

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

April 23, 2001

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, April 23, 2001, beginning at 5:30 p.m. with Warden Gerald Sampson in the Chair.

Present were:

District #1 – Dan E. MacNeil
District #3 – Bruce Morrison, Deputy Warden
District #4 – John G. MacInnes
District #5 – Gerald Sampson, Warden
District #6 – Lawrence Barron
District #7 – Wayne Budge

Also present were:

Brian Trask, CAO
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

Absent were:

District #2 – Shane Toms
District #8 – Robert MacLellan

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Warden Sampson called the meeting to order and presented the agenda for approval.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.

SET TIME FOR ADJOURNMENT

The time for adjournment was set at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENTATION – OYSTER FISHERY

Courtesy of Council was extended to Chris Williams, representing the Bras d'Or Lakes Eastern Relay Group, members of the Eastern Shellfish Society. A large number of representatives from this group

were also in attendance.

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Mr. Williams made a presentation to Council concerning the affect Council's resolution of March 26, 2001, regarding the contaminated relay oyster fishery, has had on the members of this group. (copy attached)

Mr. William indicated that the resolution passed by Victoria County Municipal Council is responsible for delaying the contaminated relay oyster fishery and his group is requesting Council to rescind this resolution.

Mr. Williams was questioned as to how many fishers relay oyster harvest in MacKinnon's Harbour and he advised that 11 of the 15 relay oyster harvesters fish in this harbour.

The oyster fishermen keep all records as required by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Mr. Williams indicated that all records have been passed in for the year 2000. Mr. Williams was questioned if the records were passed in for the year 1999 and he indicated that the records were available to be forwarded. Mr. Williams indicated that he, along with others; commercially harvested oyster in MacKinnon's Harbour during these years and the Department of Fisheries approved their licenses for both these years.

Mr. Williams indicated that people need jobs and there are jobs in the oyster fishery. His organization is working with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to have a sustainable industry that is regulated. 80% of all depuration oyster fishers are members of the Eastern Shellfish Society. Mr. Williams estimated that between 25 to 35% of the membership of this Society would be Victoria County residents, with the remainder being from other parts of Cape Breton.

Mr. Williams was questioned whether there was any diving activity associated with this industry by the members of this organization and he advised that neither he nor any members have ever dove for oysters.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that the contaminated relay fishery depends on fecal contamination in the lakes and if the contamination in the lakes decreases, then this fishery will decline. If further pollution occurs, the fishery will increase.

Further discussion took place and it was felt a meeting with Department of Fisheries and Oceans representatives would be beneficial.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Deputy Warden Morrison, that representatives from

the Department of Fisheries and Oceans be requested to come to Council and representatives from both the Eastern Shellfish Society and the Nova Scotia Oyster Growers Association be in attendance to discuss the oyster fishery in the Bras d'Or Lakes. Motion carried.

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Mr. Williams indicated that every fisherman in attendance at this meeting is losing \$1,000 per day on average for every day they are not fishing and they would like to see Council rescind their resolution, so they can get back to work.

Councillor MacInnes made a motion of rescind the March 26, 2001, resolution regarding the oyster fishery and to take no further action until after the meeting with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. There was no seconder for the motion, therefore; the motion died.

Warden Sampson advised that as soon as the meeting is set with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, he would notify Mel Grover of the time and date.

RCMP UPDATE

Courtesy of Council was extended to Sgt. Hoss MacKenzie who provided Council with an update on policing under the jurisdiction of the Baddeck Detachment.

Sgt. MacKenzie indicated that the Community Policing Officer is now in place and living in the Boularderie area. One of the member's duties will be to look after the Community Policing Office located in the Boularderie School. This office will be officially opening in early May.

The Highway Patrol complement will be increasing and as a result an expansion is being undertaken to the detachment building. An additional full-time clerical person will also be coming to the Detachment, increasing the clerical complement to two. One member will be leaving in early May to join the RCMP Musical Ride and his replacement will be coming in mid-May. The Baddeck Detachment will also be getting a brand new Slate 722 zodiac type boat for patrolling the lakes.

The Baddeck Detachment has also been selected as a training detachment and they will be training a student recruit from Holland College for the months of June-September.

Sgt. MacKenzie advised on the Wayne Gretzy Celebrity Golf Tournament to be held at Bell Bay Golf Club from June 30-July 3, 2001. Policing presence will increase during this time and parking is expected to be the major problem the RCMP will have to deal with.

Councillor Barron mentioned that the CBH National Park Wardens will no longer be doing enforcement, which will mean an increase in work for the Ingonish Beach Detachment. It was felt it would be appropriate to have Sgt. Pembroke from the Ingonish Beach Detachment come to Council to discuss this

issue.

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A vote of thanks was extended to Sgt. MacKenzie and he was excused at this time.

MINUTES

The minutes of the April 9, 2001, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

An amendment is required to the following:

Page 6 – District Concerns – District #1

Remove the words “oyster meeting” and insert “MacKinnon Harbour Watershed”.

It was moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Deputy Warden Morrison, that the minutes of the April 9, 2001, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council be approved as amended. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

- No date has been set for the Regional Meeting of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities as yet.
- A letter was forwarded to Mark Eyking, MP, acknowledging receipt of his letter regarding Josie’s Lane, Dingwall.
- The annual maintenance cost for the air compressors approved for the Chief Fire Officers in the amount of \$2,350.32 has been referred to budget.
- The certificates of recognition have been prepared for Charlie Cook and Philip MacRae.
- Letters were prepared and forwarded concerning the Middle River Bridge and ambulance service for northern Victoria.
- Brian Trask advised that he has obtained an application for membership in “The Council of Nova Scotia Archives” at a cost of \$35 per year. This application will be submitted.
- Bill Clancey’s office, Department of Justice, advised that they will notify the Municipality within the week on an appropriate date to meet concerning the Ingonish Court Sitings.

CORRESPONDENCE

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1. Correspondence from Park Donham attaching a e-mail from the Department of Transportation and Public Works advising that when work commences on the Seal Island Bridge, the bridge will be open to one lane traffic at all times.
2. Memorandum from the Mayor Anna Allen, President of the UNSM, advising that the UNSM Executive is committed to equalization and is committed to those communities who were advised they would financially benefit from the Province's package realizing these benefits.
3. Letter from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries acknowledging receipt of Council's support for the mussel aquaculture project.
4. Invitation from the Stewards of St. Ann's Harbour to a public information conference at the Gaelic College, St. Ann's on Monday, April 30, 2001, from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m.
5. Letter from the Victoria North Branch Library requesting a new chair.

Brian Trask advised that the County originally provided office furniture for the library. He recommended the purchase of a new chair for the library and Council concurred.

6. Correspondence from Laurie Sutor, Department of the Environment, congratulating Council on the excellent leadership shown in developing a plan for solutions to sewage issues in the Bras d'Or Lakes.

RECESS

Warden Sampson announced that Council would recess for 10 minutes.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Technical Regional Solid Waste

Brian Trask reported on the Technical Regional Solid Waste meeting held on April 17, 2001.

A survey of the solid waste collected in the Municipality will be conducted within the next couple of weeks and again in the summer months to determine the volume of solid waste collected in Victoria County.

Mr. Trask advised that an advertisement will be placed in the paper notifying that prior to obtaining tender documents for solid waste collection, interested parties must provide proof that they have proper and current certificates. The Municipality will also be doing a shadow bid on the solid waste collection contract.

It was requested that the topic of heavy garbage collection be brought before the next Regional Solid Waste meeting.

An advertisement is to be placed in the paper advising that the Municipality no longer collects organic materials and that green bags will be checked randomly to ensure that this material is not being placed in with the regular solid waste.

Church Cross Bridge, Middle River

Warden Sampson reported on the community meeting held in Middle River concerning the Church Cross Bridge. There were approximately 130 people in attendance and a committee was formed to deal with this issue. Chuck Thompson was appointed Chair of the Committee. A follow up meeting will be held on May 2, 2001.

Department of Transportation – Ingonish Wells

Brian Trask reported on a meeting held with representatives from the Department of Transportation and Public Works – Bruce Fitzner, Charlie MacDonald and Bruce Langille, concerning the salt contaminated wells in Ingonish Beach. Councillor Barron, Ed Carey and Mr. Trask attended representing the Municipality.

There are 12 open files on salt contaminated wells in Ingonish Beach, and a reserve for 18 potential claims.

The DOT representatives were questioned as to whether the Department would put any capital funding into a water system if installed in the Ingonish Beach area and they indicated it was possible, if the County would take over all claims for the infected wells.

Councillor Barron indicated that an engineering and feasibility study for a central water system for the Ingonish Beach, Ingonish Harbour and the Cape Breton Highlands National Park is required to determine the costs of a system.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that Ed Carey, Carey

Geoenvironmental Engineering, be requested to provide the Municipality with an estimate of the cost of an engineering and feasibility study for a central water supply system for Ingonish Beach and Harbour and including the Cape Breton Highlands National Park. Motion carried.

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DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #4

Councillor MacInnes presented a request for financial assistance for the “Vial of Life” program.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Budge, that this request be referred to the Corporate Services Committee for budget discussions. Motion carried.

Councillor MacInnes brought up the matter of purchasing tickets to show the Municipality’s support for the Wayne Gretzy Celebrity Golf Tournament.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Deputy Warden Morrison, that two tickets per district be purchased for the Wayne Gretzy Celebrity Golf Tournament. Motion carried.

District #3

It was moved by Deputy Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that \$115 be approved for the Atlantic Hockey Group and \$100 for the Victoria County 4-H Council from the District #3 budget. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Morrison requested that a letter be forwarded to the Honourable Angus MacIsaac, Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, questioning on when an announcement can be expected regarding the Infrastructure Program approvals.

District #1

Councillor MacNeil indicated that he would provide Council with copies of the two meetings held concerning the MacKinnon Harbour Watershed.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Deputy Warden Morrison, that \$200 be approved for the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 124, Iona, from the District #1 budget. Motion carried.

District #7

Councillor Budge brought up the matter of repairing the two covers for the Neil's Harbour/New Haven Water System that were torn by the Department of Transportation snowplough over the winter.

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It was moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that Terry Hogan, Neil's Harbour/New Haven Water System Maintenance Man, undertake the necessary repairs and provide the Municipality with the costs associated with the repair so an invoice can be forwarded to the Department of Transportation. Motion carried.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Nova Scotia Association of Police Boards – To be held in Coldbrook, Nova Scotia, on May 4 and 5, 2001.

- Non-Resident Land Ownership Community Meeting – To be held on Tuesday, May 15, 2001, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Greenwood United Church, Lower Hall, Twining Street, Baddeck.

- Cape Breton Regional Solid Waste Meeting – To be held in Arichat on May 8, 2001.

- Also required in the near future:

- By-Law/Policy Review

- Environmental/Solid Waste Committee

- Corporate Services Committee for budget discussions

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Councillor Barron, the meeting adjourned to In Camera at 7:45 p.m.