

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

March 6, 2000

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, March 6, 2000, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Present were:

District #1 - Gerald Yetman, Deputy Warden

District #2 - Shane Toms

District #3 - Bruce Morrison

District #4 - John Graham MacInnes, Warden

District #5 - Gerald Sampson

District #6 - Lawrence Barron

District #7 - David Donovan

District #8 - Robert MacLellan

Also present were:

Brian Trask, CAO

Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Warden MacInnes called the meeting to order and advised that Council would move In Camera.

Council then returned to regular session.

AGENDA

The agenda was presented for approval. Councillor Sampson indicated that he had a resolution he wished to present and also had information on applications for federal student summer grants. Deputy Warden Yetman indicated he also had a resolution to present regarding gasoline prices.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Toms, that the agenda be accepted with the noted additions. Motion carried.

MINUTES

The following minutes were presented for approval:

February 21, 2000 - Committee of the Whole
February 21, 2000 - Environmental/Solid Waste Committee
February 29, 2000 - Environmental/Solid Waste Committee

Brian Trask questioned on a date for an Environmental/Solid Waste Committee. A meeting was scheduled for Monday, March 13, 2000, at 1:00 p.m.

It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Councillor Barron, that the minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

MacKrous Subdivision Road

A letter was received from Art Pickup, Municipal Solicitor, advising that the Municipality has no obligation to provide a fire exit road for the MacKrous Subdivision.

Pension Plan - Councillors

Brian Trask advised that he checked regarding a pension plan for Councillors. Councillors can fall under the current staff pension plan with the Municipality. There is no separate plan for Councillors.

Fine Options

Brian Trask advised that year to date 17 payments of \$40 have been received for the fine options program. Initial contact for participating in this program is made through the Councillor in the area.

URB

The public hearing for the municipal boundaries and polling districts application to the URB was held on February 29, 2000, by conference call. No objections were received and the URB will make their decision within one month.

NSPI

A letter was received from Darren Cameron, NSPI, questioning on which substation the County referred to in their letter regarding the power supply for Little Narrows Gypsum. Deputy Warden Yetman

indicated that it was the substation located in Bucklaw on the Trans Canada Highway.
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ALTERNATE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

It was moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that Dawn Sutherland be appointed as an alternate development officer for Victoria County effective April 1, 2000. Motion carried.

RUTH SCHNEIDER

Courtesy of Council was extended to Ruth Schneider. Dr. Schneider presented the interim report on the Victoria County Strategic Plan to the Council.

Dr. Schneider advised that her interim report contained background information and statistical data, i.e. population trends, gender, age, birth/death and migration statistics, etc. This information will form the appendices for the finished strategic plan.

The statistical data regarding population was questioned. Councillor Barron felt that the information for the northern area was not accurate. In particular, he indicated that the figures for South Ingonish were not even close to being accurate. Dr. Schneider indicated that the information was received from census statistics.

It was moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Deputy Warden Yetman, that Council accept the interim report of Victoria County's Strategic Plan as presented by Ruth Schneider. Motion carried.

LOUIS IHASZ

Councillor Sampson welcomed former Councillor Louis Ihasz who was in attendance in the audience.

INTRODUCTIONS

Catherine Ann Fuller introduced Lisa MacKinnon and Tammy MacLellan, the two inventory data base clerks, to the Council. These ladies are compiling an inventory of community organizations, etc., throughout Victoria County.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board advising that a "School Bus Stop Sign" is not warranted in the Port Bevis area.

2. Letter from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) regarding the National Infrastructure Program.
3. Letter the UNSM re provincial review - HST Rebate.
4. Correspondence from the FCM advising that the County's resolution regarding the concerns of people in rural Canada has been categorized as an "A" resolution (the intent deals with a national municipal issue) and has been endorsed.
5. Letter from the Millennium Bureau of Canada acknowledging Council's letter of support regarding Habitat Learning Trail 2000.
6. Letter from the Honourable Ralph Goodale, Minister of Natural Resources, acknowledging Council's letter re Devco.
7. Request from the Inverness-Victoria County Federation of Agriculture to appear before Council to provide information on the Federation.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Sampson, that the Inverness-Victoria County Federation of Agriculture be invited to appear before Council in May, 2000. Motion carried.

8. Letter from Howard MacKinnon, Secretary, Seamount Development Inc., expressing their interest in obtaining ownership of the Ingonish Beach School building and property.

It was moved by Councillor Yetman, seconded by Councillor Sampson, that this matter lay on the table until additional information is received and the Municipal Solicitor be contacted for advice. Motion carried.

9. Copy of a letter to the Cape Breton-Victoria District School Board from Dan E. MacNeil and Philip MacLellan, Co-Chairs, Rankin Memorial School Advisory Committee, confirming the wishes of the School Advisory Committee, Student Council, Home & School Association, staff of Rankin Memorial and the community of Iona for a new school.

10. Letter from Charles MacDonald, Department of Transportation, advising that arrangements will be made to meet with representatives from Little Narrows Gypsum to discuss concerns with regard to Cain's Mountain Road and the Little Narrows Road and that contact will be made with Councillor Toms to discuss the request for guardrail on the Big Farm Road.

11. Letter from Donald MacDonald, Small Craft Harbours, in reply to Council's letter regarding storm damage to Kings Point and New Haven wharves.
12. Letter from the Honourable Angus MacIsaac, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs, advising that the Department supports the efforts to upgrade the Baddeck Sewage Treatment Plant and Aileen Waller-Hebb, P.Eng., will continue to be an active member of the Pre-design Study Technical Committee.
13. Status report from the UNSM with regard to negotiations with Sempra Gas Atlantic.

FCM ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The FCM's 63rd Annual Conference and Municipal Expo will be held on London, Ontario, from June 2-5, 2000.

Brian Trask questioned on whether representation would be sent to this conference. Last year a motion was passed that 2 council members attend per year.

The registration costs were outlined, as was the fact that this is the first year that the Municipality of the County of Victoria has a resolution on the table.

Brian Trask is to provide figures on the costs involved and a decision will be made by the end of March.

It was suggested that the Council members interested in attending, place their names in a hat and a draw be done for the two people who will attend.

RECESS

Warden MacInnes advised that Council would recess for 10 minutes.

CHIEF OFFICERS COMMITTEE

Courtesy of Council was extended to representatives from the Chief Officers Committee -Keith Bain, Charlie Cook and Gary Stockley.

Keith Bain advised that the Chief Officers Committee met last week. There were a few issues coming from this meeting, for presentation to Council.

The evaluation of fire departments was discussed at the last presentation to Council. Retired Fire Chief, Ev Andrews, has been approached to carry out this evaluation and has agreed to do so. The costs would be minimal - mileage, expenses and a small honorarium.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Deputy Warden Yetman, that the Municipality cover the costs associated with the evaluation of fire departments as conducted by Retired Fire Chief, Ev Andrews. Motion carried.

The second item was training. Contact has been made with certified instructors and three have volunteered their time to do Level 1 instruction for Victoria County Fire Departments. It is hoped that two more instructors will volunteer and that the Level 1 certification examination can be written locally.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Yetman, seconded by Councillor Toms, that the Municipality authorize the costs associated with Level 1 training for Victoria County Fire Department members. Motion carried.

The third item was a request from the fire departments for release of one-half of last year's grant. This is standard procedure and will be done.

Gary Stockley advised that the Ingonish Beach and Ingonish Volunteer Fire Departments have met and come up with an agreement on the boundaries between the two departments. This agreement has been signed by the Chiefs of both departments.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that the Municipality adopt the boundary agreement as decided by the Ingonish and Ingonish Beach Volunteer Fire Departments. Motion carried.

EMO EXERCISE

Gary Stockley presented Council with an update on the EMO exercise which took place on Saturday past. He felt it went very well and a great deal was learned. Gary Collins did an excellent job organizing the day. He indicated that hopefully the next exercise will involve more outside agencies and in the event that an emergency should ever occur, Victoria County would be well prepared for handling the situation.

ROAD NAME CHANGE

Approval was received from both the Department of Transportation and the Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission for renaming New Harris Forks Road to Stewart Road.

As both agencies agree, Council concurred with the name change request.

OUTREACH WORKER

Discussion took place on the Outreach Worker position and the fact that the Children's Aid Society of Cape Breton-Victoria is no longer willing to be the host agency for this position.

Warden MacInnes advised that he spoke with Frank Capstick, Department of Community Services, regarding this position.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that a letter be forwarded to Frank Capstick, Department of Community Services, requesting written assurance that the Outreach Worker position will remain in Victoria County. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES - OFFICE SPACE

Discussion took place on the letter received from the Honourable Peter Christie, Minister of Community Services, regarding the Department of Community Services office space in Baddeck.

It was moved by Councillor Yetman, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that Keith MacMillan, District Manager, Department of Community Services, be requested to attend a meeting to discuss Department of Community Services office space and if he wishes to bring additional representation from the Department of Community Services, he do so. Motion carried.

OPEN PERIOD/DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #1

Deputy Warden Yetman presented a resolution regarding gasoline prices (copy attached).

It was moved by Deputy Warden Yetman, seconded by Councillor Sampson, that this resolution be adopted. Motion carried.

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It was moved by Deputy Warden Yetman, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that appropriate congratulations be forwarded to the Baddeck Broncos Girls Basketball Team on winning the Division IV Provincial Championships. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Yetman advised that Councillors can claim a tax deduction for office space in their homes if Council has a policy in place for same.

It was Deputy Warden Yetman, seconded by Councillor Toms, that policy be approved to allow Councillors to receive a tax deduction for having an office in their home. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Yetman advised that he attended a meeting, along with Councillor Morrison, with the Village of Baddeck. He also presented Council members with and explained the newspaper article "Victoria Council Willing To Meet With Strait Leaders About Secession".

District #3

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that Victoria County go on record as not supporting the formation of Cape Breton Island as a province. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Deputy Warden Yetman, that \$100 be approved for the Baddeck Scouts from the District #3 budget. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Deputy Warden Yetman, that a letter be forwarded to Jackie Scott, President of UCCB, and the Union representing the University Professors, requesting that efforts be made to end the strike before our students from Victoria County lose their University year. Motion carried.

Councillor Morrison indicated that there will be a public meeting held on Monday, March 20, 2000, at 7:00 p.m. at the Baddeck Community Centre concerning the Baddeck Wharf.

Brian Trask advised that a meeting of the Regional Solid Waste Committee will be held at the Civic Centre, Sydney, on Monday, March 20, 2000, at 10:00a.m.

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It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Transportation requesting the installation of three new crosswalks in the Village of Baddeck -

? Twining Street at the foot of the street that leads to Lakeview Manor

? Chebucto Street - Between Bank and Court House

? Intersection of Chebucto, Twining, Old Margaree Road and Route 205 - one additional crosswalk

Motion carried.

Councillor Morrison indicated that there are a lot of dead trees and limbs to be removed in the Village and the Municipality is the only authority that can go on properties to deal with this problem.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Deputy Warden Yetman, that the County place an advertisement in the paper advising that the Municipality, under the auspices of the Village of Baddeck, will be carrying out tree cutting and any property owners wishing to have trees cut under this program, contact Ron McIntyre, Village of Baddeck. Motion carried.

Councillor Morrison indicated that the Village would like to meet concerning the sewer maintenance agreement. Solicitor Pickup is to be contacted with changes the Village are seeking and a meeting be arranged regarding same.

District #2

It was moved by Councillor Toms, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that \$100 be approved for the Baddeck Scouts and \$100 for the Victoria County 4-H from the District #2 budget. Motion carried.

District #5

Councillor Sampson presented a resolution concerning consideration of a \$15,000 grant to Centre Bras d'Or in the 2000-2001 budget. (copy attached)

It was moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that this request be referred to budget talks. Motion carried.

Councillor Sampson distributed copies of the 2000 Federal grant application for summer students. The deadline for application is March 10, 2000.

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It was moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the \$200 grant approved for the Sydney Mines Rink at the last meeting be changed to the District #5 Action Committee. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that a letter be forwarded to the RCMP and the Cape Breton-Victoria District School Board advising of Council's support for a RCMP Community Policing Office to be located in the Boularderie School and the location of a resident officer in Boularderie. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Barron, that a letter be forwarded to the

Minister of Consumer Affairs, with a copy to Bruce Fitzner and Charles MacDonald, Department of Transportation, concerning the deplorable condition of the New Campbellton Road due to allowing heavy trucks to travel on this road. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Barron, that more time be allocated to Victoria County for brushcutting and upgrading the shoulders of the road and in District #5 the brushcutter carry out work on the New Campbellton Road from one end to the other. Motion carried.

District #7

Councillor Donovan advised that he and Councillor MacLellan were successful in receiving a Youth Services Grant to establish a Youth Centre.

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor Barron, that the County purchase a computer for the Youth Centre and the Youth Centre payback the cost of the computer over a six month period and any balance remaining be paid from the District #7 and District #8 budgets. Motion carried.

Councillor Donovan advised that a resident of his area is interested in purchasing or leasing County owned land for the purpose of cutting fire wood for personal use. The property in question was vested in the County ins 1935.

Brian Trask is to check with Solicitor Pickup concerning liability and bring back the report to Council.

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Councillor Donovan requested that Council Minutes be kept up to date on the County Web Page.

District #6

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Deputy Warden Yetman, that the County go on record as opposing the privatization of liquor stores in Nova Scotia. Motion carried.

District #8

Councillor MacLellan expressed concern about the turnover of the Bay St. Lawrence School. He felt there may be trouble when the school is no longer in use and felt that if it is not turned over to a community organization immediately, the Municipality should provide a caretaker to watch the site. Solicitor Pickup is to be contacted concerning the legalities in this regard.

It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Deputy Warden Yetman, that if no group or organization is interested in assuming ownership of the Bay St. Lawrence School property at the time of release to the County, Robert MacLellan be authorized to hire a caretaker to watch this building. Motion carried.

District #4

It was moved by Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that the request for \$2,000 from the Veteran's Memorial, North River, be referred to budget talks. Motion carried.

IN CAMERA

Council then moved In Camera.

Council returned to regular session.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Councillor Sampson, the meeting adjourned.

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B. E. Trask, CAO

John G. MacInnes, Warden