

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
May 17, 2004

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, May 17, 2004, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Warden Wayne Budge 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 – Fraser Patterson
District #6 – Lawrence Barron
District #7 – Wayne Budge, Warden
District #8 – Robert MacLellan

Also present were:

Sandy Hudson, CAO
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Budge called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/TIME TO ADJOURN

The agenda was presented for approval and Councillor Patterson requested that the topics of forestry by-laws and day care taxation be added to the agenda.

It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that the agenda be approved with the noted additions and the time to adjourn be set at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried.

MINUTES – APRIL 19, 2004

The minutes of the April 19, 2004, Council Session were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the Victoria County Council minutes of April 19, 2004, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Councillor Patterson questioned on the status of the tax bills. Sandy Hudson advised that the Tax Department is in the process of printing and mailing the tax bills.

An update was provided on the requests from the Cape Breton Regional Library Board regarding the two branch libraries in the County.

Sandy Hudson reported that he forwarded a letter to CUPE denying Roy Nicholson's grievance and he has heard nothing further since that time.

BROADBAND PRESENTATION

Courtesy of Council was extended to Tom Wilson, Director of Recreation and Tourism, and Councillor Dan E. MacNeil. The gentlemen were in attendance to update Council on the status of Broadband in Victoria County.

Mr. Wilson presented a power point presentation on this topic (copy attached) explaining the program and the Business Plan and its various phases.

Council requested a list of the communities to be covered in the first phase of the Business Plan. Mr. Wilson indicated that until signed contracts were in place, he could not provide this information. Council felt that they should be privileged to this information and requested that they be provided with the information.

Further discussion took place and Mr. Wilson left at this time.

COMMUNITY LEARNING ASSOCIATION NORTH OF SMOKEY

Warden Budge extended the courtesy of Council to Kim Stockley, Chair, and Faye Fricker, Administrator, Community Learning Association North of Smokey (CLANS).

CLANS is a community-based learning network that has been in existence since November 1999. The group is a non-profitable, charitable organization located in the North of Smokey area with a mission to sustain a learning network that will assist residents of North of Smokey to reach their full literacy potential.

Ms. Stockley distributed two documents – the first being testimonials from participants and instructors of the programs and the final report of CLANS Family Literacy Project 2003/04.

Adult upgrading and family literacy program funding is provided by the N. S. Department of Education, Community Learning Initiative and the Family Learning Initiative Endowment Fund. In the past, CLANS has received funding from HRDC and the Department of Community Services to cover the administrative costs of the program. Ms. Stockley advised that this funding is not available for the upcoming year and they are seeking other sources of funding to help cover the administrative costs.

Ms. Stockley requested that the Municipality consider a contribution of \$18,500.00 to assist CLANS with its 2004/05 operating expenses and funding in future years to 2008 in the amount of \$25,000.00.

Discussion took place on this matter and Council questioned on whether financial statements were available for review. Ms. Stockley indicated that audited financial statements were available for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2003 and prior years. The end of their current fiscal year is June 30, 2004. Council requested copies of the financial statement for review and consideration and this topic will be again addressed at the next Council Session.

It was moved by Deputy Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that upon receipt of the audited financial statements, the Council review the request and bring forward a decision at the next Council meeting. Motion carried.

The ladies thanked Council for their time and Faye Fricker distributed copies of CLANS Strategic Plan "Guiding the Way to a Brighter Future".

Warden Budge extended a vote of thanks to Ms. Stockley and Ms. Fricker and they left at this time.

"SMOKE FREE AROUND ME" PRESENTATION

Courtesy of Council was extended to Andrea Donovan, Tobacco Reduction Strategy Coordinator for the Guysborough Antigonish Strait Health Authority (GASHA) and the Cape Breton District Health Authority (CBDHA). Ms. Donovan was in attendance to make a presentation on the "Smoke Free Around Me" Program.

The "Smoke Free Around Me" Program was officially launched on April 27, 2004. The campaign is designed to raise awareness and knowledge of the dangers of second hand smoke and encourage people to make their homes smoke free.

Ms. Donovan presented each Council Member with an information package on the campaign and advised that the new website, www.smokefreearoundme.ca invites people to register their home as smoke free. People of the region can also visit the

website or call 1-800-507-9143 to learn about the benefits of a smoke free home and tips to make their home smoke free.

The campaign messages are shared through newspaper advertisements, radio spots, a television commercial, a brochure, zipper pulls, fridge magnets and window clings that encourage people to make their home smoke free. Ms. Donovan presented the various forums of media for Council's information.

The primary target market for this campaign is young parents (aged 20-44). The secondary target market is elementary students, while the tertiary market is the general public of the District # 7 and #8 Health Authorities.

Ms. Donovan encouraged all present to visit the website and register their homes as smoke free.

Warden Budge thanked Ms. Donovan for her informative report and she in turn thanked Council for their time.

RECESS

Warden Budge advised that Council would recess for 10 minutes.

BAY ST. LAWRENCE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Charlene MacKinnon was unable to attend tonight's meeting, however, Councillor MacLellan brought forward the request.

The Bay St. Lawrence Community Centre has agreed to provide space in the back portion of the Community Centre for a small community policing office. Sgt. Densmore, Ingonish Beach RCMP, has agreed to staff this office.

Councillor MacLellan indicated that they are requesting the Municipality cover the cost of the renovations to this office area. The installation of an outside entrance will also be required.

The cost of the renovations is unknown at this point, however, Ms. MacKinnon indicated she is awaiting cost estimates.

Sandy Hudson, CAO, will visit this site with Councillor MacLellan tomorrow to obtain further information for consideration of this request.

SMOKEY RECREATION SOCIETY

Sandy Hudson presented the lease agreement between the Municipal and the Smokey Recreational Society. The lease is for lands and interior space at the former Ingonish Beach School property for the purposes of operating an outdoor rink in the winter season, with indoor changing facilities. The lease agreement is for a duration of 10 years.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that the Warden and CAO be authorized to sign the 10-year lease agreement with the Smokey Recreational Society. Motion carried.

INTEREST RATE – TAXES

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that the interest rate on overdue taxes be decreased from 12% to 10%. Motion carried.

EMO

Sandy Hudson presented Council with an overview of the situation that occurred a couple of weeks ago as a result of the Aliant strike. Cables were cut in two areas, the result being that all communications were lost in the south of Smokey area. The situation only lasted a couple of hours, but it showed the severity of such a situation.

Mr. Hudson advised that the EMO Planning Committee had worked out a contingency plan the week prior to this event occurring.

The possibility of emergency communications through satellite phones was discussed and this matter will be referred to the next EMO meeting to be held in June.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #4

Deputy Warden MacInnes advised that he was approached by the Victoria County Historical Society with regard to the Municipality assisting them with the publication of a book.

Council felt this is not an area where they could be of assistance.

District #2

It was moved by Councillor Toms, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that a letter be forwarded to the Premier, with a copy of leaders of the opposition parties,

requesting that the decision of gas prices be reconsidered as it is a hardship on rural Nova Scotia and the fishing, agriculture and tourism industries. Motion carried.

District #1

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that a letter be forwarded to Chris Huskison, Nova Scotia Power, representing the Municipality and other interest groups (new school, aquarium project, etc.), requesting a meeting with NSP representatives to discuss the best avenue to obtain 3-phase power in the Iona area. Motion carried.

A copy of this letter is to be forwarded to Don Lohnes, Department of Education.

District #3

Councillor Morrison questioned on the status of the new lighting in the Village of Baddeck. Sandy Hudson advised that they are waiting for Sean Cox, Cornerstone Electric, to check out the existing electrical equipment.

Councillor Morrison indicated that there have been two further accidents in the Port Bevis area in the last couple of weeks. This is a dangerous area.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that a letter be forwarded to the Minister of Transportation outlining concerns over the number of accidents that have occurred in the Port Bevis area requesting that this section of highway be upgraded. Motion carried.

Councillor Morrison reported on the meeting he had with the Honourable Angus MacIsaac, Minister of Health, concerning Alderwood Rest Home.

Councillor Morrison questioned on whether a priority list for street paving within the Village had ever been received from the Department of Transportation. Nothing has been received. A discussion took place on road paving throughout the County, and in particular the Cabot Trail.

District #5

Councillor Patterson brought up the issue of taxation on commercial day care facility. There are no such facilities in Victoria County.

Councillor Patterson questioned on whether there were any forestry policies or by-laws in effect in Victoria County.

District #6

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Transportation requesting that gravel roads throughout Victoria County be graded more often – at least 4 to 5 times per year. Motion carried.

FISHERY

Discussion took place on the fishery and that fact that the profit and economy is being taken away buy big business purchasing licenses that local residents cannot afford to purchase. An individual cannot buy a license until they have two years of fishing experience. It was felt that a representative of the Coastal Communities Network should be invited to the next Council meeting to discuss this matter.

ENUMERATORS – MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

It was moved by Councillor Toms, seconded by Councillor Barron, that enumerators for the Municipal Elections received \$250.00 per enumerator. Motion carried.

ADJOURN TO IN CAMERA

It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, that Council adjourn to an In Camera meeting.

Wayne Budge, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO

