

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
March 23, 2009

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, March 23, 2009, at 5:00 p.m. with Warden Bruce Morrison in the Chair.

Present were:

District #1 – Paul MacNeil
District #3 – Bruce Morrison, Warden
District #4 – Merrill MacInnis
District #5 – Fraser Patterson, Deputy Warden
District #6 – Larry Dauphinee
District #7 – David Donovan
District #8 – Robert MacLellan

Also present were:

Sandy Hudson, CAO
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

Absent was:

District #2 – Keith MacCuspig

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Morrison called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was presented for approval. Councillor MacNeil indicated that Tracey Dares would also be a part of the presentation for the Iona Sport and Recreation Committee.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that the agenda be approved. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MARCH 2, 2009

The Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of March 2, 2009, were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that the minutes of the March 2, 2009, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Meeting – Northern Councillors with Roy MacDonald, DOT&IR

Roy MacDonald, Area Manager, Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, met with Councillors from the northern area at the Bay St. Lawrence Community Centre. It was a very positive meeting, with good discussion and Mr. MacDonald agreed to meet with them again in the fall.

Victoria County Website

Sandy Hudson indicated that three (3) proposals were received for the development and maintenance of a new website for Victoria County. Tom Wilson and Carl Thistle will be asked to review the proposals, along with the Chairman of the Community Development Committee and the CAO.

NORTH VICTORIA SIX PORTS HARBOUR AUTHORITY

Courtesy of Council was extended to Osborne Burke and Kim Stockley who were in attendance to make a presentation on the North Victoria Six Ports Harbour Authority.

Mr. Burke indicated that in 2008, the North Victoria Six Ports Harbour Authority was officially incorporated. It is the amalgamation of 5 harbour authorities (6 ports) into one. He is the president of the Harbour Authority. He then turned the floor to Kim Stockley to make the presentation.

Kim Stockley provided a power point presentation (copy attached) outlining the history that led to the incorporation of the North Victoria Six Ports Harbour Authority which encompasses the harbours of Ingonish Ferry, Ingonish, Neil's Harbour, New Haven, White Point and Dingwall. The mandate of the Harbour Authority is to manage and operate all the asset of Small Craft Harbour property for the benefit of the users. They offer users a full range of services with a goal to attain operational self-sufficiency.

The North Victoria Six Ports Harbour Authority is managed by a 15-member volunteer board of directors. The Directors oversee and provide direction to the harbour manager and administrative staff.

Ms. Stockley outlined the short and long term plans of the harbour authority. In conclusion she indicated that the North Victoria Harbour Authority is requesting support from Victoria County Municipal Council over the next five years.

Osborne Burke indicated that the North Victoria Six Ports Harbour Authority is the first to amalgamate 5 harbour authorities into one. He outlined his involvement as the Chair of the Advisory Committee for the Maritime Gulf Region and also indicated that he is a member and chair of the National Advisory Committee.

The importance of the fishing industry to this area of the County was discussed.

\$88,000,000.00 has been approved for the Maritime Gulf Region for infrastructure improvements. Mr. Burke indicated that the Harbour Authority is looking for \$100,000.00 over a five year period from the Municipality to assist with their infrastructure plans.

Further discussion took place and Mr. Burke and Ms. Stockley answered various questions of Council.

Warden Morrison extended a vote of thanks to Osborne Burke and Kim Stockley for their presentation.

It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that the North Victoria Six Ports Harbour Authority request for financial assistance in the amount of \$100,000.00 over a five year period be referred to budget talks. Motion carried.

RECESS

Warden Morrison announced that Council would recess for 10 minutes.

IONA SPORT AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Courtesy of Council was extended to Tracey Dares and Kevin MacKinnon, representing the Iona Sport and Recreation Committee.

Tracey Dares thanked Council for the opportunity to appear before them to outline their plans for a community outdoor venue adjacent to the Rankin School of the Narrows in Iona. During the past year, Phase 1 of the project has been completed and she expressed appreciation to Council for the assistance provided. The original sports field was expanded and is now a regulation size sports field. Community support for this project was tremendous and in kind donations exceeded \$100,000.00.

The Committee is now looking at beginning work on Phase 2 and Phase 3. To date \$73,800.00 has been raised, of which \$27,000.00 came directly from the community. If Phase 2 and 3 can be done simultaneously, there will be significant cost savings.

Kevin MacKinnon indicated that the cost to do Phase 2 and 3 separately would be approximately \$240,000.00, but by incorporating both Phase 2 and 3 simultaneously, the cost is approximately \$176,000.00.

The second phase will see the addition of a baseball diamond and the creation of an elder-friendly walking track around the sports field. The third phase includes a youth and senior green activity area, outdoor ice rink, walking and nature hiking trail, lighting and signage.

The lack of such a facility has been a long standing deficit in the community and will provide a quality facility for both young and old. The completion of the facility will be an economic stimulus for the area and will provide seasonal employment for students. This project has provided a renewed community spirit in the community.

In the past four weeks, \$52,000.00 has been raised in the community through in kind support. The Committee is seeking financial assistance from the Municipality. The maximum funding requested is \$25,000.00.

Discussion took place on the project and questions addressed by Council were answered.

Warden Morrison extended a vote of thanks for the presentation.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that the Iona Sport & Recreation Committee request for funding be referred to budget. Motion carried.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #1

Councillor MacNeil again expressed concern on the condition of the Washabuck Mountain Road.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that a letter be forwarded to the Honourable Brooke Taylor, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, with a copy to Keith Bain, MLA, and Roy MacDonald, Area Manager, expressing concern on the condition of the

Washabuck Mountain Road and requesting that major work be done to this road. Motion carried.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis indicated he was questioned by a resident on grants to volunteer community organizations. He was advised that such requests are dealt with through district budgets.

District #7

Councillor Donovan requested that Council conduct a session in the North of Smokey area in June.

Council agreed to hold their June session in Neil's Harbour.

District #6

Councillor Dauphinee requested that a street light be ordered for installation on the pole at the south side of Roper's Bridge, Ingonish.

Councillor Dauphinee indicated that a future expansion of Highland Manor is being considered. Highland Manor does not own any additional land. The Department of Natural Resources own land behind the existing Highland Manor and it was felt that as the exchange of lands takes some time to complete, work should begin immediately.

The increase in moose population in the Ingonish area is creating a safety issue. Councillor Dauphinee indicated that he would like to see an open moose hunt in this area.

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Natural Resources requesting that an open moose hunt be held in the Ingonish area. Motion carried.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis questioned whether the Federation of Agriculture ever made a presentation to Council. They have in the past, but not in recent years.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that the Inverness-Victoria Federation of Agriculture be requested to appear at the future Council session. Motion carried.

District #3

Deputy Warden Patterson assumed the Chair.

Warden Morrison indicated that a project is presently being investigated for renovations to the soccer field behind Baddeck Academy. A request was received on behalf of the Committee from Jonathan Saul. This project will only proceed if approval is received from the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board.

It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that the request for financial assistance for upgrades to the soccer field at Baddeck Academy in the amount of \$20,000.00 be referred to budget. Motion carried.

Warden Morrison indicated that he received a letter from Pat Bates, Bras d'Or Stewardship Society, requesting that the Society make a presentation at a future Council session.

Warden Morrison will ensure that a copy of this letter is circulated to Council.

Warden Morrison assumed the Chair.

FORMER RANKIN SCHOOL

Sandy Hudson advised that a deed has been received for the former Rankin School, Iona. He has forwarded the information on to Lorne MacDowell, Municipal Solicitor.

Insurance has been placed on the building and Mr. Hudson indicated that Council has two options with regard to this property – to sell it or tear it down.

Whether there was any interest in the building was questioned and Councillor MacNeil indicated that at the present time he was unsure.

It was felt that a Request for Proposals should be issued for the school building.

Councillor MacNeil indicated he wished to contact the caretaker to take a tour of the building and Sandy Hudson indicated he would also like to tour the building. Councillor MacNeil will contact and arrange the tour.

ECOTRUST PROGRAM

An application was submitted through the EcoTrust Program for an energy audit of all municipal properties. When this audit is completed, other organizations within the municipality can qualify for funding for their projects under the program. The cost of the energy audit is approximately \$12,000.00, of which the municipality will pay \$3,000.00.

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the EcoTrust Application be approved at a cost of \$3,000.00 to the Municipality and the results of the energy audit be incorporated into the Municipality's Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP). Motion carried.

In keeping with this topic, Sandy Hudson indicated that an RFP has been issued for a consultant to develop the County's Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP). The ICSP is a requirement to enable the Municipality to qualify for gas tax funding. RFP submissions will be received until April 17, 2009.

CONTAMINATED SOIL

Sandy Hudson advised that an application was submitted to the Department of the Environment in 2006 for a permit to operate a contaminated soil site. Contaminated soil provides revenue of approximately \$200,000.00 annually to the municipality. The Municipality was notified two weeks ago that the application was rejected.

There is a 30 day appeal period and Sandy Hudson suggested the Municipality appeal, based on the regulations that were in effect when the application was made in 2006.

It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Deputy Warden Patterson, that the Municipality file an appeal to the Department of Environment for the rejection of the 2006 application for a permit to operate a contaminated soil site. Motion carried.

If the Municipality wins the appeal, Sandy Hudson indicated that the rate for accepting contaminated soil should be increased from its present rate of \$35/ton to \$50/ton.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that pending approval of the appeal to the Department of Environment, the rate for accepting contaminated soil be increased from the present rate of \$35/ton to \$50/ton. Motion carried.

UNSM CODE OF CONDUCT

All Council members have now signed the UNSM's Code of Conduct for municipal elected officials.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that Victoria County Municipal Council adopt the UNSM Code of Conduct. Motion carried.

PRIORITIES – VICTORIA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENTS

A list of the priorities of Victoria County Fire Departments, submitted by Lyle Donovan, was presented to Sandy Hudson.

NEXT MEETINGS

A Committee of the Whole meeting to deal with budget only will be held on Monday, April 6, 2009, beginning at 5:00 p.m. at the Court House, Baddeck.

The next session of Victoria County Municipal Council will be held on Monday, April 20, 2009.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Councillor Donovan, the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO