

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

March 19, 2001

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, March 19, 2001, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

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
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Sampson called the meeting to order.

AGENDA

The agenda was presented for approval. The following items are to be added to the agenda:

- District Concerns
- In Camera Session

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the February 26, 2001, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Deputy Warden Morrison, that the February 26, 2001, minutes of Victoria County Municipal Council be approved as presented. Motion carried.

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BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

At the previous meeting discussion took place on oil boom containment kits for harbours in Victoria County. Before proceeding, it was felt information such as the size, cost and number of the kits, where they will be located and who will assume responsibility for same, should be determined.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that Councillor MacLellan, in conjunction with Gary Collins, EMC, investigate the projected cost for oil containment boom kits for harbours in Victoria County and bring back a report to Council. Motion carried.

At the last Corporate Services Committee, the topic of ceiling fans for the Court Room was discussed.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Toms, that a letter be forwarded to Sean Cox, Cornerstone Electric, to provide an estimate for installing 3 ceiling fans in the Court Room and also any other appropriate areas as deemed by the CAO. Motion carried.

JIM CRAWFORD, NOVA SCOTIA OYSTER GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Courtesy of Council was extended to Jim Crawford, Nova Scotia Oyster Growers Association, who made a presentation on the contaminated/relay oyster fishery in the Bras d'Or Lakes.

Councillor MacNeil presented a resolution regarding the contaminated/relay oyster fishery in the Bras d'Or Lakes (copy attached).

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that the Municipality approve this resolution in principle and Councillor MacNeil present this resolution at the meeting to be held at the Coast Guard College on March 21, 2001 and forward a copy to Neil Bellefontaine, Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that an amendment be made to the resolution striking out the word contaminated. Those voting in favour of the amendment were Councillors Barron and MacLellan. Those voting against were Councillors MacNeil, Toms, MacInnes, Budge, and Deputy Warden Morrison. The motion was defeated.

The original motion was then put and carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Notice of the Annual Meeting of the Bras d'Or Lakes Stewardship Society to be held at the Alexander Graham Bell Museum on Saturday, March 31, 2001, at 2:00 p.m.
2. Copy of an e-mail from Vince MacLean concerning an idea for celebrating the 150th anniversary of Victoria County.

Mr. MacLean is to be invited to attend a meeting of Council to discuss this matter.

3. Correspondence from Matt Blais, ADI Limited, concerning operational requirements for the Baddeck Landfill.

This matter is to be referred to the Environmental/Solid Waste Committee and Matt Blais, ADI Limited, be requested to attend a meeting to discuss the operational requirements.

4. Letter from Jules Winstan, Departmental Assistant, Office of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, acknowledging receipt of Council's correspondence in support of the efforts of the "ACCESS" association which is working on behalf of the core fishermen with homeports adjacent to Area 19, Margaree Harbour to Bay St. Lawrence, who do not have snow crab licenses.

5. Request for funding to assist in erecting a cenotaph in Neil's Harbour from Richard Gwinn, President, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 85.

This request will be forwarded to the Corporate Services Committee.

6. Letter from the Honourable Rodney MacDonald, Minister Responsible for the Sport and Recreation Commission concerning his recent appointment as minister and his hopes to meet with municipalities.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that an invitation be extended to the Honourable Rodney MacDonald, Minister Responsible for the Nova Scotia Sport and Recreation Commission, to meet with Council to provide an overview of the department and his responsibilities as Minister. Motion carried.

7. Letter from W. E. Clifford, Stewards of St. Ann's Harbour Association, regarding Council's action with regard to the proposed mussel farm lease application for St. Ann's Harbour.

8. Letter from the Community Learning Association North of Smokey requesting funding to assist with rental costs.

This request is to be referred to the Corporate Services Committee.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Corporate Services Committee

At the last Corporate Services Committee meeting, discussion took place on the three-year capital budget and the figure of \$2,100,000.00, was included for the Baddeck Sewer Upgrade.

Deputy Warden Morrison and John Bain met with representatives from Canada/Nova Scotia Infrastructure last week. It is now requested that an amendment be made to the original infrastructure application for the Baddeck Sewer to increase the costs by \$134,000 to include sludge pump dewatering technology. The possible increase in costs to the Municipality would be in excess of \$26,000. There may be the possibility that the contingency allowance in the original application will cover this cost, however; it was felt that the amendment should be included at this time as a precaution.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Toms, that a notice of motion be made that, at the next Council meeting, an amendment be made to the original application forwarded to Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations for the Baddeck Sewers to increase the cost. Motion carried.

Council will meet on Monday, March 26, 2001, at 5:30 p.m.

Water Committee

At a recent Water Committee meeting it was felt that a preliminary analysis should be conducted on the Dingwall Water System to determine costs on upgrading and get a clearer picture of the present distribution system. Steve Wheller, ENG Engineering, is familiar with the systems in the northern area of the County and it was felt he could provide the necessary information.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the CAO contact Steve Wheller to provide Council with an analysis on what work has to be done and costs associated with regard to the upgrading of the Dingwall Water System. Motion carried.

SWEARING IN OF FIRE WARDS

Deputy Warden Morrison introduced the new fire chief, Ernest Roberts, and the new deputy chief, Darin MacAulay, for the Baddeck Volunteer Fire Department. He then administered the Oath of Allegiance and Of Office to Ernest Roberts and Darin MacAulay, making them fire wards for the Municipality of the County of Victoria.

RECESS

Warden Sampson advised that Council would recess for 10 minutes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

CED Committee

A report of the CED Committee was included in Council's binders for information purposes.

RDA Meeting

Warden Sampson presented Council with a report on a recent meeting he attended in Halifax for Chairs and Executive Directors of the 13 Regional Development Agencies within Nova Scotia. He indicated he would provide the CED Committee with a more in depth report at their next meeting.

Municipalities Meeting – March 16, 2001

Warden Sampson presented Council with a report on the meeting he and Brian Trask, CAO, attended in Halifax concerning the province's proposed equalization program between rural and urban municipal units. The Halifax Regional Municipality hosted the meeting and representatives from 47 of the 55 municipal units were in attendance. Of the 47 – 6 were opposed, 3 wanted further information and the remainder were in favour of the equalization program.

It was noted that the Municipality previously forwarded a letter supporting in principle the equalization concept as recommended by the Province.

Tax Collections

Warden Sampson advised that on checking with the Tax Department, he was advised that collections are \$101,333 ahead of collections for the same time period last year.

TENDER – BUCKLAW PROPERTIES

Tenders will be received on two properties located in Bucklaw up until March 26, 2001.

Brian Trask advised that a request has been received from an adjoining property owner for an easement over the two properties in question to enable him to access his present water supply. As the tender was published when there were no easements on these properties, it was felt it was too later to consider this request.

CHIEF OFFICERS COMMITTEE

Courtesy of Council was extended to Keith Bain who presented the report of the Chief Officers Committee to Council.

A review was conducted last year of the fire departments in the municipality and the report of this review included the minimum requirements for all departments. When the initial submission was made to Council last year, the total costs to meet all the minimum requirements was \$258,580.00. Council committed \$58,500.00 for Level 1 training and \$27,000 for equipment upgrading.

Mr. Bain advised that the total funding remaining to meet all the minimum requirements is \$238,768.00. He indicated that this requirement could be lowered by \$30,000.00 by purchasing reconditioned SCBA's and tanks, for a total of \$208,768.00.

Mr. Bain indicated that because of the increasing costs for everyday operating expenses, the Chief Officers Committee are requesting Council to consider increasing the annual operating grants in the 2001/2002 budget.

At the request of the Ross Ferry Volunteer Fire Department, the Chief Officers Committee will be reviewing the compensation coverage provided by McCoy Insurance Brokers Ltd. It is felt that the benefits should increase and a presentation will be made to Council in this regard after the review of the existing coverage has been completed.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Deputy Warden Morrison, that the financial requests brought forward by the Chief Officers Committee be referred to the Corporate Services Committee. Motion carried.

Mr. Bain advised that the requirements placed upon fire departments to act as First Responders has placed an extra financial burden on the departments.

It was moved by Councillor Toms, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that a letter of support be

forwarded to EHS Nova Scotia, with copies to Mike Myette and the Minister of Environment and Labour, requesting the province to financially

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assist fire departments for the costs associated in acting as First Responders. Motion carried.

Mr. Bain also presented a request that fire department be sent a portion of their 2001/2002 funding as soon as possible. Brian Trask advised that this would be done the first week in April.

SCHOOL BOARD

Keith Bain advised that he and fellow school board representative, Stanley MacKinnon, are willing to meet with Council at any time to discuss concerns, etc. with regard to the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #1

Councillor MacNeil requested that he be given permission to speak on behalf of Council at the meeting at the Coast Guard College on March 21, 2001, and a meeting later that evening in Orangedale, regarding the oyster fishery.

It was moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Councillor Toms, that Councillor Dan MacNeil act as Council's representative at the meetings concerning the oyster fishery. Motion carried.

District #3

Deputy Warden Morrison presented correspondence outlining 3 requests from Bell Bay Golf Club.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Toms, that a letter be forwarded to the Minister of Transportation opposing the location of a super highway along Route 4 and voicing our concerns on any proposal that will impact Victoria County negatively with regard to tourism and development. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Morrison gave notice of motion that he would be introducing a motion at the next meeting that the Municipality explore the possibility of conducting an independent operational audit to assess service delivery and appraise how the Municipality operates. He indicated he would have further information available when he makes the actual motion at the next meeting.

District #7

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Councillor Budge questioned on long service awards for fire department members. The departments usually provide the long service awards and Councillor Budge will be provided with the name of a supplier.

District #6

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that a letter be forwarded to the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board requesting that they carry out a title search on the former Ingonish Beach School property to enable a proper deed to be issued to Seamount Development Inc. Motion carried.

District #8

Councillor MacLellan indicated that there is a problem developing with regard to South Harbour Channel. The Municipality has a permit to clear this channel that is in effect until October, 2005.

It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that \$200 be approved for Cabot High School for a motivational speaker from the District #8 budget. Motion carried.

SOLID WASTE

Courtesy of Council was extended to Jim MacLean, Baddeck Landfill Operator/Manager.

Mr. MacLean advised that the deadline for applications to the RRFB is March 31, 2001. He would like to make application for a manure spreader for use in the composting facility. A roof and mesh walls are also required over the composting mixing pad.

It was felt that the roof and mesh walls over the mixing pad should be put out on tender.

Mr. MacLean advised that the Department of the Environment have been handing out fines in the CBRM for banned materials entering the landfill. Both the offenders and the Municipality are being fined. The fines are \$790. He presented a proposal for green bins in the Baddeck area for organic pickup.

Mr. MacLean also indicated that something must be done with regard to the ICI sector in the north of Smokey area.

Due to the heavy snowfall this winter, the tractor has been used to do a lot of plowing and Mr. MacLean indicated that before next winter, a cab is required for the tractor.

The tracks on the excavator are pretty well worn and will need work. This work can be done by Wallace Equipment or by local contractors such as Barra Construction or Hazeldale Milling & Trucking. Jim MacLean is to obtain prices.

The signage at the entrance to the Baddeck Landfill was discussed. Jim MacLean indicated that he would like to replace the existing signs with a more attractive sign. Mr. MacLean was authorized to obtain new signage.

Jim MacLean indicated questioned Council on there feeling regarding the days of operation of the Baddeck Landfill. It has been suggested that the landfill be open 6 days per week. The costs for having the site open 6 days per week are to be determined for a future meeting.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that Jim MacLean be authorized to order a cab for the tractor at the Baddeck Landfill. Motion carried.

IN CAMERA

Warden Sampson announced that Council would move In Camera

Council returned to their regular session.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.