

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
May 26, 2008

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, May 26, 2008, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Warden Wayne Budge in the Chair.

Present were:

District #1 – Paul MacNeil
District #2 – Keith MacCuspic
District #4 – John Graham MacInnes, Deputy Warden
District #5 – Fraser Patterson
District #7 – Wayne Budge, Warden
District #8 – Robert MacLellan

Also present were:

Sandy Hudson, CAO
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

Absent were:

District #3 – Bruce Morrison (Work Related Absence)
District #6 – Lawrence Barron

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Budge called the meeting to order.

CROWDIS MOUNTAIN SEPTAGE SITE CLOSEOUT PRESENTATION

Courtesy of Council was extended to Sharon Munroe, Nova Scotia Department of the Environment, who was in attendance to make a presentation on the clean closure of the Island Vacuum and Portables Ltd. septage facility at Crowdis Mountain.

Ms. Munroe presented a power point presentation on the closure to Council (copy attached).

On conclusion of the presentation, Warden Budge advised on the procedure to be followed for asking questions.

Councillor MacCuspic questioned on information provided to residents of Middle River. Ms. Munroe indicated that the final clean closure report was forwarded to all

members of the Community Liaison Committee (CLC) and this committee was used as the Department's information exchange with residents.

The location of hydro carbons at the site was discussed. The discovery of this material was unexpected. Ms. Munroe indicated that the property owners have been informed and instructed on how to deal with these materials.

The cost of the cleanup was questioned. Ms. Munroe indicated that she was unaware of the cost of the Doll Austin Report, but indicated that the Frac Flow report cost \$60,000.00 and the clean closure cost \$450,000.00.

Councillor Patterson questioned on the frequency of the CLC meetings and Ms. Munroe indicated that meetings were held in November, 2004, April, 2005 and July, 2006. These meetings were open to the public and email correspondence was ongoing with all CLC members.

Lillian MacLeod then read a number of quotes contained in reports on the site and expressed her concern on this issue and the Department of the Environment's handling of the closure. She also expressed concern on the testing done and its accuracy and Ms. Munroe indicated that all samples were tested at an independent accredited laboratory.

After further discussion, Warden Budge extended a vote of thanks to Ms. Munroe for her presentation.

RECESS

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspig, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, to recess for 10 minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – APRIL 28, 2008

The minutes of the April 28, 2008, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspig, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that the April 28, 2008, minutes of Victoria County Municipal Council be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Robert Dauphinee has arranged heavy garbage collection in the required districts and has forwarded a copy of the advertisement to be placed in *The Victoria Standard*. Council members are to review the ad and advise Mr. Dauphinee if it is appropriate.

2008-2009 BUDGET AND TAX RATES

The final draft budget for 2008-2009 was presented to Council for review. If approved, Mr. Hudson advised that the tax bills can be sent out by the end of the week. Discussion took place.

It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that the 2008-2009 budget be approved and the tax rates be \$1.22 residential and \$2.19 commercial. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from Donald Hussher, Chief of Police, Town of Westville, requesting a \$1,000.00 donation towards the cost of a "Fallen Peace Officers Memorial".
2. Memorandum from Lyle Goldberg, UNSM, regarding the UNSM Low Income Tax Relief Policy.

Council agreed that there should be a province-wide low income property tax relief policy to address low income home owners. They did not agree that the maximum annual property tax relief of \$500, the maximum family income to be eligible should be \$20,000 or the minimum tax paid by all property owners should be \$250.

3. Letters from Craig MacLaughlan, Deputy Head, CEO, Emergency Management Office, advising of the Emergency Management Office Zones and the Emergency Management Planning Officer and that the regulations to the *Nova Scotia Emergency Management Act* have been updated.

NEW BUSINESS

DOG CONTROL OFFICERS

Sandy Hudson advised that Terry Hogan, North of Smokey, and Wade Jenkins, South of Smokey, will be meeting with himself and Barry Campbell concerning Dog Control Officer duties on Wednesday, May 28, 2008.

ALDERWOOD

Sandy Hudson explained the situation concerning the roadway to the new Alderwood and the request to have the County take over the road. If this road is brought up to Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal standards, the Municipality will assume responsibility for such roads.

Mr. Hudson has met with Murray Tate, Project Manager, and agreed to bring the request to Council. As part of the negotiations, Mr. Hudson has requested that the road be brought up to standard with a paved surface of 22 feet wide.

Discussion took place on this matter.

It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that a letter be forwarded to Alderwood advising that the Municipality will accept ownership of the roadway once it has been constructed to Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal standards, paved to a width of 22 feet. Motion carried with Councillor Patterson abstaining.

BACKHOE

Sandy Hudson indicated that he is recommending that a CAT backhoe be purchased for the Dingwall Transfer Station site. The cost of the backhoe is approximately \$92,000.00. This equipment would be used for maintaining the compost site, wood and metal sites, as well as snow plowing on site and possibly also the Dingwall Water System. The skid steer presently located in Dingwall will be transferred to the Neil's Harbour Enviro-Depot for use at that site.

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspic, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that a CAT backhoe be purchased for the Dingwall Transfer Station site. Motion carried.

COURT HOUSE

Discussion took place on the wood retaining wall in front of the Court House. The possibility of the removal and replacement of trees in front of the Court House was discussed. Sandy Hudson advised that he has requested Morgan's Brook Landscaping for two prices - one on replacing the existing retaining wall in front of the Court House with a stone wall and the other for a retaining wall at the side of the Court House driveway. He indicated that possibility of accessing funding through the Baddeck Revitalization Project.

It was moved by Deputy Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the Municipality investigate participation in the Baddeck Revitalization Project for new retaining walls for the Court House property. Motion carried.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #5

It was moved by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that \$2,500 be approved from the District #5 budget for the Big Bras d'Or Fire Hall. Motion carried.

District #1

Councillor MacNeil brought up the condition of the roads in his district, in particular the Washabuck Road. Roy MacDonald, Area Manager, Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, has visited the area and has indicated that the road condition is too severe for asphalt patching to do any good.

Councillor MacNeil requested that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal expressing concern on the dangerous conditions of the roadways. Roy MacDonald and Keith Bain, MLA, are to be invited to the June Council meeting to discuss the condition of the roadways throughout Victoria County and the plans for upgrading.

Grading of the dirt roads throughout the Municipality is to be requested.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that a Committee has been formed of residents of the Red Point Road concerning a future water extension to this area.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor MacCuspig, that the Red Point Road water extension be placed on the infrastructure priority list for future consideration. Motion carried.

Councillor MacNeil also advised Council, for their information, that efforts are now being undertaken to upgrade the sports field at the Rankin School of the Narrows.

The ownership of the old Rankin Memorial School is still with the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board.

District #2

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspig, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that \$1,800 be approved from the District #2 budget for the Middle River Ballfield. Motion carried.

Councillor MacCuspig will advise on the name of the organization to which this cheque is to be made payable.

BROADBAND

Council requested Warden Budge, Chairman of the Broadband Committee, to call a meeting of the Committee as soon as possible regarding the status of the Seaside wireless project. Seaside representatives are to be in attendance at this meeting.

NEIL'S HARBOUR ENVIRO-DEPOT

Warden Budge requested Council members to visit the Neil's Harbour Enviro-Depot site to see first hand what he has brought forward to Council concerning the site.

ADJOURN

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

Wayne Budge, Warden

A. W. (Sandy) Hudson, CAO