

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
March 4, 2002

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, March 4, 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 #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

Absent was:

District #4 – John Graham MacInnes

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Sampson called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/TIME FOR ADJOURNMENT

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

MINUTES

The minutes of the February 18, 2002, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that the minutes of the February 18, 2002, Council Session be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Provincial Electoral Boundaries

Discussion took place on the provincial electoral boundary review. Brian Trask advised that investigation was done on the number of voters that would result in extending the boundary to include all of Boularderie Island and by going in the other direction to take in part of Inverness County.

There will be a public hearing held on the provincial boundary issue in Baddeck on Sunday, March 17, 2002, and Brian Trask will be making a presentation at that time to maintain the status quo for the Victoria electoral district.

Victoria County Tourism Advisory Council (VCTAC)

The Victoria County Tourism Advisory Council (VCTAC) was discussed.

Brian Trask read a letter received from Donalda MacAskill, member of VCTAC, outlining concerns and seeking advice on issues pertaining to the Committee, prior to the Committee meeting tomorrow evening.

It was felt that a review of the Council's Committee structure and policies should be conducted for all Council Committees. An informal meeting to deal with this issue and budgets will be held on Monday, March 11, 2002, at 5:00 p.m.

Brian Trask is to speak with Tom Wilson tomorrow on this issue prior to the VCTAC meeting.

Wagmatcook Landfill Agreement

Brian Trask advised that Wagmatcook First Nations representatives have signed the Wagmatcook Landfill Agreement. The agreement will now be signed by the CAO and Warden and returned and outstanding invoices for use of the landfill will be forwarded.

BADDECK SEWER TREATMENT FACILITY

Six consulting engineering firms were requested for Expressions of Interest for the final design and contract management of the new Baddeck Sewage Treatment Plant. The Expressions of Interest will be reviewed and short listed to 3 on March 5, 2002. The 3 short listed firms will be requested to submit an engineering proposal for the project by March 20, 2002, and the contract will be awarded by March 28, 2002.

Bruce Morrison indicated that the Village of Baddeck will be holding a public meeting on March 6, 2002, at 7:00 p.m. regarding the transfer of ownership of the Baddeck Sewers from the Municipality to the Village.

OFFICE SPACE REQUIREMENTS

The Baddeck International New Media Festival is looking for office space to accommodate 3 people for approximately 6 months of the year. They are interested in the former Home Care office space. This office is presently occupied by Heritage and the possibility of moving this office to the ground floor level, freeing up this office for the Baddeck International New Media Festival is to be investigated.

It was indicated that Catherine Ann Fuller, Department of Economic Development, no longer requires office space, as she will be visiting clients in their homes on the days she works in Victoria County.

WHITE POINTS LOTS – NEW HAVEN SUBDIVISION

Brian Trask advised that he recently met with representatives from Nova Scotia Power Inc. concerning the White Point Lots power distribution line.

In September, 2000, the Municipality guaranteed the sum of \$14,752.10 for constructing a distribution line to the White Point Lots and the balance of \$7,000 was to be paid by the seven lot owners. This was based on the NSPI cost estimate of \$21,752.10. Due to abnormal digging conditions the cost of the distribution line came in at \$31,408.15 and NSPI are looking for payment of this amount.

Brian Trask advised that there is interest in purchasing municipal property in the old New Haven Subdivision. The money received from this sale could be used towards the cost of the power distribution line to the White Point Lots.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Budge, that the property remaining in the New Haven Subdivision be placed for sale by tender and it be assessed to determine its value. Motion carried.

Discussion took place on NSPI's request concerning payment of cost overrun for the White Point Lots.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor Toms, that Councillor Budge and Brian Trask be authorized to negotiate a deal with NSPI regarding the White Point Lots. Motion carried.

CONCRETE SLIPWAY, WATER LOT AND UPLAND – SMELT BROOK

Correspondence was received from the Department of Public Works concerning property surplus to their needs at Smelt Brook. This property includes a concrete slipway, water lot and upland and they are offering the option to the Municipality to assume ownership of this property.

