

**VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**  
**April 22, 2002**

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, April 22, 2002, beginning at 5:30 p.m. with Warden Gerald Sampson in the Chair.

Present were:

District #1 – Dan E. MacNeil  
District #2 – Shane Toms  
District #3 – Bruce Morrison, Deputy Warden  
District #4 – John Graham MacInnes  
District #5 – Gerald Sampson, Warden  
District #6 – Lawrence Barron  
District #7 – Wayne Budge  
District #8 – Robert MacLellan

Also present were:

Brian Trask, CAO  
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

**CALL TO ORDER**

Warden Sampson called the meeting to order.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA/TIME TO ADJOURN**

The agenda was presented for approval. Brian Trask requested an addition to include the tender for the well drilling for Dingwall Water.

**It was moved by Councillor Toms, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that the agenda be approved with the noted addition and the time to adjourn be set at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried.**

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the April 8, 2002, Council meeting were presented for approval.

**It was moved by Councillor Toms, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that the minutes of the Council Session of April 8, 2002, be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**Finewood Flooring & Lumber Ltd.**

At the previous meeting, a motion was passed to table the request from Finewood Flooring & Lumber Ltd. until today's meeting.

Brian Trask advised that on checking with the Department of Transportation and Public Works, he was advised that the cost for snow removal and general maintenance for one kilometer of roadway is \$3,931 annually. Based on this, the figure provided of \$1,400 for the .3 km. roadway to Finewood Flooring & Lumber Ltd. would be accurate.

Discussion took place as to whether approving maintenance of this roadway would set a precedence and lead to a number of other roadways in the County requesting the same consideration. It was noted that Finewood would be bringing this roadway up to Department of Transportation standards and if other roadways in the County would do same, then consideration could also be given to them.

It was indicated that when the Department of Transportation and Public Works listed roadways previously, there was a number of criteria that had to be met, i.e. turning over ownership of the roadway and adjacent property, having a adequate turning place, etc. It was questioned whether the same would apply.

This matter is to be investigated with the Department of Transportation and Public Works and the Solicitor and a report will be brought to a future meeting.

**Ferry Fares**

Correspondence was received from the Honourable Ronald Russell, Minister of Transportation and Public Works, and the Honourable Neil LeBlanc, Minister of Finance, in reply to Council's letter and resolution concerning ferry fares.

Councillor MacInnes advised that a meeting was held in Englishtown regarding the ferry fare issue and a committee was appointed to do press releases and letters with a view to eliminating ferry fares completely. Councillors MacInnes and MacNeil were appointed Co-Chairs of this Committee.

**Joan MacInnes, Heritage Inventory Clerk**

A letter was received from Rosemary Barbour, Chair of the Council of Nova Scotia Archives Preservation Committee, commenting on the quality of work undertaken by Joan MacInnes in the arrangement and description of the records of the Municipality of the County of Victoria.

**Baddeck Sewers**

Brian Trask advised that the Baddeck Sewer Agreement has been drafted and is in the process of being finalized.

**Department of Transportation and Public Works**

Discussion took place on the closure of the Baddeck Mechanical Branch of the Department of Transportation and Public Works, as well as the ferry fare increases.

**It was moved by Deputy Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Toms, that a letter be forwarded to the Honourable Ronald Russell, Minister of Transportation and Public Works, requesting that he meet with Council to discuss the closure of the Baddeck Mechanical Branch and the ferry fee issue. Motion carried.**

**Smoking Cessation Committee**

Warden Sampson advised that Gwynn Shaw has agreed to serve on the Smoking Cessation Committee.

**911 Civic Numbering**

A copy of a letter to the Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission from the Honourable Jamie Muir, Minister Responsible for the Emergency Measures Act, regarding the provision of 911 funding to Municipal units was received.

**UNSM ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Warden Sampson brought up the possibility of the 2004 Annual UNSM Conference being held in Baddeck. He questioned whether this was something Council would be interested in.

**It was moved by Warden Sampson, seconded by Deputy Warden Morrison, that a letter be forwarded to Aynsley MacFarlane, President of BABTA, advising that Victoria County is interested in pursuing hosting the 2004 Annual UNSM Conference in Baddeck and questioning whether this would be something that BABTA would be interesting in assisting with. Motion carried.**

A copy of this correspondence is to be forwarded to the Village of Baddeck.

**WARDEN'S REPORTS**

Warden Sampson advised that the Mayors and Wardens were invited to attend a Federal Council meeting at the Delta in Sydney last week.

He also attended a meeting at ECBC and advised that \$40,000 has been allocated for each municipal unit for Festival and Events funding. This will be administered by ECBC. Rick Beaton indicated that there were plans for Victoria County in the works to make tourists stay for at least one extra night. A World Class Welcome Centre is also being considered for the Strait area and each municipal unit will be designated a separate area within this center to promote their municipality.

The sound stage will remain in Cape Breton and ECBC is looking into acquiring 15,000 acres of former Sysco property. They could utilize this land to promote economic development in Cape Breton.

**CHIEF FIRE OFFICERS**

Courtesy of Council was extended to representatives from the Chief Fire Officers Committee. Barry Campbell, Chief of the Ross Ferry Volunteer Fire Department, made a presentation to Council.

Mr. Campbell advised that as a result of a recent meeting of the Fire Chiefs, the following is a list of requests for Council's consideration:

1. An additional increase of \$10,000 per department for each of the 11 fire departments within the municipality.
2. \$10,000 be set aside from the training budget for a library of instructional aids for member training.
3. A minimum of \$30,000 be reintroduced to the equipment upgrade budget to enable departments to continue to upgrade their equipment and comply with OHS standards.
4. \$2,500 be budgeted to help administer the Victoria County Chief Fire Officers Committee.
5. The Municipality investigate the possibility of group purchasing of insurance on buildings, trucks, and equipment through the municipal insurance provider.
6. Investigate increasing the compensation coverage for department members through the agreement the municipality has with McCoy Insurance.

7. Request that an air compressor unit be investigated for the Boularderie Island area.

Mr. Campbell indicated that the Chief Fire Officers would like to know if all departments are filing their annual financial reports with the Municipality. As well, it has come to the attention of the Chief Fire Officers that each municipality in Nova Scotia is required to have a "Fire Act". If there is no act in effect in Victoria County, they would like the Municipal Solicitor to investigate the possibility of drafting such an act.

Discussion took place on the presentation and various questions were answered. These requests will be referred to budget talks.

The gentlemen were excused at this time.

#### **TENDER – DINGWALL WATER**

Courtesy of Council was extended to Ed Carey, P. Eng. Mr. Carey indicated that three firms were requested to submit proposals for drilling 2 wells and conducting pump testing for the Dingwall Water Utility.

The prices were as follows:

J & T Wells and Pumps Ltd. - \$23,390  
George Rudderham Well Drilling Ltd. - \$24,055  
Island Well Drillers Ltd. - \$26,800

**It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that J & T Wells and Pumps Ltd.'s proposal be accepted at a cost of \$23,390. Motion carried.**

#### **JOHN BAIN, RURAL CAPE BRETON DISTRICT PLANNING COMMISSION**

Courtesy of Council was extended to John Bain, Director, Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission.

Mr. Bain was in attendance concerning *Bill #101 – An Act to Promote and Encourage Fire Safety*. This Bill received 1<sup>st</sup> reading on April 2, 2002. One of the requirements of this Bill is the issue of fire inspections. The new Act would give municipal units one year to implement the Act and the last clause of the Act indicates that the Act comes into force when the Governor in Council declares it by proclamation.

The issue of training to enable building inspectors to conduct fire inspections was discussed. It is not known when this training will be available, although it is rumored to be in May, 2002. The training is 3 months in duration. Mr. Bain indicated that as this is the busy time for building, he cannot allow his inspectors to take the training. The best he can do is to allow the seasonal building inspector to take the training if it becomes available in May.

Mr. Bain indicated that he would keep on top of this issue as much as possible, give the state of uncertainty. It is unknown when this Act will again come before the Legislature.

Mr. Bain was extended a vote of thanks and excused at this time.

### **NEW BUSINESS/DISTRICT CONCERNS**

#### **District #1**

Councillor MacNeil indicated that Nova Scotia Power Inc.'s website [www.nspower.com](http://www.nspower.com) has a section where you can fill out a form to report a broken or burnt out streetlight.

**It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that the streetlights located at the intersection of Rt. 223/St. Columba Road and TCH 105/Exit 10 be upgraded to a 180 watt intersection light. Motion carried.**

**It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that an allocation of 4 streetlights per district for the 2002/2003 fiscal year be referred to budget talks for consideration. Motion carried.**

The URB hearings for a rate increase for NSPI will begin on Thursday, April 25, 2002. The Municipality has previously forwarded a letter to the URB opposing this increase.

Discussion took place on receiving additional tax money from NSPI for the Wreck Cove Hydro Plant .

**It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Deputy Warden Morrison, that a letter be forwarded to Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations voicing our concerns that we do not receive our fair share of taxes for the Wreck Cove Hydro Plant. Motion carried.**

#### **District #4**

Councillor MacInnes indicated that he was approached by residents in the Port Bevis/South Haven area of his district concerning the controlled access highway in this area and that it prevents anyone from establishing a business in this area.

**It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Transportation and Public Works on behalf of the residents of the Port Bevis/South Haven areas requesting that the controlled access highway designation be removed from this area. Motion carried.**

**District #3**

Deputy Warden Morrison advised that NSPI have recently given lay off notices to 2 linemen in the Baddeck area – one with 28 years of service and another with 19 years of service.

Warden Sampson advised that Dan Muldoon and Alan Sullivan from NSPI will be in attendance at Council on Monday, May 6, 2002, at 6:15 p.m. and concerns can be addressed to them at that time.

**District #6**

Councillor Barron indicated that the property agreement has been settled for the Ingonish Beach Water and work is now required to enable the test wells to be drilled.

**It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that approval be granted for necessary work to the Ingonish Beach property, i. e. trees cut, fill brought in and access road built, to allow the well drillers to enter the property to drill test wells for the Ingonish Beach Water. Motion carried.**

**ADJOURN**

**There being no further business, on motion of Councillor Barron, the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.**