

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
June 17, 2002

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, June 17, 2002, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Present were:

District #1 – Dan MacNeil
District #2 – Shane Toms
District #3 – Bruce Morrison, Deputy Warden
District #4 – John Graham MacInnes
District #5 – Gerald Sampson, Warden
District #6 – Lawrence Barron
District #7 – Wayne Budge
District #8 – Robert MacLellan

Also present:

Heather MacLean, Interim CAO
Zina MacNeil, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Sampson called the meeting to order.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

An open public hearing was held on the transfer of the Baddeck Sewer Treatment System to the Village of Baddeck. There were nine people present in the audience including members of the Village Commission. Warden Sampson read the agreement and asked if there was any discussion. There were two previous readings held and it was advertised in the Cape Breton Post and the Victoria Standard on May 31, June 1 and June 10. The estimated value of the system is \$100,000.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Toms, that council approve the sale of the transfer of the Baddeck Sewer Treatment System to the Village of Baddeck. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/TIME TO ADJOURN

It was moved by Deputy Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that the agenda be approved as presented and the time for adjournment be set at 7:10 p.m. Motion carried.

BREAK

Warden Sampson advised that council would recess until 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Deputy Warden Morrison, that the council minutes of May 21, 2002, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Waterfront Property Assessment

Heather MacLean reported that the draft deferral policy had been sent to Service Nova Scotia.

Annual UNSM Conference

Heather MacLean reported that seven rooms have been booked at the Westin for the Annual UNSM Conference in Halifax in October.

Letters

Heather MacLean reported that letters had been sent to the Department of Transportation for the various requests from the May 21, 2002 minutes.

A letter was sent to Mark Eyking, MP-Sydney-Victoria requesting that he investigate and lobby to make the TCH 105 part of the Cross Canada Highway System.

Regional UNSM

Regional UNSM is at the Lion Den Hall in Louisdale on Thursday, June 29 at 10:30 a.m.

Annual Home Support Meeting

The Annual Home Support meeting is being held on Thursday, June 20 at 6:30 at Knox Hall.

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS UPDATE

Dingwall Water Project

Ed Carey reported that the compliance-testing phase of the drilled wells is underway. The pump tests take a period of 72 hours to complete report a pumping of 45 gallons per minute. Monitoring of domestic wells in the area are complete but still waiting for the analysis results. The requirement is 15 – 20 gallons per minute. Still waiting for chemical testing to come back. All the results should be finished by June 25.

The next stage is piping system, which would be going through the Department of Transportation right of way. They hope to pump it right through to the reservoir without having to disinfect it before it gets there to the existing chlorination system.

Ed Carey is in touch with Infrastructure Canada and keeping them informed on the progress. The project will be approved but the detailed budget has to be completed first. It could be approved as soon as the summer. They are still waiting for some tests that will take two weeks. Once the approval is given to go ahead with the project it should be completed within four months. Department of Environment is aware of what is happening as well.

Neil's Harbour/New Haven Water

Two tenders were received for the storage room. The lowest quote was not in compliance nor did it have the proper certification required. Mr. Carey recommended the County accept Donovan's Contracting for \$33,350.00 including hst.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor Budge, that the county accept the tender from Donovan's Construction for the construction of the storage facility for the Neil's Harbour Water System. Motion carried.

Ingonish Beach Water

Solicitor Art Pickup has completed the transfer of 10 acres of land from the Barron family.

Access for the water has been constructed and two wells drilled. There is lots of water. It is pumping out 50 gallons per minute.

Parks Canada will hook up to the system but will not contribute to the cost. We need to find out how much they will use. They would have to look after the maintenance of the system.

We should have a better idea by the end of July how much is left of the Canada Infrastructure funding money after the other projects are completed. Marvin MacDonald from Canada Infrastructure is willing to contribute whatever is left of this years funding to the first phase.

Bruce Langille, Solicitor for the Department of Transportation says they are willing to make a contribution.

Baddeck Sewer Treatment System

There have been a number of meetings held and the tender document should be ready the week of the 25th. Advertisement should be out by Saturday, June 29. If it goes by schedule the bids should be in early July with construction in early August.

They are still working with the school board on the possibility of a sports field where the old one is.

Baddeck Sewer Diversion

There are three completed with one deleted and combined with the one on Queen Street. It is designed but no money to complete it now. It will probably be another year or so.

The first one at Bethune's corner is completed.

Landfill

A letter was received in January from Department of Environment regarding a record of compliance from the previous year. The Transfer Station in Dingwall didn't have a monitoring well. Ed Carey met with the Department of Environment and they are satisfied that it is being worked on.

Baddeck Landfill is having problems with drainage in the area it is working now. They will have to move to the south area of the site to start putting in cells. Drainage problem should be done this year before it goes onto someone else's property. The area they are at now should be sloped and seeded. They are working with Jim MacLean on the problem.

A chemical scan should be done on the sludge from the sewer plant that is going out there. If compliance is kept with the Department of Environment we could be looking at 2010 before landfill site is closed.

There is a minor issue with George MacAskill in Dingwall. The municipality leased a piece of land to him and there is a possibility the septic may be on private property and not county property. It should be discussed with the Municipal Solicitor.

Parking Lot

Discussion arose on the parking lot and Ed Carey had spoken with Duncan Gillis on the possibility of exchanging property with the county. He said he would think about it. A specific amount should be put in the budget in the building fund for this work.

