

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
April 28, 2003

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, April 28, 2003, 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
District #4 – John Graham MacInnes, Deputy Warden
District #5 – Gerald Sampson, Warden
District #6 – Lawrence Barron
District #7 – Wayne Budge
District #8 – Robert MacLellan

Also present were:

Sandy Hudson, 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.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that the agenda and time for adjournment be approved as presented. Motion carried.

RCMP PRESENTATION

Courtesy of Council was extended to Sgt. Mark Furey, Unit Commander, Baddeck Detachment, RCMP. In attendance along with Sgt. Furey was Corporal Scott Williamson.

Sgt. Furey advised that he has been in his current position as Unit Commander of the Baddeck Detachment for the past three months. He is a 22-year member of the RCMP having served his entire career in Nova Scotia. He outlined the various capacities he has worked in over these years. His most recent posting, prior to him coming to Baddeck, was in Lunenburg County.

Sgt. Furey indicated that in the three months he has been in his new position, he has made a number of observations that he would like to bring to the attention of Council.

He identified four primary areas of responsibility.

1. The Village of Baddeck – Tourist traffic and parking are areas that require attention.
2. Boularderie area (Community Policing Officer) – focus attention on youth population and programs.
3. Rural Victoria County – Spread out over a vast distance – response to calls for service is delayed by distance required to travel.
4. Wagmatcook First Nations – a growing community for 600 plus residents. Wagmatcook First Nations presently pays for two (2) FTE positions that are frequently used for general policing needs throughout the County.

Sgt. Furey advised that the establishment of human resources at the Baddeck Detachment has recently changed effective April 1, 2003. The Detachment has been reduced by one FTE (full-time equivalent). This change has come as a result of the county policing model that has occurred in both Antigonish and Inverness Counties.

Sgt. Furey indicated that there has been a steady increase in the workload within the Detachment. In 2002 there were 1933 calls for service as opposed to 1568 in 1998. Each of these calls requires some form of police action. He outlined the case burden for members of the Detachment.

The staffing issue within the Baddeck Detachment was discussed. Sgt. Furey indicated that the most important issue is to address the reduction of the one FTE within the Detachment. This resource would assist in maintaining and managing the existing case burden. The cost involved is \$91,000.

He also brought up the need to address an additional position to enhance community based programs and initiatives. He is proposing that this position be 50% community based policing initiatives and 50% time to operational duties.

Sgt. Furey addressed the County Policing Model. He indicated that many areas in the province have combined policing services within individual County boundaries. As previously mentioned, the development of the County Policing Models in Antigonish and Inverness Counties has precipitated in the reduction to the Baddeck Detachment. He indicated that a County Policing Model is an option that the Municipality may wish to consider.

In the past number of years the RCMP have been involved in a number of Policing Services Reviews and in each and every case a Roles and Responsibilities Document has been developed. This document lays out the joint objectives and goals for the RCMP and the community. Such a document could be developed for Victoria County and could be used as a tool to further enhance the communication and service delivery within Victoria County.

A general discussion was held where each Council member expressed their opinion on the requests received from Sgt. Furey. Council indicated that they felt it was important to retain the existing resources at the Baddeck Detachment. Discussion took place on the community policing officer position as to whether this could be a shared position between the two detachments in the Municipality.

Some concern was expressed on a County Policing Model where there could be the possibility of having one commander for the entire County with two working Corporals in each detachment. The Council Members North of Smokey felt this area was unique and the Ingonish Beach Detachment requires a Sergeant who knows what is happening in the area. This topic would require more information and discussion.

A general discussion took place on policing in the various districts and Council members asked questions and expressed their concerns to Sgt. Furey.

It was the general consensus that the existing complement at the Baddeck Detachment be maintained and Council indicated that they would discuss further the community policing officer position.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that the request of \$91,000.00 to retain the existing resources at the Baddeck RCMP Detachment be referred to budget talks. Motion carried.

Sgt. Furey was questioned as to when he would need an answer on Council's decision regarding the funding. He indicated that the time line for any staff resources is May 26 of each fiscal year, so he would need to know Council's decision in this regard by mid-May.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the March 24, 2003, Council Session were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor Toms, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the minutes of the March 24, 2003, Council Session be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Ambulance Service – North of Smokey

Councillor Budge questioned whether a reply had been received to Council's letter of concern regarding the current ambulance service North of Smokey. Sandy Hudson advised that to date a reply has not been received.

It was moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Councillor Barron, that a letter be faxed to the Honourable Jane Purves, Minister of Health, expressing concern on the ambulance service North of Smokey and requesting that two ambulances be stationed North of Smokey to adequately cover the area. Motion carried.

Spring Weight Restriction

The request to remove the spring weight restriction on the Old Margaree Road has been referred to the Technical Services Division of the Department of Transportation and Public Works.

Police Act

A letter is to be forwarded to the UNSM advising of Council's concerns with regard to the *Police Act*.

UNSM Spring Workshop

Along with Warden Sampson, Councillor Morrison and Deputy Warden MacInnes, expressed an interest in attending the UNSM Spring Workshop to be held at the Keltic Lodge, Ingonish, May 15-16, 2003.

Cabot Trail Relay

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Toms, that \$5,000.00 for the 2004 Cabot Trail Relay be referred to the 2003/2004 budget for approval. Motion carried.

Seismic Testing

Councillor MacInnes felt that the Municipality should take a proactive role in opposing seismic testing in 4-VN (Sydney Byte).

It was moved by Deputy Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that an open letter be forwarded to the Provincial and Federal Ministers of Fisheries stating our opposition and reasons for our opposition to the seismic testing in 4-VN (Sydney Byte). Motion carried.

A copy of this letter is to be forwarded to the Fishermen's Association, Honourable Cecil Clarke, Councillor MacLellan and Jim Morrow.

APPOINTMENT OF FIRE INSPECTOR

A letter was received from John Bain, Director, Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission, requesting Council to appoint Leon Le Blanc as a Fire Inspector for the Municipality of the County of Victoria.

Warden Sampson expressed some concerns on this matter and it is to be referred to the In Camera portion of the meeting for discussion.

SALE OF LOT – NEW HAVEN

It was moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that Lot #16 – New Haven be sold to Adam Troy Smith and Starr Lynn Gouthro. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

District #1

Councillor MacNeil provided Council with information regarding the status of the new school to be built in Iona. The school was to be ready for opening in September, 2004, however, it now appears that there is a delay. The School Board has written a letter to the Minister of Education requesting that the timetable for completion of the school for September, 2004, be maintained.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Toms, that Council forward a letter to the Honourable Angus MacIsaac, Minister of Education, with a copy to the Minister of Finance, requesting that the original timetable for the completion of the new school in Iona of September, 2004, be honoured. Motion carried.

District #3

Councillor Morrison questioned on whether any of the Village streets are included on the Department of Transportation's priority list for paving.

Sandy Hudson advised that he met with Charlie MacDonald, Department of Transportation, and Village representatives last week and there are plans for upgrading of MacLeod Street, Grant Street, a portion of Water Street and a portion of the Old Margaree Road.

District #4

Deputy Warden MacInnes brought up the matter of the upgrading of the Baddeck Soccer Field. A request was received for financial assistance to assist in this upgrading.

Sandy Hudson advised that Ed Carey provided a report on the costs of upgrading the field in the amount of \$26,000.00.

Councillor Morrison advised that ditching will be done around this area in conjunction with the contract for the Baddeck Sewer Treatment Plant.

There is funding through the Nova Scotia Sport and Recreation Commission for such projects and it was felt that the School Board and Village should be included in a meeting to discuss this matter. It was felt that the Soccer group itself should be the leader for this project.

