

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
March 21, 2005

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, March 21, 2005, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Present were:

District #1 – Dan E. MacNeil, Deputy Warden
District #2 – Keith MacCuspic
District #3 – Bruce Morrison
District #4 – John Graham MacInnes
District #5 – Fraser Patterson
District #6 – Lawrence Barron
District #7 – Wayne Budge, Warden
District #8 – Robert MacLellan

Also present were:

Sandy Hudson, CAO
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Budge called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was presented for approval.

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

MINUTES – FEBRUARY 14, 2005

The Victoria County Council minutes of February 14, 2005, were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the February 14, 2005, Council minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Community Liaison Process – Crowdis Mountain Septage Facility Site

Councillor MacCuspic indicated that he has not been informed of a date for the initial meeting of the Community Liaison Process regarding the close out of the Crowdis Mountain septage facility site of Island Vacuum and Portables Ltd.

Lillian MacLeod, who was in attendance, indicated that she has heard the meeting will take place during the 1st week of April and she would advise the Municipal Office of the date and time when it is confirmed.

Library Board

Councillor Patterson questioned on the status of the book drop off request for Ingonish. Councillor Barron, Library Board representative, indicated that the Library Board meeting is being held this evening.

Building Inspector

Council was informed that David MacKenzie has been selected as the new Building Inspector, subject to the approval of the Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission Board.

Bruce Morrison has recently been appointed as the Chair of the Planning Commission and he will touch base with John Bain tomorrow on the Building Inspector appointment.

INGONISH BEACH WATER

Sandy Hudson advised that four (4) tenders were received for the Ingonish Beach Water Supply project. The tenders were opened on March 10, 2005 and were as follows:

J & T VanZutphen Construction Inc.	\$3,925,670.00
Coastal Construction and Excavating Ltd.	\$3,792,902.00
John Morrison Contracting Ltd.	\$3,199,700.00
A.C.L. Construction Ltd.	\$3,148,000.00

Strait Engineering Ltd. has reviewed the tender and they are recommending acceptance of the A.C.L. Construction Ltd. tender.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that the A.C.L. Construction Ltd. tender for the Ingonish Beach Water Supply Project in the amount of \$3,148,000.00 be accepted. Motion carried.

Sandy Hudson advised that the contract will be awarded within the next 10 days and the work will commence in May 2005. The Cabot Trail portion of the project will be completed by July 1, 2005, to allow for paving work to be done in the area. The entire project will be completed by year-end.

NORTH SHORE SCHOOL

A letter was received from Donald K. Matheson, Director, Operations Department, Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board, advising that at the end of the current school year, June 30, 2005, the North Shore Elementary School will close. The County has the first right of refusal to take the school building and land back.

Sandy Hudson advised that he visited the property and is recommending that the County acquire and hold the property for municipal use. The property has access to the Atlantic Ocean and sits on 6 acres of land.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that the Municipality notify the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board of its interest in acquiring the North Shore School property. Motion carried.

The possibility of having a library service in the school property was discussed and a letter is to be written to the Cape Breton Regional Library Board in this regard.

SOLID WASTE TRANSFER STATION UPDATE

Sandy Hudson advised that landfill staff have cleared the land required for the new transfer station building. The design requirements for the transfer station are now being worked out and it is anticipated that the tender for this project will come before the April Council meeting.

A letter has been forwarded to the Department of Natural Resources to initiate a land trade to acquire additional land at the Baddeck Landfill to accommodate the transfer station building.

It was noted that CBRM have signed the solid waste contract with the Municipality of the District of Guysborough.

2005-2006 BUDGET

Discussion took place on the 2005-2006 budget.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the current tax rates of \$1.22 residential and \$2.10 commercial be retained for the 2005-2006 fiscal year. Motion carried.

Discussion took place on the gas tax funding and the fact that no details have been worked out as yet.

It was felt that a meeting should be held at some time in the future, just to deal with the budget, as was done last year.

RECESS

Warden Budge advised that Council would recess for 10 minutes.

NEW BUSINESS

GAS PRICES

Discussion took place on the fluctuation in gas prices in Nova Scotia.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that a letter be forwarded to Premier John Hamm advising that Victoria County is in favour of regulating the price of gas through the Utility and Review Board. Motion carried.

COUNCIL PRESENTATION

Councillor Patterson indicated that Dr. Jim Foulds, Cape Breton University, is requesting time on a future agenda of Council to make a presentation on the Bras d'Or Lakes being a Biosphere Reserve under the United Nations.

This presentation will be placed on the agenda of the April 25, 2005, Council meeting.

AIR SERVICE FROM SYDNEY

Councillor Patterson brought up the issue of the variance in airfares and service out of Sydney.

It was moved by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that a letter be forwarded to Vince MacLean, Sydney Airport Authority, offering support in securing additional airlines in Sydney. Motion carried.

RURAL CAPE BRETON DISTRICT PLANNING COMMISSION

Sandy Hudson presented a revised Inter-Municipal Service Agreement to include the Municipality of the County of Antigonish as a member of the Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission for a term of one year.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that Council approve the revised Inter-Municipal Service Agreement to include the Municipality of the County of Antigonish as a member of the Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission for a one-year term. Motion carried.

