

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
April 19, 2004

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, April 19, 2004, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Present were:

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

Absent were:

District #2 – Shane Toms
District #3 – Bruce Morrison

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Budge called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/TIME TO ADJOURN

Sandy Hudson advised that the Community Learning Association North of Smokey (CLANS) presentation has been postponed until the May session and Maureen Reilly has been added to the agenda for a 10-minute presentation.

It was moved by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that the agenda be approved as amended and the time to adjourn to In Camera be set at 6:40 p.m. Motion carried.

MINUTES – MARCH 15, 2004

The minutes of the March 15, 2004, Council Session were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the Victoria County Council minutes of March 15, 2004, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

RCMP PRESENTATION

Courtesy of Council was extended to Sgt. Everett Densmore, Ingonish Beach Detachment, and Sgt. Mark Furey, Baddeck Detachment, RCMP.

Sgt. Everett Densmore presented the 2003 Annual Report for the Ingonish Beach Detachment (copy attached)

Currently there are four (4) Constables, one (1) Supervisor position (Sgt.), and one (1) Public Servant in the Ingonish Beach Detachment, for a total complement of six (6) personnel. In addition, there is one (1) volunteer community assistant. The Cape Breton Highway Patrol Unit patrols the Cabot Trail to enforce the traffic regulations of the province.

Sgt. Densmore presented comparative statistics for the year 2003, as opposed to 2002. There were 1015 calls for service in 2003, as compared to 983 for 2002. Not reflected in these calls for service are those deemed to be of an assistance nature – property checks, false alarms, suspicious persons, lost and found, etc. There were 220 calls for service during 2003, compared to 215 calls for service in 2002.

Sgt. Densmore updated on the Ingonish Beach Detachments foot patrols and the increase in the number of false alarms. He also indicated that the policing presence in the Dingwall area has become a permanent position and plans to build a residential dwelling at the Dingwall location are underway. Plans are also well in the works for the construction of a new building in Ingonish Beach to house three branches of Parks and the RCMP. This building is to be occupied by September 2006.

Sgt. Densmore was extended a vote of thanks.

Sgt. Furey, Baddeck Detachment, then presented his report for the 1st quarter 2004 for the Baddeck Detachment (copy attached).

The existing human resources within the Baddeck Detachment include two (2) Supervisor positions (Sgt. and Cpl.), six (6) Constables, along with 2 public servants. In addition, there are two (2) Traffic Services personnel that utilize office space in the Baddeck Detachment. He outlined several staff changes that have taken place or will take place in the future.

Sgt. Furey presented comparative statistics for the 1st quarter of 2004, as opposed to the 1st quarter of 2003. There were 103 calls for services in the 1st quarter of this year, compared to 97 in the 1st quarter of 2003. Not reflected in these calls for services are those calls deemed to be of an assistance nature, as Sgt. Densmore previously noted in his report. There were 73 calls for service during the 1st quarter of 2003, compared to 85 calls for service during the 1st quarter of the current year.

The topic of a full time Community Policing Officer was discussed and Sgt. Furey asked Council to give consideration to this request. He outlined activities that will be taking place during "Police Week" in May.

After discussion, a vote of thanks was extended to Sgt. Furey.

RECESS

Warden Budge announced that Council would recess for 10 minutes.

RECONVENE

Council reconvened.

BUDGET – 2004/05

The next item on the agenda was the 2004/2005 budget. A number of funding requests required approval.

Seniors Community Park - Alderwood

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that funding be approved for the Seniors Community Park at Alderwood Rest Home in the amount of \$15,000.00 from the 2003/2004 budget, \$15,000 from the 2004/2005 budget, and \$15,000 from the 2005/2006 budget, for a total funding commitment of \$45,000.00. Motion carried.

Victoria Highland Civic Centre

It was moved by Deputy Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Barron, that \$15,000.00 be approved from the 2003/2004 budget and \$15,000.00 from the 2004/2005 budget, for a total funding commitment of \$30,000.00, for the Victoria Highland Civic Centre. Motion carried.

Baddeck Nursery School Association

It was moved by Deputy Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that \$5,000.00 be awarded to the Baddeck Nursery School Association from the 2003/2004 budget. Motion carried.

Cape Breton Crime Stoppers

It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Councillor Barron, that \$2,500.00 be approved from the 2004/2005 budget for Cape Breton Crime Stoppers. Motion carried.

Smokey Recreation Society

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that \$5,000.00 be approved for the Smokey Recreation Society from both the 2003/2004 and 2004/2005 budgets, for a total funding commitment of \$10,000.00. Motion carried.

North Highlands Nordic Ski Club

It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that \$3,000.00 be provided to the North Highlands Nordic Ski Club from the 2003/2004 budget. Motion carried.

Tourism Budget

It was moved by Deputy Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the Tourism Budget increase \$5,000.00 for the current fiscal year, 2004/2005. Motion carried.

Sandy Hudson advised that the total budget for 2004/2005 is \$7,054,073.00, with proposed tax rates of \$1.22 residential and \$2.10 commercial.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the 2004/2005 budget be approved and the tax rates for 2004/2005 be \$1.22 residential and \$2.10 commercial. Motion carried.

Sandy Hudson advised that as the tax rate has been set an early date, only one tax billing will be required. This should provide significant savings to the Municipality and should allow for tax money to be received earlier. The proposed interest date is August 1.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that one tax billing be carried out for the fiscal year 2004/2005 and the interest date be set at August 1. Motion carried.

Sandy Hudson indicated that Grant Thornton have not yet completed the year-end audit, however, it is anticipated that we will end the year with a surplus. He requested that any surplus funds in excess of \$7,500.00, be transferred to the Municipality's Operating Reserve Fund.

It was moved by Deputy Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that any surplus funds in excess of \$7,500.00 from the operation of the Municipality for the year ended March 31, 2004, be transferred to the Operating Reserve Funds. Motion carried.

The tax exemption granted by the Municipality was discussed. At present the eligibility is income of less than \$15,000.00 annually from all sources. The amount of the municipal exemption is \$100.00.

It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Councillor Barron, that the Municipality's tax exemption remain at \$100.00 with the eligibility based on an annual household income from all sources of less than \$15,000.00. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS/DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #4

It was moved by Deputy Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Transportation requesting that the brush cutter carry out brush cutting along the roadsides in Victoria County this spring. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. A letter was received from the School Advisory Committee for Baddeck Academy requesting Council's support for their efforts to have Baddeck Academy painted prior to this year's tourism season.

It was moved by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that the County send a letter to the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board supporting the Advisory Committee's request to have Baddeck Academy painted. Motion carried.

2. Correspondence was received from Mike Kelly, North American Occupational Health and Safety Week requesting that May 2-8, 2004, be proclaimed as "Occupational Health and Safety Week" in Victoria County.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that May 2-8, 2004, be proclaimed "Occupational Health and Safety Week" in Victoria County. Motion carried.

3. Letter from R. J. Earles, Acquisition and Disposal Director, Department of Transportation and Public Works advising that the Department of Natural Resources has expressed an interest in acquiring the old road in Nyanza, Victoria County, and it will be turned over to this Department.
4. Letter from Dan McDougall, CAO, Municipality of the District of Guysborough, regarding 2nd Generation Landfill Services.
5. Correspondence from Sheila MacEachern, Secretary, North Highlands Community Organization, expressing thanks for the Capital Project funding for their interpretive displays.

BROADBAND

The ALIN Broadband project had included in its business plan to do all five First Nations on Cape Breton Island. By having ALIN do the build its mean one less community/switch the Victoria County Broadband project has to do and will result in cost savings. ALIN requires a letter of authority from the Municipality, as the Nyanza switch is located in our County and looks after Wagmatcook First Nation.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that Victoria County Municipal Council endorse ALIN as the agent to implement the Broadband build in Nyanza, which includes Wagmatcook First Nation, under ALIN's Broadband agreement with Industry Canada. Motion carried.

CAPE BRETON REGIONAL LIBRARY

A letter was received from Brian MacDonald, Chair of the Cape Breton Regional Library Board, in regards to two issues involving the libraries in Victoria County.

The first issue was the state of the washroom facilities at the Baddeck Public Library. The washrooms require both regular cleaning and refurbishing.

Discussion took place on this matter. The Municipality pays rent to the Baddeck Volunteer Fire Department for the library facility on behalf of the Baddeck Public Library Board.

It was moved by Deputy Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Barron, that a letter be forwarded to the landlord, the Baddeck Volunteer Fire Department, concerning the state of the washrooms at the Baddeck Public Library, and a copy of this letter be forwarded to the Baddeck Public Library Board and the Cape Breton Regional Library Board. Motion carried.

The second issue concerned the Victoria North Regional Branch Library. The concern was with regard to a lack of a second exit in this facility. Should a fire break out near the one exit door, or should someone threaten staff or patrons in any way, there is no alternative means of escape if the doorway is blocked.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that a letter be forwarded to the landlord, K & A Hussey Enterprises Ltd., requesting that a second exit be located in the library premises. Motion carried.

EMO

A Committee is presently reworking the Emergency Measures Plan for Victoria County. Barry Campbell will act as the Interim EMC until the plan is completed and the permanent role for the EMC is defined.

IN CAMERA

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that Council adjourn to an In Camera Session.

RECONVENE

Council reconvened to the Regular Session.

PLEBISCITE – ST MARGARET’S VILLAGE

A letter was received from Robert Costello, Central Co-op, St. Margaret’s Village, concerning conducting a plebiscite in this area to allow for the establishment of an “Agency Store” for the sale of beverage alcohol by bottle.

It was moved by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that the Municipality request the Nova Scotia Alcohol and Gaming

Authority to conduct a plebiscite in St. Margaret's Village to allow for the sale of bottled alcohol. Motion carried.

GRIEVANCE – ROY NICHOLSON

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that Roy Nicholson's grievance be denied. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Deputy Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Patterson, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Wayne Budge, Warden

A. W. (Sandy) Hudson, CAO