Mr. Carey finished by giving the councilors a sample of the Dingwall water.

ENVIRONMENTAL SOLID WASTE ISSUES

It was moved by Deputy Warden Morrison, seconded by Shane Toms to approve the recommendations made from the Solid Waste Minutes of May 27th. Motion carried.

Council decided they would ask Jim for a letter of clarification to justify the use of a truck.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor Toms that the first two recommendations would be approved with the third on hold for a more specific proposal with details of what the truck would be used for. Motion carried.

At this time Heather MacLean read a letter from the union regarding Ronnie Hennick and Cathi Pierrard and establishing rates on their positions.

Jim MacLean had mentioned that all the staff takes turns on the forklift and the excavator. Council would like to know what training the staff has for the use of the machinery. Jim MacLean can be asked in the same letter as above to clarify this.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Deputy Warden Morrison, that a letter be sent to the Department of Labour to find out what qualifications are required to operate the forklift and the excavator. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Deputy Warden Morrison, that Ronnie Hennick be given a rate of \$8.50, Cathi Pierrard a rate of \$11.00 on an interim basis starting with the current pay period. Motion carried.

The Solid Waste Committee will meet with the union to go over all the landfill positions after they receive the information from the Department of Labour.

The Department of Environment sent a letter stating they will be putting into effect for the month of July a appliance program at the landfill to check incoming solid waste to see that it is following the compliance regulations. This will be advertised in the paper.

DERELICT VEHICLES

Last year the budget for derelict vehicles was \$12,000 with 50% of that coming back from the RRFB. This year Denise MacKinnon will apply for a \$40,000 budget. Some districts have a number of vehicles and costly to get rid of them.

Nova Scotia Paint Recycling Program

The landfill currently has three containers that are shipped up the province when filled. Jim MacLean wants to purchase two, twenty foot shipping containers at \$2700 a piece. He should be asked for a detailed explanation on this to be included in the correspondence on the other issues raised.

When we hear back from the Department of Labour we will set up a solid waste meeting to deal with these issues.

RESOLUTIONS

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that approval be given to signing the Guarantee in the amount of \$435,000 in favor of Alderwood Corporation. Motion carried.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Toms, that council approve the borrowing resolution in the amount of \$1,700,000 and business line of credit loan agreement for corresponding amount. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Toms, seconded by Deputy Warden Morrison, that council approve the Guarantee for the Village of Baddeck in the amount of \$500,000 for the Baddeck Sewers. Motion carried.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS/NEW BUSINESS

Nova Scotia Power

Nova Scotia Power has not yet made any attempt to upgrade the streetlights. There is one in District #1 that is still not working as well as in District #4. A letter should be sent as a follow up to see when this would be taken care of.

Ferry Rates

A letter was received back from the Premier that the Province is not in a financial position to change the ferry rates.

UNSM

Council will take a resolution for the elimination of ferry rates to the Regional meeting on Thursday, June 20. Heather MacLean will fax copies to councilors who will take copies to the meeting.

District #3

There are concerns with local dog droppings along the waterfront. It was agreed this issue would be referred to the Village of Baddeck.

District #7

There is still no response from the Province regarding the letter sent on the New Haven/White Point Road.

District #6

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that a letter be sent to the RRFB requesting that they pay 50% of the derelict vehicles regardless of the amount. Motion carried.

Warden Sampson brought up the heavy garbage pickup. The current solid waste collector is willing to do a collection by dropping a trailer of at varying times at the various fire departments to be filled by the residents. The cost for Iona would be \$250, \$300 for District 4 & 5, \$350 for District #6 & 7, and \$400 for District #8.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, to recommend we earmark an amount in the budget for heavy garbage pickup. Motion carried.

A letter was received from Gary Collins recommending that Barry Campbell be the alternate EMO.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that council approve Barry Campbell as the alternate EMO. Motion carried.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that council should send a letter that we are totally against the current proposal for the change in electoral boundaries to the Electoral Boundaries Commission. Motion Carried.

Councillor MacInnes agreed to work on the letter with Deputy Warden Morrison.

A letter was received from Tom Wilson regarding the Youth Assistance Projects as last year council approved the grants. Council agreed this was to revert back to Tom Wilson's discretion. Previously the budget was \$6500 but council spent \$13,000 last year.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that \$6500 be reinstated for the Youth Assistance Project for now and will review it again when we see what response Tom Wilson gets for these grants. Motion carried.

TAX OFFICE POSITION

There was discussion on filling Norma's position in the tax office. Heather MacLean had received a letter from the union on May 15th about advertising this position and filling it.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Budge, that the position of Accounts Payments Clerk/Receptionist be advertised internally. Motion carried.

Councillor Toms wanted to pay the taxes on the community halls in his area out of his district budget.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Deputy Warden Morrison, that \$1500 be approved for a contribution to the AMA Conference in the fall.

The Estimate for the extension for the Enviro-Depot in Neil's Harbour/New Haven by Ingonish Contracting be referred to the Solid Waste Committee for review.

CORRESPONDENCE

- A letter from John Bain, District Planning Commission
- Assessment Services update
- Invitation to a luncheon
- Baddeck Legion Friday, June 21, 2002
- Canada Day Celebrations – Participation from the County of Victoria (It was noted that the local councilors contribute to this event).

ADJOURN

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes that the meeting adjourn at 7:45 p.m.

INCAMERA