

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
April 20, 2009

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, April 20, 2009, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Warden Bruce Morrison in the Chair.

Present were:

District #1 – Paul MacNeil
District #2 – Keith MacCuspic
District #3 – Bruce Morrison, Warden
District #4 – Merrill MacInnis
District #5 – Fraser Patterson, Deputy Warden
District #6 – Larry Dauphinee
District #8 – Robert MacLellan

Also present were:

Sandy Hudson, CAO
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

Absent was:

District #7 – David Donovan

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Warden Morrison called the meeting to order.

The agenda was presented for approval. It was agreed to adjust the agenda to allow the presentations to be provided first, followed by the approval of the minutes and remainder of the agenda.

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

THE BRAS D'OR STEWARDSHIP SOCIETY

Courtesy of Council was extended to Pat Bates, Chairman of The Bras d'Or Stewardship Society.

Council members provided introductions to Mr. Bates. Mr. Bates indicated that The Bras d'Or Stewardship Society is a non profit organization committed to the promotion of responsible stewardship of the Bras d'Or Lake and its watershed. The

Society has been active for the last 12 years and is comprised of an eleven (11) member Board of Directors.

Mr. Bates then presented a presentation on the “Bras d’Or Lakes Land Use Planning Standards – Options for Municipal Government Consideration”. (copy attached)

Mr. Bates indicated that there is estimated to be 1,235 kilometers of shoreline perimeter around the Bras d’Or Lake. Over ninety percent of the land is privately owned, with the exception of several small parcels of Crown Land. About eight percent is the shoreline portion of the five First Nations communities.

The threats to the Lake were discussed, as was the progress made with regard to sewage management and control over the last decade.

Mr. Bates introduced colleagues in attendance – Martin MacLellan, Rick MacCready, Jason Naug, who along with himself, Shelly Porter, Shelley Denny and Kim Paul were the Steering Committee for the Bras d’Or Lakes Collaborative Environmental Planning Initiative.

Mr. Bates indicated that municipal governments have roles through the *Municipal Government Act* related to the Lakes. They include:

- Protection of lands related to flooding, steep slopes, erosion and sensitive areas
- Retention of vegetation for buffering, sedimentation and erosion control
- Storm waste management
- Setbacks from watercourses for new development

Municipal land use controls for environmental protection are lacking around the Bras d’Or Lake. Mr. Bates presented a Report on the merits of developing and implementing good land use development standards for the Victoria County portion of the Bras d’Or Lake Watershed. The Bras d’Or Lakes Development Standards Report prepared by EDM (Environmental Design and Management Limited) for the Bras d’Or Lakes Collaborative Environmental Planning Initiative is a comprehensive document that presents prescriptions for good land use planning measures for future years. The standards contained in the document are written for easy incorporation in Municipal Planning Strategies and Land Use By-Laws. Mr. Bates requested that the Planning Advisory Committee give careful consideration to implementing the Report’s recommendations.

Discussion took place and Mr. Bates answered various questions of Council in relation to sewage disposal and control, mining and other related impacts to the Bras d’Or Lake. Mr. Bates left a number of related materials with Council for their review at a later time.

Warden Morrison extended a vote of thanks to Mr. Bates for his presentation.

RCMP PRESENTATION

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Staff Sgt. Arch Thompson, RCMP.

Staff Sgt. Thompson indicated that his Detachment's Annual Performance Plan for the year ended March 31, 2009, is the report card of activities within the detachment over the past year. He indicated some of the initiatives that have been undertaken, including increasing their attendance at Wagmatcook cultural events. The past year saw their attendance at such events increase from 16 to 29 events. An effort has also been made to increase drug investigations and this has resulted in 17 prosecutions over the past year. The RCMP's attendance at schools is also increasing and members visited County schools 135 times in the past year.

Staff Sgt. Thompson indicated that impaired driving is an area that saw a 5% decrease over the previous year and increased efforts will be made by his members to improve this area. A 50 % increase was achieved on highway related activities such as speeding, seatbelts, etc.

Staff Sgt. Thompson indicated that he has been going throughout the County meeting with various groups such as native groups, seniors, fire departments and schools. He recently met with a group of selected Grades 10-12 students at Baddeck Academy and reported on what their concerns and desires were with regard to RCMP services.

Efforts will be continued with regard to impaired driving, possession of drugs and drug dealers, break and enters (particularly in the Kempt Head and Iona areas), and improving relations with the Wagmatcook community.

Discussion took place on the prevalence of drugs in the Municipality. Staff Sgt. Thompson indicated that it is a reality that drugs are with us and in particular the problem is worse in Wagmatcook. The School Liaison officer position will be soon re-established and this should be an asset.

Staff Sgt. Thompson indicated that he attended a fire department function in Big Bras d'Or where a discussion was held regarding obtaining equipment for fire fighting on the water. He indicated that there is a new initiative fund through the Department of National Defence and he is willing to write a project proposal in this regard.

Increased police presence in the Iona and Kempt Head areas was requested, as well as, now that the fishing season has begun, an increased presence around the harbours in Victoria County would be beneficial.

