

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
February 24, 2003

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, February 24, 2003, commencing at 5:30 p.m. with Warden Gerald Sampson in the Chair.

Present were:

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

Also present were:

Sandy Hudson, CAO
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

Absent was:

District #6 – Lawrence Barron

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Sampson called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/TIME TO ADJOURN

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that the agenda be approved as presented and the time for adjournment be set at 6:40 p.m. Motion carried.

MINUTES

The minutes of the January 13, 2003, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the Council minutes of January 13, 2003, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Meeting – Abandonment of Rail Service East of Port Hawkesbury

Warden Sampson reported on the meeting held at the Inverary Inn, Baddeck, on Friday, February 14, 2003, regarding the abandonment of the rail service east of Port Hawkesbury. Another meeting will be held in Sydney on February 28, 2003, at which time Economic Development Minister, Honourable Cecil Clarke, will bring forward a decision regarding this matter.

Pitupaq Committee

Warden Sampson advised that he and Chief Terry Paul, Membertou First Nation, Co-Chairs of the Pitupaq Committee, have recently signed off on funding of \$293,000 for wages to cover the ten (10) interns and one (1) coordinator who will be working for a one (1) year period in the communities around the lakes. Ross MacDonald, Director of Economic Development, was instrumental in obtaining this funding.

Broadband

Warden Sampson advised that the Municipality's application for Broadband Funding has been approved.

Department of Transportation & Public Works

Bruce Fitzner, District Director Eastern, Department of Transportation and Public Works, will be meeting with representatives regarding the New Haven/White Point Road at Cabot High School on Wednesday, February 26, 2003, at 2:30 p.m.

FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES CONFERENCE

The Annual Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference will be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, from May 30-June 2, 2003. There is a motion on record that the Warden and two (2) Councillors be authorized to attend the FCM Conference each year, with preference being given to any Council Member who hasn't attended in the past.

Councillors MacNeil and Morrison expressed an interest in attending the FCM Conference, along with Warden Sampson.

MRI/BONE DENSITOMETER

It was moved by Deputy Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that \$5,000.00 be approved for the Cape Breton Regional Hospital

Foundation as the County's donation towards the purchase of the MRI and Bone Densitometry equipment. Motion carried.

AD HOC WORKING GROUP REPORT – CANADA/NS PETROLEUM BOARD

Council Members were previously provided with a copy of the Ad Hoc Working Group Report – Canada/Nova Scotia Petroleum Board for review and consideration. Ken Anderson, Municipal Representative on the Ad Hoc Working Group, is awaiting Council's decision on this report.

A copy of a letter from the Town of Port Hawkesbury was received indicating that Town Council wishes to be placed on record as unanimously endorsing the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report.

Warden Sampson polled all Council Members present and all indicated that they were opposed to supporting this report. The importance of the fishery to Victoria County was discussed and it was indicated that in 2000 the fishery in the North of Smokey area was valued at \$17 million.

It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that Victoria County not accept the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group to the Canada/Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board, as it is ambiguous and inconclusive in its contents. Motion carried.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

At the previous meeting, Councillor Morrison requested that the structure of the present Council Committees be revisited.

Sandy Hudson advised that he has reviewed the existing committees and feel that a number of committees can be combined to decrease the number of Council Committees.

He indicated that the Environmental/Solid Waste and Water Committees could be combined to form one Public Works Committee. The Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission, Planning Advisory Committee, CED Committee and the Victoria County Tourism Advisory Committee all have Council representatives on these committees and it felt one Committee could be established to oversee all these committees and possibly be called the Development and Promotions Committee. An Audit Committee is required and it was felt this Committee could be combined with the present Corporate Services Committee.

The role that Council plays on the Alderwood Management Board and the Highland Manor Board was discussed. Council appoints the representatives on these Boards. Council does not receive reports from these committees, although it was noted that Highland Manor Board provide a copy of their Board minutes to the Municipality.

The proposed *Police Act* requires the Municipality to establish a Police Advisory Committee. Sandy Hudson advised that RCMP Sgt. Mark Furey, Baddeck Detachment, is requesting a meeting with Council to have initial discussions prior to the *Police Act* being approved. Sgt. Furey is requesting the meeting be held on February 26, 2003, at 6:00 p.m. A number of Council Members were unable to attend on this date and Sgt. Furey is to be advised that a meeting will be held on March 5, 2003, at 6:00 p.m. at the Court House, Baddeck. Copies of the *Police Act* were made available for Council to review prior to this meeting.

After further discussion it was decided that Mr. Hudson provide Council with information on who is presently serving on Committees and the proposed new Committees and Council will review same at the next meeting to determine the Committee structure and who will serve on the various Committees.

NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Burn Care Society

Warden Sampson advised that he received a phone call from Barb Shaw, Burn Care Society, regarding upcoming events.

- April 28-May 3, 2003 – Burn Care Week
- August 17-23, 2003 – Burn Care Camp in New Campbellton
- May 3, 2003 – Annual Bowl-a-thon

Warden Sampson questioned whether the Municipality would be interested in entering a team in the annual bowl-a-thon. The cost is \$30 per member for a total of \$150 per team. Deputy Warden MacInnes, Warden Sampson and Councillors Toms, MacNeil and Morrison expressed an interest in participating. It was felt that it would be appropriate to see if another team could be formed from the municipal staff and possibly Village of Baddeck. Sandy Hudson will investigate this matter.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Budge, that the Burn Care Society be advised that the Municipality will enter a two, possibly three, teams in the Annual Bowl-a-thon in aid of the Burn Care Society. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden MacInnes advised that he will be participating in the Annual Ski-a-Thon for the Canadian Cancer Society at Ski Ben Eoin on Saturday, March 1, 2003, should any Council Member wish to make a donation to this cause.

ROAD NAME CHANGES

Approval was received from both the Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission and the Department of Transportation for the following road names:

Yetman Lane, Little Narrows
Wildwood Road and Brook Road, Southside Boularderie

It was moved by Councillor Toms, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the road names Yetman Lane, Little Narrows, Wildwood Road and Brook Road, Southside Boularderie, be approved. Motion carried.

DISTRICT #3

Councillor Morrison advised that the Planning Advisory Committee met recently and felt at that time that John Bain, Director, Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission, should serve on the Baddeck & Area Tourism Plan Task Force. He would be an important resource person to have on this committee.

Councillor Morrison indicated that a letter of congratulations was forwarded to Ted Stonehouse, CPGA, on the recent national honour he received from the Canadian Professional Golf Association.

Councillor Morrison requested that a letter be forwarded to "The Cottars" who were recent recipients of an East Coast Music Award. Two of the members of the band, Jimmy and Roseanne MacKenzie, are residents of Port Bevis, Victoria County.

Councillor Morrison advised that at present there are six (6) wood contractors working in the Highlands. None are Victoria County contractors.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that a letter be forwarded to Stora Enso questioning on the criteria for contractors cutting and hauling wood from their Highland leases and why there are no contractors from Victoria County. Motion carried.

DISTRICT #4

Deputy Warden MacInnes questioned why, if the Court House is the headquarters for EMO, does it not have a generator.

Sandy Hudson advised that he will be attending an EMO Training Seminar over the next three days and he will look into this matter at that meeting.

FCM

Deputy Warden MacInnes requested that his name be placed as an alternate to attend the Annual FCM Conference.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Correspondence from the Canadian Liver Foundation requesting Victoria County to designate March, 2003, as "Help Fight Liver Disease" month.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that March be proclaimed "Help Fight Liver Disease" month in the Municipality of the County of Victoria. Motion carried.

2. Letter from Racism – Stop It encouraging the Municipality to recognize March 21, 2003, as "The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination".

It was moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Councillor Toms, that March 21 be designated "The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination" in Victoria County. Motion carried.

3. Letter from the Honourable Rodney MacDonald, Minister of Tourism and Culture, advising that The Order of Nova Scotia is now accepting nominations for 2003.
4. Letter from the Atlantic Burn Camp requesting the Municipality to consider funding for the Burn Camp 2003.

The possibility of accessing funds from the District Budgets was discussed and will be decided at a later date.

5. Correspondence from the Honourable David Morse, Minister of Community Services, advising that the term of the current representative on the Board of the Cape Breton Island Housing Authority has expired and requesting Council to appoint a representative to serve on this Board.

Deputy Warden MacInnes nominated Diane MacEachern and Councillor Morrison nominated John MacKillop. A decision on the Board representative for the Cape Breton Island Housing Authority will be made at the March session of Council.

6. Information from NSPI outlining power outage information and power outage tips.
7. Letter from Barry Campbell, Chief, Ross Ferry Volunteer Fire Department, requesting Council to pass a motion to enable a plebiscite to be held in District #5 (Ross Ferry area).

It was moved by Deputy Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that Council request the Nova Scotia Alcohol & Gaming Authority to begin the process to hold a plebiscite in District #5 (Ross Ferry area), Victoria County. Motion carried.

8. Letter from the Honourable Tim Olive, Minister of Natural Resources, regarding utilizing the provincial park at Iona for the aquarium project.
9. Copy of a letter from John Bain, Director, Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission, to Alan Bond, CAO, County of Antigonish, regarding Antigonish County joining the Planning Commission to form the "Eastern Region District Planning Commission".
10. Information from the Department of Canadian Heritage regarding "Celebrate Canada 2003".
11. Email from David Reynolds regarding the 2nd Annual Hearing and Speech Charity Classic to be held on September 19, 2003.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that the Municipality participate in and be a sponsor of the 2nd Annual Hearing and Speech Charity Classic and those who did not participate last year be given the first opportunity to do so this year. Motion carried.

Councillors Budge, Toms and Deputy Warden MacInnes expressed an interest in golfing at this event.

12. Letters acknowledging receipt of our Non-Smoking By-Law were received from Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations and the Department of Health.

The Warden suggested that signs stating "No Smoking By Order of the By-Law of the Municipality of the County of Victoria" be ordered for distribution. Prices are to be obtained on the provision of 1000 of these signs.

13. Letter from Nova Scotia Power Inc. regarding their "Good Neighbour Energy Fund".
14. Request from the North of Smokey Palliative Care Hospice Society for financial support to assist with the cost of the Nova Scotia Palliative Care Association Conference to be held in Baddeck on May 29-31/03.

It was moved by Deputy Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that \$1,000 be approved to assist with the cost of the Nova Scotia Palliative Care Association Conference. Motion carried.

Warden Sampson questioned on the funding request received from the Burn Camp.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Toms, that \$300 be approved from the District #5 budget and \$100 from each of the remaining 7 district budgets, for a total of \$1,000, to the Atlantic Burn Camp. Motion carried.

15. Member Advisories from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.
16. Letter from Bruce Fitzner, District Director, Eastern, advising that he will meet with representatives regarding the New Haven/White Point Road on February 26, 2003, at 2:30 p.m. at Cabot High in Neil's Harbour.

BADDECK & AREA TOURISM PLAN TASK FORCE

Councillor Toms reported on the Baddeck & Area Tourism Plan Task Force of which he is a member. The mission of this proposed plan is to grow the tourism industry for Victoria County and the Baddeck area, increasing the number of tourists that visit, length of stay and amount they spend.

BABTA is the driving force behind this Task Force and they are requesting the Municipality and the Village of Baddeck to partner with them to provide financial commitments plus other resources to the Baddeck & Area Tourism Plan.

Application has been made to ECBC for 75% funding for a study. It is anticipated the cost of the study could be \$35,000 to \$40,000 and the study is to encompass the whole County. The actual cost would not be known until the study was put out to tender. It is requested that the remaining 25% funding be split between the Municipality, Village and BABTA.

It was indicated that if funding is not received from ECBC, then the project would not proceed.

It was moved by Councillor Toms, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that the Municipality partner on the Baddeck & Area Tourism Plan provided the Village of Baddeck and BABTA come onside as equal partners and the funding is received from ECBC. Motion carried.

RECREATION CONFERENCE

Warden Sampson advised that a Recreation Association of Nova Scotia Conference for Elected Officials will be held at the Westin Nova Scotian, Halifax, on March 21-22/03. They suggest the Warden and an additional representative attend.

Warden Sampson and Deputy Warden John Graham MacInnes will attend this conference.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Councillor MacLellan, the meeting adjourned to an In Camera meeting.

Gerald Sampson, Warden

A. W. (Sandy) Hudson, CAO