It was moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the Municipality advise the Department of Public Works that they have no interest in acquiring the property at Smelt Brook. Motion carried.

LITTLE NARROWS WATER

Discussion took place on a letter to the editor in a recent edition of *The Victoria Standard* from Gerald Yetman concerning the Little Narrows Water Extension.

Brian Trask presented a copy of the actual motion. This motion is to be provided to *The Victoria Standard* to print in their next issue to clarify the inaccurate comments made by Gerald Yetman.

LATE PAYMENT CHARGES – WATER UTILITIES

Municipalities have been requested by the Utility and Review Board to review the present late pay charges on their water utilities. Brian Trask advised that Carl Thistle will be making adjustments to the water program to allow interest to be calculated daily on overdue water balances.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Correspondence was received from John Bain, Director, Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission, concerning a date for a public hearing on development agreement applications for the Village of Baddeck.

The date and time for the public hearing was set at April 8, 2002, at 5:30 p.m.

FINWOOD FLOORING

A request was received from Finwood Flooring to appear before Council concerning the roadway to their business.

They are to be given 10 minutes on the April 8, 2002, Council agenda.

NOVA SCOTIA HIGHWAY WORKERS UNION 1867

The Nova Scotia Highway Workers Union Local 1867 are requesting the County to support their position that highway work remain in the hands of the public sector and not be contracted out.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the Municipality provide a letter of support for the Nova Scotia Highway Workers Union Local 1867 opposing contracting out. Motion carried.

CHIRPING CHICKS ICE CREAM BAR

Ross MacDonald advised Council that two young entrepreneurs from Victoria County – Janessa MacInnes and Amelia Dauphney of Chirping Chicks Ice Cream Bar, were recent recipients of an award under the Nova Scotia Youth Entrepreneurs Program. He felt that appropriate recognition should be given to these two young ladies for their achievement.

It was felt that a letter should be forwarded from the County and recognition of this achievement be published in *The Victoria Standard*.

NOVA SCOTIA ASSOCIATION OF POLICE BOARDS

Brian Trask indicated that Municipal Council should form a Police Board Committee.

Notification was received that the Association of Nova Scotia Police Boards will be holding their annual meeting on April 25-27, 2002.

These matters will be dealt with at a future meeting.

FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Annual FCM Conference will be held in Hamilton, Ontario, from May 31-June 3, 2002. A motion was passed some time ago that each year 2 Council Members be authorized to attend the Annual FCM Conference on a rotating basis, so that 8 Councillors will attend during the 4 year Council term.

NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS

District #1

Councillor MacNeil requested that when a draft budget is prepared, Council Members be provided with the draft in advance for review.

District #3

Deputy Warden Morrison questioned whether information pertaining to the financial and agreement details regarding the Baddeck Sewers could be discussed at that public hearing on March 6, 2002. He was advised that this information could be provided.

District #5

It was moved by Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that a letter be forwarded to the RCMP requesting that they expand the DARE Program to include the elementary schools in Baddeck, Middle River and Iona. Motion carried.

Warden Sampson advised that Harve Grant, Boularderie, is presently training for a marathon he will be entering in Ireland to raise money for diabetes. He requested each Council Member to give consideration to providing County pins and possibly financial assistance, from their district budgets.

Warden Sampson advised on the status of the Pitupaq Committee and their plans to hire an advisor to draft a proper financial proposal for submission for funding to remediate the sewage in the Bras d'Or Lakes. Each municipal unit and First Nations has been requested to commit \$1,000.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Deputy Warden Morrison, that the Municipality commit \$1,000 to assist the Pitupaq Committee in their proposal submission. Motion carried.

IN CAMERA

Brian Trask presented information packages to each Council Member to review prior to the next meeting and an In Camera meeting will be held at that time.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Barron, the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