A letter was received from John Bain, Director, Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission, outlining staff appointments to be approved by Council. It was indicated that the Planning Commission Board members were unaware of these appointments and felt these actions should go through the Board before coming to Council.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that the staff appointments outlined by John Bain be considered after approval is received from the Planning Commission Board. Motion carried.

ATLANTIC BURN CAMP

The Bowl-A-Thon for the Atlantic Burn Care Society will be held at the Heather Bowling Lanes, Sydney, on May 7, 2005. The Municipality has supported this event in the past and has entered a team in the event.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Barron, that the Municipality again support the Atlantic Burn Care Bowl-A-Thon and Councillor Patterson organize Council's participation in the event. Motion carried.

NOVA SCOTIA HEARING AND SPEECH CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC

The Nova Scotia Hearing and Speech Charity Golf Classic will be held at the Bell Bay Golf Club in September 2005. The Municipality has participated in this event for the past few years.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, the Municipality provide sponsorship and participate in the Nova Scotia Hearing and Speech Charity Golf Classic. Motion carried.

PUBLIC MEMBERS ON COMMITTEES

The appointment of lay members to serve on Council Committees was discussed. A call for Expression of Interest to serve on Council Committees will be published in the *Victoria Standard* and *Cape Breton Post*. The public are to be requested to indicate their preference of Committee, but are also to be made aware that Council may or may not be able to accommodate their wishes. Council will review the applications and make the decisions on lay membership on Committees.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

An Education Committee within the staff has been established and a draft education policy has been developed. This policy will be reviewed by staff and brought to Council for approval at a future meeting.

Sandy Hudson indicated that the Education Committee is to have Council representation.

It was moved by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that Councillor John G. MacInnes be appointed to serve on the Education Committee. Motion carried.

VACATION

Sandy Hudson advised that he will be on vacation for the period from April 4-22, 2005.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #5

Councillor Patterson invited Council members to attend the annual installation of officers for the Ross Ferry Volunteer Fire Department to be held on April 12, 2005.

Councillor Patterson advised that the sign indicating "Ross Ferry Marine Park" project has been installed in the community.

District #3

A letter is to be forwarded to Baddeck Academy congratulating the Girls Basketball Team on winning the Division IV Provincial Basketball Championships.

The status of additional streetlights in the 2005-2006 budget was questioned and Sandy Hudson advised that a decision has not been made in this regard to date.

District #6

Councillor Barron indicated that no action has been taken with regard to two unsightly premises in his district.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that a letter be forwarded to the Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission in regard to the two unsightly premises located in District # 6 – at Ingonish Centre and Ingonish Beach. Motion carried.

In future, concerns with regard to unsightly premises can be brought to the attention of the new Building Inspector.

District #1

Councillor MacNeil indicated that he received a good report regarding his health today and the future is looking very good. He thanked Councillor Patterson and Warden Budge for filling in as Chairman of Alderwood and the Broadband Committee during his absence.

South Haven Guild

Councillor Members South of Smokey received a written request from Greta Unger, South Haven Guild, with regard to financial assistance towards the purchase of a computer. The Council Members from District #1, #2, #3, #4, and #5 agreed to provide \$100 each from their district budgets towards the computer purchase.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from the Honourable Barry Barnet, Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, acknowledging receipt of Council's letter concerning the solid waste transfer station and the request for funding. He advised of possible funding programs available.
2. Correspondence from the Honourable Ernest L. Fage, Minister Responsible for the *Emergency Measures Act* advising that the Municipality's state of preparedness has been rated as "good".
3. Requests for funding were received from the following organizations:
 - Strait Area Ground Search and Rescue Anniversary Committee
 - Community Learning Association North of Smokey
 - Douglas G. Briand on behalf of the Year of the Veterans Committee
 - North Highlands Nordic Ski Club

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that all financial requests be referred to budget for consideration. Motion carried.

The \$25 request from the Baddeck Academy Yearbook Committee will be provided from the advertising budget.

4. Memorandum from Mayor Charles Crosby, President of the UNSM, regarding the Women in Local Government Project.
5. Letters from the Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission and the Department of Transportation and Public Works approved the naming of B. Williams Road, Ingonish.

Councillor Barron expressed concern over the approval of this road name. There is already a Williams Lane in Ingonish and approving this name would cause confusion and may result in mix-ups with regard to 911 emergencies.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that the name “B. Williams Road” in Ingonish not be approved due to its similarity to another road name in the area and the problems that could arise as a result. Motion carried.

6. Correspondence regarding Child Care Awareness Month in June, 2005.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that June be proclaimed “Child Care Awareness Month” in the Municipality of the County of Victoria. Motion carried.

STRIP MINING

Lillian MacLeod suggested that Council invite a presentation on strip mining at a future meeting.

This matter was discussed at the Community Development Committee meeting held prior to Council.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that the Victoria County Community Development Committee continue their work on the strip mining issue and report back to Council at a future meeting. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

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There being no further business, on motion of Councillor MacNeil, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Wayne Budge, Warden

A. W. (Sandy) Hudson, CAO