Donovan asked if Council had any discussion on it. The proposal gave an outline of the coverage of 11 fire departments, the procedures and equipment they have. This voluntary service they provide compared to other fire services. They operate on a tax subsidy from the county. They are looking for an increase in that subsidy from the county. They were advised that the proposal for an increase was referred to budgets which council would be going into within the next couple of weeks.

Discussion was raised on insurance and Mr. Donovan had spoken with Mr. Hudson on this matter and right now all individual insurances and if tried to get them all together they may get a decrease in rates. This is in the works right now. Mr. Donovan thanked council at this time for giving them the opportunity to come back again.

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A question came up at this time comparing this coverage to the workers compensation coverage. Are we getting the same coverage with the County Insurance? Ernest Roberts was to speak to MacCoy's and ask if those health issues that arose are covered. It is being looked into. The coverage is supposed to be same or better than workers compensation but it was referred to Ernest Roberts to follow up on it.

OFFICIAL UNVEILING – VICTORIA COUNTY LOGO

It was moved by Deputy Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that Victoria County adopt the new logo to use exclusively on all advertising, webpage, letterhead, banners, etc. Motion carried.

Hats were originally supposed to be ready for today but wouldn't be available so they need to be re-ordered with a different company. We are looking at ordering new pins, letterhead, caps, and some sort of t-shirt.

BREAK

Warden Budge took this time to express on behalf of council condolences to Heather MacLean on the loss of her mother. Mr. Hudson would take care of a donation in her memory.

NEW BUSINESS

Department of Justice

Mr. Hudson asked council for there authorization to withhold \$100,000 from the final quarter payment to the Department of Justice for Police Protection.

It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, to approve withholding \$100,000 of the final quarter payment to the Department of Justice for RCMP funding. Motion carried.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Councillor Barron presented a proposal for a roof over Ingonish Rink. It will be used as a multi-purpose area. He had an impact study attached with letters of support and more support letters to come in. The total cost of the project would be \$987,000. Applications have gone in to ACOA and Provincial Office of Economic Development. They are looking at the whole economic, social and cultural aspect of the project to the community. The county contribution requested is \$50,000.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that the notice of motion for the county contribution of \$50,000 be accepted for consideration during budget talks. Motion carried.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #3

Councillor Morrison mentioned that he had met with Peter MacKay on the 100th anniversary of the Silver Dart and received good support.

Councillor Morrison also mentioned that there are no linemen for Nova Scotia Power in Baddeck at the moment. The linemen come from Ingonish and Cheticamp. We have one from the Baddeck area retired and another off on short-term which could possibly go into long term. We had 12 at one time and now we have none. It was five linesmen from Cheticamp that hooked up the new street lights.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacCuspie that a letter be sent to Nova Scotia Power higher management expressing concerns on staffing plans for Baddeck. Motion carried.

District #1

Councillor MacNeil mentioned that there was a meeting coming up in Halifax on February 23 in regards to Alderwood. He was looking for council permission for Arlene Morrison and himself to attend.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that Councillor MacNeil be in attendance with Arlene Morrison at the February 23 meeting in Halifax in regards to Alderwood. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Barron, that a letter be sent to the Provincial Minister of Health acknowledging the announcement of the new facility for Alderwood. Motion carried.

District #6

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that a \$1000 be approved from his district grant for Smokey Recreation Society for wire around the rink, and \$500 for Ski Cape Smokey. Motion carried.

25% Commercial Tax Break

Mr. Hudson mentioned the UNSM meeting and the Rural Caucus meeting held earlier in February. At this time he spoke with Mark Peck, Ken Simpson, and Lyle Goldberg on the 25% of Tourist Commercial Property Tax Rate. It was positive meeting with the emphasis being on trying to encourage the support of TIANS. We are looking at trying to eliminate the clause that states "shall" and put in "may". There is a meeting with Jamie Muir on same matter and we will follow up on this meeting with Mark Peck.

NEXT MEETING

Committee of the Whole

The next meeting is a Committee of the Whole scheduled for February 26, 2007 the RCMP are on that agenda and if enough time will also add the Dog By-Law.

Council

March 19, 2007 is the next scheduled meeting of Council.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Councillor Morrison, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.