

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
May 20, 2003

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Tuesday, May 20, 2003, beginning at 5:30 p.m. with Warden Gerald Sampson in the Chair.

Present were:

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 #8 – Robert MacLellan

Also present were:

Sandy Hudson, CAO
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

Absent were:

District #1 – Dan E. MacNeil
District #7 – Wayne Budge

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Sampson called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/TIME TO ADJOURN

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that the agenda be approved as presented and the time for adjournment be set at 7:30 p.m. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the April 28, 2003, session of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Deputy Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the minutes of the April 28, 2003, Council Session be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Tax Exemptions

The topic of tax exemptions will be placed on the agenda of the next Council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

District #1

Warden Sampson advised that Councillor MacNeil is in Halifax today and he wished to advise that a meeting was held with the Department of Education today with respect to the postponement of the new Rankin Memorial School. A meeting will be held with the Honourable Angus MacIsaac, Minister of Education, within the next ten days to further discuss this issue.

Acknowledgement – Municipal Funding

It was felt that any time municipal funding is provided to organizations, there should be an acknowledgement of receipt received from the organization.

District #6

Councillor Barron questioned on the status of the Ingonish Beach School. Sandy Hudson advised that a quit claim deed has been received from the School Board for this property and the matter is in the hands of the solicitor.

Councillor Barron advised that the Smokey Recreation Society is interested in obtaining a portion of the former school property to build an outdoor community rink.

Mr. Hudson advised that nothing can be done until the property matter is resolved.

District #3

Councillor Morrison advised that the new Baddeck Sewer Treatment Plant is in operation and he will arrange a site tour of the facility in the near future if Council members are interested in touring the facility. He indicated it is well worth a visit.

He also indicated that he would like to take a couple of bacterial samples to see how effective the treatment is. Councillor Morrison will collect the samples and have the bill for bacterial analysis forwarded to the Municipality.

District #2

It was moved by Councillor Toms, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Transportation requesting that a larger, more visible “Do Not Enter – No Exit” sign, and possibly a flashing light, be erected on Shore Road, Baddeck at the intersection to TCH 105. Motion carried.

Keltic Lodge

Sandy Hudson advised that he has a meeting scheduled with Walter Laffeur, Manager of the Keltic Lodge, for tomorrow afternoon to discuss the Ingonish Water project.

District #5

It was moved by Warden Sampson, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that a letter be forwarded to the Minister of Transportation requesting that confirmation be forwarded that lighting will be installed on the Seal Island Bridge before completion of the upgrading as stated publicly by the previous Minister of Transportation. Motion carried.

Discussion took place on the location of the “Ferry Not Operating” sign location when traveling west on Highway 105. You have to turn onto Highway 312 to find out that the ferry is not operating. Council was advised that a letter has been previously forwarded on this matter and a reply has been received from Department of Transportation.

APPOINTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER AND ALTERNATE

It was moved by Deputy Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that the appointment of Wanda Ryan as Development Officer and John Bain as Alternate Development Officer be approved. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT OF FIRE INSPECTOR

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Toms, that the recommendation of the Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission regarding the appointment of a Fire Inspector be accepted. Motion carried with Councillor MacLellan and Warden Sampson casting dissenting votes.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from Rick Beaton, ECBC, advising that the Cape Breton Growth Fund is investigating the option to establish a \$1.5 million arts and culture fund.
2. Letter from Charles MacDonald, Area Manager, DOT&PW, advising that the Old Margaree Road does not have sufficient strength to allow removal of the spring weight restrictions.

Sandy Hudson advised that a letter has been forwarded to Bruce Fitzner, District Director – Eastern, DOT&PW, requesting that a road strengthening program be conducted on the area in question on the Old Margaree Road.

3. Correspondence from the Honourable Jane Purves advising that June 15-21, 2003, has been designated as “Senior Citizens Week” in Nova Scotia.
4. Letter from Honourable David Morse confirming the appointment of John MacKillop as Municipal representative on the Cape Breton Island Housing Authority.
5. Information from Sgt. Mark Furey, RCMP, advising on Community Policing Programs.
6. Memorandum from Brenda Deagle, Department of Justice, regarding membership on Boards of Police Commissioners and Police Advisory Committees.
7. Correspondence from the Department of Environment and Labour advising on Fire Safety Act Information Sessions. A session will be held at the Baddeck Community Centre on Tuesday, May 27, 2003, beginning at 6:00 p.m.
8. Copy of a letter from the Cape Breton District Health Authority to Premier John Hamm requesting the government not to exempt casinos from municipal smoking by-laws.
9. Advisory from the FCM regarding the Agreement Between the FCM and railways is Timely Response to Canadian Trends.

BUDGET

Sandy Hudson presented the proposed 2003/2004 budget to Council. He indicated that the budget maintains the tax rates of \$1.25 residential and \$2.12 commercial. Assessment has increased approximately 3% which will yield more revenue by maintaining the current tax rate.

The 2003/2004 budget is a \$6.7 million budget and Mr. Hudson reviewed the revenue and expenditures contained in the budget with Council.

Mr. Hudson indicated that the budget will be presented for approved at the June Annual Session.

A date for the Annual Session of Council was discussed and it was decided that the meeting be held on Thursday, June 19, 2003, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Deputy Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Sandy Hudson, CAO

Gerald Sampson, Warden