Councillor MacInnis questioned whether Staff Sgt. Thompson was aware of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary and the members that are located all through the Bras d'Or Lakes. Councillor MacInnis also made mention of Constable Trevor Gallon who attended a public awareness day in his district. His presence and participation in the event was excellent and he was a great ambassador for the RCMP. Staff Sgt. Thompson indicated he would make Constable Gallon's supervisor aware of these comments.

Littering along the highways, and in particular, the area around the Englishtown Road, was discussed.

Councillor Dauphinee questioned on whether Corporal Wallis will be leaving the area. Staff Sgt. Thompson indicated that Corporal Wallis has applied for a promotion and if successful will be leaving and if not will be staying in the area.

The students at Baddeck Academy mentioned the crosswalks in Baddeck and the fact that cars park so close to the crosswalks that it is dangerous to try to walk across them. Staff Sgt. Thompson indicated that if the crosswalks are marked properly, with painted parking distances, it would be easier for his members to enforce. He will discuss this matter with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal.

Warden Morrison questioned on the drug arrest in Baddeck over the weekend. Staff Sgt. Thompson indicated that the individual arrested was a main dealer in the Baddeck and surrounding area.

Staff Sgt. Thompson again reiterated that his department's priority will be impaired drivers, mid-level drugs, break and enters and building trust with Wagmatcook First Nations. He indicated that the RCMP has signed a one year contact with Wagmatcook and an office will be located in the community which will allow members to work out of the community office.

Deputy Warden Patterson questioned on his opinion with regard to the RCMP unionizing. Staff Sgt. Thompson indicated that he would prefer if they didn't as he feels the RCMP service is an essential service, but he indicated that there are areas that are keen on unionizing and he felt it would eventually be brought to a vote.

Councillor MacNeil requested that the RCMP meet with the other two schools in the Municipality, as they did with students at Baddeck Academy.

After further discussion, Staff Sgt. Thompson was extended a vote of thanks for his presentation.

RECESS

Warden Morrison announced that Council would recess for 10 minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MARCH 23, 2009

The minutes of the March 23, 2009, session of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of March 23, 2009, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Sandy Hudson advised that 3 proposals were received for the development of a website for Victoria County. He has asked Carl Thistle and Tom Wilson to review the proposals and provide a recommendation. This should be completed by April 27, 2009, at which time he will be in a position to award the tender to the best proposal.

Councillor Dauphinee questioned on the process for obtaining land from the Department of Natural Resources for an expansion of Highland Manor. Highland Manor should contact their solicitor with regard to obtaining a property description for the property in question and begin the process of obtaining the land.

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES – APRIL 6, 2009

The Committee of the Whole minutes of April 6, 2009, were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Councillor MacCuspig, that the April 6, 2009, Committee of the Whole minutes be accepted with the exception of the motion that was rescinded at the April 8, 2009, session of Victoria County Municipal Council. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – APRIL 8, 2009

The minutes of the April 8, 2009, special session of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspig, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of April 8, 2009, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Deputy Warden Patterson, that the 2009/2010 budget be approved with tax rates of \$1.22 residential and \$2.19 commercial. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Committee Meetings

A meeting of the Public Works Committee and the EMO Committee will be held tomorrow, Tuesday, April 21, 2009, beginning with a Public Works Committee meeting at 5:00 p.m.

ICSP Proposals

Three proposals were received for the development of an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) for Victoria County:

- Jacques Whitford Stantec Ltd. \$32,513.00
- CBCL \$32,493.15
- 4Site Group \$51,052.00

The proposals were opened today and Mr. Hudson indicated he read them over briefly and his first reaction is favouring Jacques Whitford Stantec Ltd.'s proposal as it is more geared to Victoria County and they have more experience in doing these plans in Nova Scotia. CBCL's experience is mainly related to ICSP plans in Newfoundland. He indicated he would like to review the proposals in further detail.

It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that the CAO be authorized to select the proposal he feels is most appropriate for the development of an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) for the Municipality. Motion carried.

Nominee Program

An application has been made under the Nominee Program. The applicants are leaving on Saturday and it was agreed that the Warden, Deputy Warden and CAO meeting briefly following this meeting to review the application.

Tax Office

Victoria County's application submitted under the Cooperative Employment Program for a summer position for the Tax Office has been denied. Sandy Hudson advised that he would be advertising for a summer position to assist in the Tax Office.

Heavy Solid Waste Collection

A heavy solid waste collection will be held in the North of Smokey area this spring. Arrangements are presently being made and it is anticipated the collection will occur in late May/early June. Councillors will be notified and advertisements will be placed in the *Victoria Standard* when plans are finalized.

Deputy Warden Patterson indicated he would be investigating the cost for carrying out a heavy solid waste collection in his district, paid for through his district budget.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #1

Councillor MacNeil indicated that problems are still being experienced with regard to solid waste collection on the back roads in his district. Robert Dauphinee, Director of Public Works, has been and will continue to investigate this matter with Scott Richards of Dutch Brook Disposal.

Councillor MacNeil questioned on two street light orders he submitted which have not been installed – one was a relocation and one was a new light. He is to provide the information to the municipal office and it will be investigated.

Councillor MacNeil again brought up the matter of the condition of the Washabuck 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, expressing concern on the condition of the Washabuck Road due to insufficient maintenance over the past 15 years. Motion carried.

District #2

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspig, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that a letter of congratulations be forwarded to Nahman Korem, Crown Jewel Resort, on their recent National Geographic Award. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspig, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal requesting that the stop sign located at the intersection of Exit 8/Shore Road be changed to a yield sign. Motion carried.

Councillor MacCuspig questioned on the proper procedure for the removal of derelict vehicles. There are 4 to 5 cars at one location in his district that need to be removed. He is to contact Robert Dauphinee who will issue a purchase order to the contractor to remove the vehicles.

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspig, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal requesting that a street light be located at the intersection of the Big Baddeck/Old Margaree Road. Motion carried.

EMC are investigating the location of a helipad in the area between the TCH and Big Baddeck Road in front of the EMC Building and how a light would affect same was discussed.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis questioned on whether he could relocate existing street lights to other locations and he was advised this could be done. He also questioned on the location of bus shelters and he was advised that this could be done under his district budget funds.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor MacCuspig, that a letter of congratulations be forwarded to the Chanterelle Inn, North River Bridge, on the award received from National Geographic. Motion carried.

The status of the North River Bridge sign was questioned and Sandy Hudson will provide the contact information in this regard to Councillor MacInnis.

District #6

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Deputy Warden Patterson, that the road name change petition to name Private Road 6015(P), White Birch Hill be forwarded to the Eastern District Planning Commission and the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal for their consideration. Motion carried.

District #5

Deputy Warden Patterson expressed concern on the condition of the roads in his district.

Deputy Warden Patterson indicated that the Ross Ferry Volunteer Fire Department have recently purchased a 2009 truck chassis at a cost of \$65,000, that will be converted into a fire truck. This is an accomplishment for the Department.

District #8

Councillor MacLellan was provided with a copy of the report on the water supply for the Bay St. Lawrence/St. Margaret's Village area.

Councillor MacLellan indicated that he would like consideration given to communications equipment under the fire department funding. A meeting of the Victoria County Chief Officer's Association will be held on Sunday, April 26, 2009, at which time this matter can be discussed.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that a written confirmation of fire department funding for 2009/2010 be forwarded to Lyle Donovan, Victoria County Chief Officers Association. Motion carried.

District #1

Councillor MacNeil questioned whether it was possible to obtain a complete inventory of street lights paid for by the Municipality from Nova Scotia Power. This has been questioned in the past and it is not possible to obtain an accurate account of same.

District #3

Deputy Warden Patterson assumed the Chair.

Warden Morrison brought up the matter of the recent article in the *Cape Breton Post* where Dr. Ron MacCormack outlined his initiative to recycle cancer drugs. This would be a worthwhile initiative.

It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that Victoria County Municipal Council offer support for Dr. Ron MacCormack's initiative to recycle cancer drugs. Motion carried.

Warden Morrison indicated that a meeting was held recently with the Olympic Torch Relay representatives concerning the run in Victoria County. The run will begin at the Bell Museum and go to Baddeck Academy.

It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that the Recreation Committee and Director be responsible for coordinating the Olympic Torch Relay initiative in Victoria County. Motion carried.

At the March 31, 2009, meeting of the Planning Advisory Committee a recommendation was made to expand the boundaries both east and west of the Village of Baddeck in the generalized future land use map to include everything on the Shore Road up to below the Irving/Tim Hortons and to the Kaiser Pond area in Baddeck Bay. This is just for future consideration.

It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the for the public hearing on the Land Use By-Law and Municipal Planning Strategy for the Village of Baddeck the generalized future land use map be revised to include the area west on the Shore Road encompassing everything below the Irving/Tim Hortons and east to the Kaiser Pond in Baddeck Bay. Motion carried.

Warden Morrison assumed the Chair.

COMMITTEES

An advertisement has been placed in the *Victoria Standard* seeking public membership on the following committees:

- Victoria County Municipal Tourism Committee
- Victoria County Municipal Recreation Committee
- Victoria County Municipal Broadband Committee
- Police Advisory Board
- Heritage Advisory Committee

The Council membership on the Joint Committee with the Fire Service was discussed.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that Larry Dauphinee and Keith MacCuspig be appointed as Council representatives on this Committee. Motion carried.

The Victoria County Chief Officers Association will appoint two members from their association to serve on the Committee at their meeting on Sunday.

Whether Barry Campbell, EMC, should be a member of this committee was questioned and it was felt that this is not an emergency measures matter, rather a fire department matter.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council will be held on Monday, May 25, 2009, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Possible presentations at that meeting will include an update from Eleanor Anderson, Silver Dart Centennial Committee, and an update on the work being undertaken by the Pitu'paq Committee.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO