

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
March 20, 2006

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, March 20, 2006, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Warden Wayne Budge in the Chair.

Present were:

District #2 – Keith MacCuspic
District #3 – Bruce Morrison
District #5 – Fraser Patterson
District #7 – Wayne Budge, Warden
District #8 – Robert MacLellan

Also present were:

Sandy Hudson, CAO
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

Absent were:

District #1 – Dan E. MacNeil, Deputy Warden
District #4 – John Graham MacInnes
District #5 – Lawrence Barron

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Budge called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that the agenda be approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the February 27, 2006, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that the February 27, 2006, minutes of Victoria County Municipal Council be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

- **RCMP**

Discussion took place on the meeting held with regard to the District Policing concept for the RCMP in Victoria County. Sandy Hudson presented a draft letter to be forwarded to A/Comm Ian Atkins, RCMP.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the letter be forwarded to A/Comm Atkins, RCMP, and the district policing concept for Victoria County be adopted. Motion carried.

A meeting has been arranged with the Minister of Justice concerning the policing situation and the problems in Bay St. Lawrence. This meeting will be held on March 30, 2006, at 3:30 p.m. in Halifax. Warden Budge and Councillor MacLellan will be attending this meeting.

The items to be brought up in the meeting with the Minister of Justice were reviewed.

A letter is also to be forwarded to Peter MacKay, Minister of Foreign Affairs, concerning the possibility of additional RCMP coverage for the Cape Breton Highlands National Park.

- **Announcements**

Sandy Hudson advised that Wayne Hutchison, former Municipal Solicitor, was caught in an undertow while on vacation and is now recuperating in hospital.

He also advised that Councillor MacInnes' wife broke her leg this morning and that Deputy Warden MacNeil is not feeling well at present.

- **Marketing Levy Update**

The Marketing Levy has been put on hold and the Province would like to see Destination Cape Breton Association, the industry and municipal units work out a plan that is acceptable to everyone.

Councillor MacCuspic is the County's representative on the Marketing Levy Committee. It was felt that he should also be the County's representative on the Board of Directors of Destination Cape Breton Association. Discussion took place.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that Destination Cape Breton Association be contacted requesting that Councillor Keith MacCuspic be the County's representative on the Destination Cape Breton Association Board of Directors. Motion carried.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS – AGENT FOR DEED TRANSFER TAX COLLECTION

At a recent Budget meeting, discussion took place on increasing the deed transfer tax from .5% to 1%. This will be done through the by-law process.

With the new electronic filing of deeds, it is now being requested that the Registry of Deeds act as the agent for the Municipality in collecting the deed transfer tax. The Municipality would receive a cheque each month from the Province for the deed transfer tax collected.

It was moved by Councillor MaLellan, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that the Registry of Deeds act as the Municipality's agent for the collection of the deed transfer tax. Motion carried.

BUDGET UPDATE

Sandy Hudson advised that there is no further budget update at this time. He will rework figures, increasing the deed transfer tax revenue and income from Ingonish Water. It is anticipated that a budget and tax rate will not be approved until May.

HIGHLAND MANOR

Highland Manor is undertaking renovations to their building to accommodate a new lift tub. The renovations will cost approximately \$150,000.00. The Department of Health have indicated approval and it will be funded by the Department of Health. They will be borrowing the money through the Bank of Nova Scotia and are requesting the Municipality to guarantee the loan.

It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that the Municipality guarantee the loan for Highland Manor in the amount of \$150,000.00. Motion carried.

WORLD WATER DAY

Councillor Morrison presented a resolution declaring March 22, 2006, as "World Water Day". (copy attached)

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacCuspig, that the resolution regarding “World Water Day” be adopted. Motion carried.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #2

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspig, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that a letter be forwarded to Sharon Carter, Department of the Environment, requesting that a copy of Fracflow’s report on the Crowdis Mountain Sewage Lagoon be released to the Middle River Concerned Citizens Group. Motion carried.

Councillor MacCuspig also mentioned that the Baddeck Forks Community Hall are interested in undertaking renovations and he requested who to contact to receive funding. He was provided with the name of Colleen Chisholm, Access Nova Scotia.

District #3

Councillor Morrison requested permission, as Chairman of the Public Works Committee, to attend the 2006 East Coast Environmental Conference to be held in Halifax in April.

Sandy Hudson advised that he, Councillor Morrison, and Jim MacLean have been registered to attend this conference.

A meeting of the Region 1 Solid Waste Committee will be held in the future to discuss the Cape Breton Regional Municipality opting out of Region 1.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. A copy of a letter forwarded to the Honourable Rodney MacDonald from Earlene Busch, Owner/Manager of Chanterelle Country Inn & Cottages, was received and tabled.
2. Memorandum from the UNSM regarding a Call for Fair and Equitable Funding campaign.
3. Copy of document received from the Department of the Environment on the community of Chelsea, Quebec, regarding their septic pumping program.

This document is to be referred to the next Public Works Committee meeting.

INTERMUNICIPAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

Sandy Hudson presented a copy of the Intermunicipal Services Agreement for the Eastern District Planning Commission.

The Municipality of the County of Antigonish have decided to join the Commission on a permanent basis effective April 1, 2006, and this document is to accommodate their membership.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that that Victoria County Municipal Council approve and sign the intermunicipal services agreement for the Eastern District Planning Commission. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

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

Wayne Budge, Warden

A. W. (Sandy) Hudson, CAO