Deputy Warden MacInnes will advise the group on how to proceed in this matter.

District #6

Councillor Barron updated Council on the Ingonish Harbour Barrier Beach project. The Municipality acted as the lead agency on this project and a meeting was held recently with representatives from Small Craft Harbours, Mark Eyking – MP, area fishermen and County representatives with the outcome being a commitment to undertake this project. This project will be tendered in late summer/early fall of this year.

District #8

Councillor MacLellan has received inquiries from individuals interested in purchasing the former Dingwall School property.

As this property is located adjacent to the Dingwall Water storage tower, it was felt it would be in the County's best interests to retain this property.

District #5

Warden Sampson advised that he received a call from a resident who was fearful of SARS being brought to the area from residents traveling to Ontario. He contacted the Cape Breton District Health Authority who allayed his fears as they have policies and procedures in place to deal with this situation.

Warden Sampson indicated that he would like to conduct a heavy garbage cleanup in his district as was done last year. This clean up can be done by any Councillor wishing to do so from their district budget funds.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from Charlie MacDonald, P. Eng., Department of Transportation and Public Works, advising the following:
 - The Department has identified sections of the Cabot Trail for repaving and these sections along with other roads in Victoria County have been placed on a priority list.
 - The District Supervisor will investigate the extension of the 50 km/hr speed zone on Route 205 (Bay Road).
 - The District Supervisor has been in contact with Tim Hortons and they have advised that they will be installing pavement markings to help control the traffic exiting the Irving/Tim Hortons property.
 - The Technical Services Division has been asked to review the request for the removal of the spring weight restrictions on the Old Margaree Road.
 - Mr. MacDonald is prepared to meet to discuss the Department's involvement in accessing monies under the Cape Breton Growth Fund to start the upgrading of the Cabot Trail.

Mr. Hudson advised that there is the possibility of funding major infrastructure programs under the Cape Breton Growth Fund and he suggested that a Committee be struck with representatives from the Cape Breton Growth Fund, Municipalities of Inverness and Victoria, Department of Transportation and Public Works, Parks Canada, etc. to work on plan for combining monies and accessing Growth Fund money to upgrade the Cabot Trail.

It was moved by Deputy Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that a letter be forwarded to the Municipality of the County of Inverness requesting they become involved in a Committee to discuss a plan on the upgrading of the Cabot Trail. Motion carried.

2. Letters acknowledging receipt of Council's letter of support for Bounty Bay Mussel Farm were received from the Honourable Robert Thibault, Federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, and the Honourable Gordon Balsler, Provincial Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.
3. Request from the Hepatitis Outreach Society to proclaim May 1 as "Hepatitis C Awareness Day" in the Municipality of the County of Victoria.

It was moved by Deputy Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that May 1 be proclaimed "Hepatitis C Awareness Day" in the Municipality of the County of Victoria. Motion carried.

TAX EXEMPTION

Mr. Hudson advised that a letter was received from the Ingonish Development Society looking for relief from their taxes.

The tax exemption issue with regard to community halls, etc. will be discussed at the May session of Council.

IN CAMERA

The meeting then moved In Camera.

REGULAR SESSION

Council returned to the regular session.

GRANT THORNTON REPORT

It was moved by Deputy Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Barron, that the Internal Controls Review Report submitted by Grant Thornton be accepted and administration proceed to implement as many of the recommendations contained in the report as possible. Motion carried.

BADDECK LANDFILL

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Toms, that the Baddeck Landfill operation become a 7-day per week operation on a trial basis from the period mid-May until the fall. Motion carried with Councillor MacLellan casting a dissenting vote.

APPOINTMENT OF FIRE INSPECTOR

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Toms, that the CAO, Warden and Councillor Morrison meet with John Bain, Director of the Rural Cape Breton Planning Commission, to discuss the appointment of a Fire Inspector. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Councillor Barron, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Gerald Sampson, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO

