

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

March 22, 1999

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, March 22, 1999, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Present were:

District #1 - Gerald Yetman

District #2 - Shane Toms

District #3 - Bruce Morrison

District #4 - John Graham MacInnes, Warden

District #5 - Gerald Sampson, Deputy Warden

District #7 - David Donovan

District #8 - Robert MacLellan

Also present were:

Brian E. Trask, CAO

Arthur W. D. Pickup, Solicitor

Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

Absent was:

District #6 - Lawrence Barron

CALL TO ORDER

Warden MacInnes called the meeting to order.

AGENDA

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

Report on RITC (Regional Industrial Training Commission)

Request for letter of support from PSAC (Public Service Alliance of Canada) workers

Road naming procedure

Update on request for Call Centre for Baddeck

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

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BADDECK PUBLIC LIBRARY SOCIETY

Courtesy of Council was extended to Nancy Langley, Chairman of the Baddeck Public Library Society.

The Baddeck Public Library Society have requested that the Municipality take over the rental costs for the library situated in Baddeck. At present the Municipality provides ½ of the monthly cost for rental - \$500/month or \$6,000/year. A decision is required on present and future funding.

Mrs. Langley advised that in attendance were several Library Board members, along with other interested parties. She indicated that there is some urgency to the request before Council. The Library Board can no longer continue to pay the rental costs.

Mrs. Langley indicated that the Regional Library Board have in the past year purchased \$13,000 in new books for the Baddeck Library and in a few months, a brand new custom built bookmobile will be put into service in Victoria County.

Mrs. Langley advised that a CAP Site has been located in the library and she advised of other educational initiatives and programs that the Board wishes to facilitate in the future. She indicated that these initiatives hinge on the decision to be made by Council with regard to funding.

A clarification was requested on the amount the Baddeck Public Library Society were requesting from Council. At present the annual rental costs are \$12,000 and it was estimated the cleaning costs to be an additional \$1,000 - total \$13,000.

The Municipality pay an annual mandatory amount based on population to the Cape Breton Regional

Library Board and to obtain a library in the northern area of the County agreed to an additional annual cost of \$5,000 for rental costs. The Baddeck Public Library Society are requesting that the same be afforded to the Baddeck Library and the total rental costs be paid.

It was felt that contact should be made with the Cape Breton Regional Library Board to clarify some issues.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Yetman, that it be recommended that the Municipality of the County of Victoria increase the funding to the Baddeck Public Library Society to

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\$1,000 per month pending discussions with the Cape Breton Regional Library Board and this request be a priority budget item. Motion carried.

It was decided that the two Victoria County representatives on the Cape Breton Regional Library Board; Councillor Bruce Morrison, Nancy Langley and the Warden or his representative, meet on this matter as soon as possible.

TAX COLLECTIONS UPDATE

Courtesy of Council was extended to Donnie Morrison, Tax Collector, to update Council on tax collections.

Information presented by John Anderson, C. A., Roach Perry Roach, at the March 8, 1999, meeting indicated that as of March 1, 1999, the tax receivables were \$935,644. Donnie Morrison indicated that since that time to Friday past, March 19, 1999, \$78,809 has been collected on these receivables.

The Tax Department have been working diligently on collecting taxes, making contact with accounts in arrears, as well as accounts with current balances.

The list of accounts Mr. Anderson presented at the last meeting which represented 35% of the arrears have all been contacted.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that an advertisement be placed in the *Cape Breton Post* and the *Victoria Standard* indicating that under the new *Municipal Government Act*, municipalities are required to put all properties two years or more in arrears up on tax sale and the Municipality of Victoria will be begin this procedure, with the first tax sale being held on April 30, 1999. Motion carried.

After further discussion, Mr. Morrison was excused at this time.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Under the new *Municipal Government Act* all fire departments and emergency service providers must be registered with the municipality. A sample registration form and a guide respecting fire and emergency services was presented to Council for review.

A policy outlining the standards to be implemented must be established. Contact is to be made with the Chief Fire Officers for their input into the policy.

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REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS

A letter was received from the Honourable Ray White, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs, regarding the requirements under the *Municipal Government Act* that every municipality in 1999 must conduct a study of the number and boundaries of polling districts in the municipality and the number of Councillors.

RECESS

The Warden announced that Council would recess for 10 minutes.

IN CAMERA

Warden MacInnes advised that Council would move In Camera to discuss a Home Care Human Resource issue.

Councillor Morrison declared a conflict as his wife is the Agency Director of Home Care and he left at this time.

Council then returned to regular session and Councillor Morrison returned to the meeting.

MINUTES

The minutes of the February 22, 1999, Council Session and the March 8, 1999, Committee of the Whole were presented for approval.

Councillor Morrison indicated that the motion in the February 22, 1999, Council minutes approving funding from the District #3 budget to the Atlantic Hockey Group should be \$230.00, not \$200.00 as indicated in the minutes.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that the minutes of the February 22, 1999, Council Session be approved as corrected and the March 8, 1999, Committee of the Whole be approved as circulated. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

A formal application was submitted to the Department of Housing and Municipal Affairs for the well for MacKinnon s Harbour/Ottawa Brook areas.

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Brian Trask met with representatives from Wagmatcook First Nations on March 12, 1999, regarding the solid waste user fees. Jim MacLean, Baddeck Landfill Operator/Manager is in the process of determining the volumes received from the First Nations. Once the requested information is received, it will be forwarded to Wagmatcook who will submit the costs for inclusion in their budget.

The Emergency Measures Coordinator position has been advertised and applications will be received until March 30, 1999.

Brian Trask advised that he checked with the Village Commissioners on the water and ice build up at the Abracajava and Yello Cello and he was informed that groundwater was the source of the problem.

A meeting has been requested to discuss the Department of Community Services office requirements. Once a date is received from the Honourable Kennie MacAskill, the meeting will be set up.

Rollie Donovan requested that ½ of his holdback be released to assist in necessary truck repairs. This was done on the advice of the solicitor and Mr. Donovan is now paying back this amount in monthly installments of \$250.

The generator the County is receiving from the old Buchanan Memorial Hospital was discussed. Councillor MacLellan indicated that the cost to fabricate a trailer to make this generator mobile would be \$4,500. The Municipality will retain ownership of the generator. The Neil s Harbour/New Haven Volunteer Fire Department have agreed to house the generator for the Municipality.

It was moved by Councillor Toms, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that the trailer be built for the generator at a cost not to exceed \$4,500 and the generator be housed at the Neil s Harbour/New Haven Volunteer Fire Department. Motion carried.

On checking with Jane Latremouille, Department of Natural Resources, today, she indicated that the White Point Land Exchange will be complete within a maximum of one month. Councillor Donovan requested a letter to this effect so he could inform the interested public.

VILLAGE SIDEWALKS

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The cost of removal of snow and salting the County sidewalks located within the Village of Baddeck was discussed. Information was received from the Village on costs and it is estimated the annual cost for same would be \$6,500.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Deputy Warden Sampson, that the present and future costs for plowing and salting the sidewalks within the Village of Baddeck be approved. Motion carried.

LITTLE NARROWS WATER EXTENSION

The materials have been obtained for the Little Narrows Water Extension and prices have been obtained to carry out this work. Prices were obtained from three firms and Ron McIntyre indicated that he would recommend D. W. Matheson & Sons Contracting for the hole hog and sand requirements and Barra Construction Ltd. for the backhoe and excavator requirements.

It was moved by Councillor Yetman, seconded by Deputy Warden Sampson, that we proceed with the extension to the Little Narrows Water Systems using D. W. Matheson & Sons Contracting Ltd. for the hole hog and sand requirements and Barra Construction Ltd. for the backhoe and excavator requirements. Motion carried.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE SENIOR CITIZEN

1999 is the International Year of the Senior Citizen and a request has been received for the County to acknowledge same by having a flag raising ceremony and reception on April 19, 1999.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that a flag raising ceremony and reception be held on April 19, 1999, acknowledging the International Year of the Senior Citizen. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Arthur W. D. Pickup regarding the Wayne and Catherine Crawford right-of-

way request. Mrs. Ross has refused permission to the Crawfords to cross over the municipal easement.

Letter from the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board acknowledging Council's support for Sempra Atlantic Gas Inc.

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Request for 125 County pins from Judy MacLellan for the National Annual Meeting of the Lumen Institute (Christopher Leadership).

It was decided that 125 County pins be provided for this request as our supply of County pins is limited.

Letter from the Department of Housing and Municipal Affairs approving the reappointment of Rod C. MacNeil on the Cape Breton Housing Authority Board.

Letter from Kate Beaton, Acting CAO, Municipality of Inverness, supporting Victoria County's resolution regarding funding for community economic development on Cape Breton Island.

Copy of a letter from the Alderwood Management Board to the Honourable Kennie MacAskill, regarding the Alderwood Support Association's Strategic Plan.

Correspondence from Senator Al Graham acknowledging receipt of Council's resolution concerning the changes announced at Devco.

Letter from the Honourable Manning MacDonald acknowledging receipt of Council's letter regarding a Call Centre for Victoria County and requesting information as to particular attributes of Victoria county as a call centre location.

It was moved by Councillor Yetman, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that a copy of Council's resolution concerning call centres be forwarded to the Honourable Manning MacDonald. Motion carried.

POLICY 10479A

A draft Council Remuneration and Expenses Policy in accordance with the *Municipal Government Act* was presented to Council.

It was moved by Councillor Yetman, seconded by Deputy Warden Sampson, that this matter lay on the table and be brought up for discussion at the next meeting. Motion carried.

WATER SAMPLING

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Brian Trask advised that Aurelle Landry, Department of the Environment, visited his office concerning water sampling. He was advised that Council's decision remained the same and we would not be taking over the sampling of the water systems from the Department of the Environment.

OPEN PERIOD

RITC UPDATE

Deputy Warden Sampson presented Council with an update and information on programs funding through RITC.

PUBLIC SERVICE ALLIANCE OF CANADA

Councillor Donovan presented a request from Cape Breton Highlands National Park workers (members of the Public Service Alliance) for a letter of support from the County in their attempts to receive wage parity with Parks Canada workers across Canada.

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor Yetman, that the County support the position of the local PSAC workers by forwarding a letter of support to the Rt. Honourable Jean Chretien and copies of this letter be forwarded to the following:

Honourable Marcel Masse

Honourable Russell MacLellan

Andy Doherty

Peter Mancini, MP

Motion carried.

CALL CENTRES

It was moved by Councillor Yetman, seconded by Councillor Toms, that a copy of the motion and resolution of Council concerning call centres be forwarded to Sempra Atlantic Gas Inc. Motion carried.

DISTRICT #1

Councillor Yetman questioned whether any new information was received on the status of the expansion of Rankin Memorial School, Iona.

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It was moved by Councillor Yetman, seconded by Councillor Toms, that Keith Bain, CVRSB Member, and the Superintendent of the Board or his representative be requested to appear before Council in April. Motion carried.

Councillor Yetman questioned on the status of the Development Committee. Warden MacInnes that an initial meeting will be held on this matter within the next couple of weeks.

Councillor Yetman indicated that the official opening of the Little Narrows Fire Hall will take place on March 28, 1999, at 2:00 p.m. He also advised that he attended the 40th anniversary celebrations of the Iona Volunteer Fire Department.

DISTRICT #3

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Deputy Warden Sampson, that \$1,000 be approved for the Baddeck Curling Club from the District #3 budget. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Deputy Warden Sampson, that letters be forwarded to the Department of Transportation and Public Works requesting that the paving of the streets in the Village of Baddeck be placed on the Department s priority list and requesting that an intersection light be placed at the intersection of Alexander and Harvey Drive. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Yetman, that pending budgets considerations, Victoria County consider becoming a major sponsor of the Cabot Trail Relay in the year 2000 with a contribution of \$5,000. Motion carried.

DISTRICT #5

Deputy Warden Sampson indicated that the installation of officers for the Ross Ferry Volunteer Fire Department will take place on March 27, 1999, and the Big Bras d Or Volunteer Fire Department will take place on April 24, 1999.

Deputy Warden Sampson advised that a request was made and approval was given that the addition to the Boularderie School be wired to allow it to be used as an EMO centre if necessary and consideration is being given to doing same to all new and renovated schools.

DISTRICT #7

Councillor Donovan indicated that the RRFB would be holding a meeting tomorrow evening at the Delta Sydney and he felt it would be beneficial for Council representatives to attend. Bruce Morrison and David Donovan indicated their interest in attending.

Brain Trask advised that KPMG have been requesting the Municipality to participate in an RRF survey. They were advised the County will not participate until a reply is received on funding for our Enviro-Depots.

Councillor Donovan requested that budget talks commence in the near future.

Councillor Donovan requested that Council again meet in his district.

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that Council be held in Neil s Harbour on June 21, 1999, at 6:00 p.m. Motion carried.

DISTRICT #8

Councillor MacLellan questioned on the status of the Bay St. Lawrence School. This school has not been signed over to the Municipality as yet.

Councillor MacLellan indicated that the Bay St. Lawrence and Neil s Harbour/New Haven Volunteer Fire Departments will pay for the fabrication of the trailer up front and be reimbursed for same by the Municipality when completed.

DISTRICT #1

Councillor Yetman questioned on the \$2,000 approved per district for job creation. He felt this money could be put towards projects in his area, not necessarily as a top up for summer grants. Council agreed that there were no stipulations on this funding.

ROAD NAMING PROCEDURE

Councillor Morrison presented information on road naming procedure received from the Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission.

This information will be copied for all Councillors for the next meeting.

DISTRICT #4

It was moved by Councillor Yetman, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the condition of the highway in the St. Ann s/North Shore area is unacceptable and as it is the main link to northern Victoria County, the Department of Transportation and Public Works be requested to upgrade this road system and make it a priority item in their 1999/2000 budget. This letter is to be forwarded to the following:

Premier Russell MacLellan

Honourable Clifford Huskison, Minister of Transportation

Bruce Fitzner, District Director - Eastern, DOT

Charlie MacDonald, Area Manager, DOT

Peter Mancini, MP

Honourable Kennie MacAskill, MLA

Motion carried.

Warden MacInnes advised that the new fire chief of the North Shore and District Volunteer Fire Department is Clarence (Sharkey) MacDermid.

BROCHURE

Councillor Morrison presented a brochure he recently picked up and felt that the County should consider having something similar made for Victoria County.

A price is to be obtained for developing a similar publication. Funding may be possible through the Province.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT ACT

All Councillors will receive a copy of the *Municipal Government Act* when same is made available though the Nova Scotia Government Bookstore.

AGENDAS

Brian Trask requested Council Members to give consideration on what they would like to have included in future agendas.

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ADJOURN

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

E. Trask, CAO

John G. MacInnes, Warden