

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
May 1, 2000

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held in the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, May 1, 2000, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Present were:

District #1 - Gerald Yetman, Deputy Warden
District #2 - Shane Toms (Late Arrival)
District #3 - Bruce Morrison
District #4 - John Graham MacInnes, Warden
District #5 - Gerald Sampson
District #6 - Lawrence Barron
District #7 - David Donovan
District #8 - Robert MacLellan

Also present were:

Brian Trask, CAO
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Warden Yetman called the meeting to order.

IN CAMERA

Council then moved In Camera to deal with a confidential matter.

Council then returned to regular session.

AGENDA

The agenda was presented for approval. The following items are to be added to the agenda:
Report from Keith Bain, School Board Member
Recommendation of the Victoria County Community Economic Development Committee

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that the agenda be accepted with the noted additions. Motion carried.

CHIEF OFFICERS COMMITTEE

Courtesy of Council was extended to representatives of the Chief Officers Committee - Keith Bain, Charlie Cook and Gary Stockley.

Keith Bain, spokesman for the Chief Officers, indicated that since last meeting with Council, an evaluation of all fire departments was conducted by Ev Andrews, Retired Fire Chief. Mr. Andrews conducted a thorough investigation of each department, and as a result the minimum requirements to bring all departments and substations to the minimum standards are as follows:

- 1. 1 ½ “ hose - 13,000 feet @ \$88.00/50’ length
 260 lengths @ \$88.00 per length \$22,880.00
- 2. Level 1 Firefighting Certificate
 234 firefighters @ \$250 minimum/man \$58,500.00
- 3. Positive Pressure SCBA’s
 30 @ \$3,000 (MicMac Fire & Safety) \$90,000.00
- 4. Bunker Suits
 109 @ \$800 \$87,200.00
- TOTAL \$258,580.00

Mr. Bain indicated that at their meeting, the Fire Chiefs made it clear that this money should be in the form of a special grant, as they did not want their annual operating grants affected. Gary Stockley indicated that any money the County would grant towards these purchases, should be forwarded and done through the Chief Officers Association.

It was moved by Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Barron, that the fire departments’ request be forwarded to budget talks for consideration. Motion carried.

Keith Bain presented a bill received from Ev Andrews for his services in conducting the evaluation.

KEITH BAIN, CAPE BRETON-VICTORIA DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Courtesy of Council was extended to Keith Bain, Victoria County Representative, Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board.

Mr. Bain indicated that the Minister of Education has stated that there are to be no teacher layoffs. The Superintendents of the School Boards throughout

Nova Scotia will be meeting with Department of Education representatives on Wednesday, May 3, 2000.

Mr. Bain presented Council with information received by the School Board on Friday past on new school construction budgets. The Department of Education personnel were asked to recover \$6,000,000 from P3 and new school construction projects throughout the province. The only place they saw where cuts were possible was in the FFE&T (furniture, fixture, equipment, and technology). They came up with two strategies:

Cut FFE&T from uncompleted projects (For our Board -Harbourside, Greenfield, Riverside and Boularderie) - \$4,000,000 cost recovery

Cut FFE&T from uncompleted and completed projects. (For our Board - Harbourside, Greenfield, Riverside, Boularderie, Jubilee, Cape Smokey and North Highlands) - \$6,000,000 cost recovery

No final decision has been made and it is still at the study stage. The Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board have taken the stand that none of this equipment or furniture be cut from any of the projects within their jurisdiction and are asking for support from individuals and Councils to slow down or stop this process.

It was moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that a letter be forwarded to Premier John Hamm, with copies to the Honourable Jane Purvis, Minister of Education; Leaders of the NDP and Liberal Party; Kenzie MacAskill, MLA; and the Provincial Cabinet, voicing Victoria County Municipal Council's opposition to any cuts in furniture, fixture, equipment and technology in the P3 and new school construction projects. Motion carried.

MINUTES

The following minutes were presented for approval:

Victoria County Municipal Council - March 6, 2000 and April 17, 2000

Environmental/Solid Waste Committee- March 13, 2000 and March 27, 2000

Committee of the Whole - March 27, 2000

It was moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that the minutes be approved as circulated. Motion carried.

The minutes of the Environmental/Solid Waste Committee held earlier today are to be reviewed prior to approval.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Victoria County Community Economic Development Committee

Councillor Sampson indicated that the Victoria County Community Economic Development Committee met earlier this afternoon and they passed a recommendation to support the proposed mussel farm in St. Ann's Bay.

It was moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that Victoria County Municipal Council go on record as supporting Bounty Bay Fisheries Inc., in association with 5M Aqua Farms Ltd., in their application to obtain water leases to develop mussel farm sites in St. Ann's Bay. Motion carried unanimously.

A copy of the letter of support is to be forwarded to Alan Chandler, Department of Fisheries; Harold Montgomery; and the Strait-Highlands Regional Development Agency.

Ruth Schneider & Associates is presently drafting a strategic plan for Victoria County and the CED Committee addressed some concerns at their afternoon meeting.

It was moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that Victoria County Municipal Council continue to support Ruth Schneider & Associates in drafting the strategic plan for Victoria County and a rough draft of the plan be presented on May 12, 2000. Motion carried.

Environmental/Solid Waste Committee

Brian Trask advised that estimates were received for the construction and insulation of a ceiling in the Baddeck Enviro-Depot and the Neil's Harbour Enviro-Depot. The estimate for Baddeck was \$8,178.92 and for Neil's Harbour was \$3,456.88. The ceilings are necessary as condensation is ruining the cardboard.

It was moved by Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the estimates for the ceiling construction and insulation at the Baddeck Enviro-Depot and Neil's Harbour Enviro-Depot be approved. Motion carried.

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The proposals for the collection of residential solid waste will be received until 2:00 p.m. on Friday, May 5, 2000. The proposals will be opened by Chairman Bruce Morrison and the CAO at that time.

Interviews will also be conducted that day for the full-time landfill attendant position at the Baddeck Landfill.

It was moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Warden MacInnes, that approval be granted for the Baddeck Landfill Operator/Manager or his designate to attend the Master Composter's Training Course. Motion carried.

A meeting was held with Wagmatcook First Nation representatives regarding their waste disposal and an agreement has been forwarded to Solicitor Pickup for review.

2000 Municipal and School Board Election

Jennifer Westhaver has been hired as the Returning Officer for the October 21, 2000, Municipal and School Board elections. Brian Trask advised on the amount the Returning Officer will be paid, as well as other positions involved with the election. The rates paid during the 1997 election were as follows:

Returning Officer	\$6,500 plus expenses
Clerical Assistance	\$600
Enumerator	\$60 plus 50 cents per name
Deputy Returning Officer	\$85
Poll Clerks	\$75
Constables	\$60

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that the rates for the 2000 Municipal and School Board elections be the same as the rates paid in 1997. Motion carried.

Schools

The Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board will be returning four elementary schools North of Smokey back to the County. Expressions of interest were invited from organizations in the area for use of the schools and a decision will have to be made on how to proceed.

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It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Warden MacInnes, that a committee comprised of the 3 Councillors North of Smokey and the Warden be set up to review the submissions and bring a recommendation to Council. Motion carried.

Baddeck Sewer Meeting

A meeting has been set for May 9, 2000, at 10:00 a.m. regarding the Baddeck Sewer Agreement. Councillors Morrison and Toms, Village Commissioners Eddie Keeling and Jim Ryan, along with the Solicitor and CAO will attend this meeting.

Ewen MacLean - Water Supply

Councillor Toms advised that Ewen MacLean and his children, Blaine MacLean and Andrea MacEachern, were in attendance concerning their water supply.

Courtesy of the meeting was extended to Blaine MacLean who advised Council on the seriousness of the situation. He distributed a jar of the water to Council for them to view and smell. Mr. MacLean indicated that they feel that the problem with the water supply is a result of their close proximity to the Baddeck Landfill. The MacLean's water supply used to be excellent.

Testing done recently indicated that the problem with the water would not have occurred naturally, leading them to further believe that the landfill has caused this problem.

A letter was received from Sampson MacDougall concerning this matter. Council had previously agreed to pay \$3,000 towards a new well. The family does not feel this amount is adequate.

The MacLean's indicated that there is a location where they feel they should obtain good water.

It was moved by Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Sampson, that two estimates be received from well drillers and when received they be reviewed and further discussion be held with the MacLean family in consultation with our solicitor. Motion carried.

BREAK

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Deputy Warden Yetman advised that Council would recess for 10 minutes.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from D.L. Bishop, A/Commissioner, RCMP, "H" Division, advising that Council's correspondence regarding the "K-9" Unit has been referred to Superintendent Tom Bennett, District Manager, and Inspector Darrell LaFosse, Officer in Charge of the Cape Breton Detachment for review and response.
2. Letter from Charles MacDonald, P. Eng., Department of Transportation, in response to Council's

letter of March 28, 2000.

3. Correspondence from the Senior Accommodations Council regarding inadequate housing for seniors and requesting time on an upcoming Council agenda.

It was moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Warden MacInnes, that the Senior Accommodations Council be invited to attend the next Council meeting. Motion carried.

4. Information from Nova Scotia Sport & Recreation regarding the community use of schools.

5. Letter from Warden Richie Cotton providing a summary of the meeting of rural municipal units.

6. Letter from the Community Learning Association North of Smokey requesting financial support in the amount of \$1,500 (5 months rent @ \$300).

This matter is to be referred to budget talks.

7. Correspondence from the Cape Breton District Labour Council requesting Council's support by way of resolution to have the UI (EI) Act reviewed.

It was moved by Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Sampson, that the Unemployment Insurance Resolution be adopted and copies forwarded the Peter Mancini, MP, Sydney-Victoria; Prime Minister Jean Chretien; the Human Resources Development Minister; the Minister of Finance; Premier John Hamm; and the Leaders of the opposition parties in Parliament. Motion carried.

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8. Letter from the Department of Transportation and Public Works regarding Council's request to have "snowmobile crossing" signs erected near Roper's Bridge at Ingonish. They will check the stopping site distance to see if there is a minimum stopping site distance of 150 meters.

9. Correspondence from the Department of the Environment advising that the Department will be conducting compliance audits at disposal facilities to ensure that banned materials are not being disposed.

10. Letter from Yvon LeFort, P. Eng., Nova Scotia Power Inc., advising that the Aberdeen Substation does have adequate capacity to supply not only LNG's present load, but also have potential for the load to double.

11. Copy of a letter from the Honourable Ralph Goodale to Peter Mancini, MP, in reply to Mr.

Mancini's letters concerning a resolution of Victoria County Municipal Council with respect to Devco and correspondence concerning the human resources package to be provided to employees of Devco.

12. Letter from Jack MacLeod, Ski Cape Smokey Society, providing an update on the status of Ski Cape Smokey Society and requesting an operating grant from the Municipality in the amount of \$25,000.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor Sampson, that this matter be referred to budget talks and Mr. MacLeod be requested to make a presentation to Council. Motion carried.

STRAIT-HIGHLANDS REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

A copy of the letter of support for Bounty Bay Fisheries Inc.'s lease application is to be forwarded to the Strait-Highlands Regional Development Agency.

When the letter of support is written it is important to include that Council's support is for approval of the entire lease application, as any approval for less than the full lease would not provide the volume necessary for the establishment of a processing plant. The newspapers are to be advised of Council's support for this project.

Council expressed concern that on two occasions, Jeremy Frith, Chairman of the RDA, stood up at a meeting and introduced himself as Chairman of the RDA and then continued to voice his concerns against the lease application.

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It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Warden MacInnes, that a letter be forwarded to the Strait-Highlands Regional Development Agency thanking them for initiating the information session in conjunction with the mussel lease application and requesting that they caution their chairman that when offering his opinion as an individual, he not identify himself as representing the RDA or make it appear that his opinion is the stand of the RDA. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor Sampson, that Council revoke Jeremy Frith's appointments as a representative on the Strait-Highlands Regional Development Agency Board due to his stand against economic development in Victoria County.

Those voting in favour of the motion were Councillors Barron, Sampson and MacLellan.

Those voting against the motion were Warden MacInnes, Deputy Warden Yetman, and Councillors Toms, Morrison and Donovan.

Motion defeated.

DINGWALL WATER UTILITY

Brian Trask advised that the Municipality has obtained permission from the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board and the Department of Housing and Municipal Affairs, to use depreciation funds to pay of the debenture for the Dingwall Water Utility.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that Council approve the use of surplus depreciation funds to pay of the Dingwall Water Utility debenture. Motion carried.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #3

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Toms, that \$200 be approved for Knox Presbyterian Church from the District #3 budget. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Warden MacInnes, that a letter be forwarded to the Premier and Minister of

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Transportation voicing Council's opposition to any privatization of Department of Transportation garages in Victoria County. Motion carried.

A copy of this letter is to be forwarded to Gareth Drinnan, Department of Transportation.

District #5

Councillor Sampson brought a complaint concerning a dog that runs at large in his district. He felt that there should be a dog controller located in the southern end of the County to handle the dog problems encountered in the area.

It was moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Warden MacInnes, that the possibility of a second dog controller position for southern Victoria be referred to budget talks. Motion carried.

Councillor Sampson presented Council with a report on the Nova Scotia Environmental Industry Association Conference he, along with Councillor Morrison and Jim MacLean, attended in Halifax last week.

District #7

Councillor Donovan brought up the matter of installing power to the lots located on the White Point Road that the County have sold and have for sale. The cost quoted by NSPI to install the power is \$22,000 and Councillor Donovan indicated that these costs could be recouped as the lots are sold. The NSPI will require a 40 easement through the properties.

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that this matter be referred to budget talks for consideration. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor Sampson, that a letter be forwarded to Charlie MacDonald, Department of Transportation, with a copy to Bruce Fitzner, expressing concern on the erosion of the shoulders of the road in District #7 and requesting that the areas be cribbed and reworked and guardrails be installed. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor Sampson, that the June Council Session be held in Neil's Harbour. Motion carried.

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District #8

Councillor MacLellan indicated that two cheques approved for the Bay St. Lawrence Volunteer Fire Department from the District #7 and #8 budget in the amount of \$200 have not as yet been received. The Accounting Department will be contacted regarding same.

A bill for fuel at the Cape North Transfer Station will be coming to the County in the near future.

District #1

Deputy Warden Yetman questioned on the status of the Outreach Worker position for Victoria County. This position is now under the Eastern Regional Health Board and will be advertised shortly. Nancy MacKeigan has accepted a position with the Children's Aid Society in North Sydney.

Gordon MacAulay Sr. will be honored at a supper on May 6, 2000, and it was felt that a Certificate of Recognition should be presented from the Municipality.

Deputy Warden Yetman indicated that recognition should be provided to Dolly Ryan for her services to Environment Canada in taking the temperature twice daily for 38 years.

It was moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that a Certificate of Recognition be awarded to Dolly Ryan from the Municipality. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Yetman indicated that the Honourable David Collenette, Minister of Transportation, has announced \$40 million in funding and the possibility of the restoration of the railway between Halifax and Sydney.

It was moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Warden MacInnes, that a letter of support for the restoration of the railway between Halifax and Sydney be provided to the Honourable David Collenette, Minister of Transportation. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Yetman expressed concern over the recent announcement that Newfoundland is seeking all the Marine Atlantic jobs. He felt that these jobs should remain in North Sydney.

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It was moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Barron, that the Marine Atlantic jobs presently located in North Sydney, remain in North Sydney and not be transferred to Newfoundland. Motion carried.

REGIONAL UNSM MEETING

The Regional Meeting of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities will be held in Mabou, Inverness County, on Wednesday, May 17, 2000, at 10:30 a.m. Council are to advise if they are attending so we can let Inverness County know by May 5, 2000.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Council will be held on Tuesday, May 23, 2000, at 5:00 p.m. Phil MacDonald, SHRDA, is to be on the meeting agenda.

ENVIRONMENTAL/SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE

At the Environmental/Solid Waste meeting held earlier today a recommendation was made that approval be granted to cover the required top up costs to hire an individual at the Baddeck Landfill to undertake a clean up of the site through the Job Developer and the Bay St. Lawrence Volunteer Fire Department be reimbursed for any money expended in a similar work agreements completed at the Cape North Transfer Station.

It was moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Warden MacInnes, that this recommendation be approved. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, it was moved by Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Sampson, that the meeting adjourn.

John G. MacInnes, Warden

B. E. Trask, CAO