

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

June 19, 2000

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at St. Andrew's Parish Hall, Neil's Harbour, on Monday, June 19, 2000, at 6:00 p.m. with Deputy Warden Gerald Yetman in the Chair.

Present were:

District #1 – Gerald Yetman, Deputy Warden

District #2 – Shane Toms

District #3 – Bruce Morrison

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 and extended Council's pleasure in being in Neil's Harbour and having the opportunity to bring local government to the people. He welcomed the public in attendance.

AGENDA

The agenda was presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that the agenda be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for approval.

Victoria County Municipal Council – May 1 and May 23, 2000

Environmental/Solid Waste Committee – May 1, May 24, and May 30, 2000

Committee of the Whole – June 12, 2000

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that the minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried.

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BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Solid Waste Collection

Brian Trask advised that the Environmental/Solid Waste Committee will need to meet soon to determine how to proceed with regard to solid waste collection. The two tenders received for collection throughout Victoria County using a compactor truck with tag-along trailer were reviewed and neither was accepted due to the cost involved.

Management – Cape North Transfer Station

Applications will be received until 12:00 noon on June 28, 2000, for the position of Site Operator for the Cape North Transfer Station.

A meeting of the Environmental/Solid Waste Committee will be held on June 28, 2000, at 4:00 p.m. at the Court House, Baddeck. An informal meeting of Council will follow at 5:00 p.m. to meet with Phil MacDonald, Executive Director, Strait-Highlands Regional Development Agency, and to review the Victoria County Strategic Plan.

Surplus Schools

Robert MacLellan presented a letter from the Bay St. Lawrence Community Centre expressing an interest in acquiring the Highland Consolidated School. This group is just getting organized and Tamara Rasmussen is the contact. They are in the process of being registered with the Registry of Joint Stock Companies.

It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Councillor Barron, that when all the appropriate documentation is received, the Highland Consolidated School be turned over to the Bay St. Lawrence Community Centre Committee. Motion carried.

Brian Trask advised that the Dingwall School will need to be torn down, as it is in disrepair.

It was moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Toms, that tenders be called for the demolition, removal and site remediation at the Dingwall School. Motion carried.

Hours of Operation – Baddeck Landfill

Deputy Warden Yetman advised that he attended a meeting last week where the handling of organic waste was explained to tourist operators. At this meeting, the operators expressed an interest in having the hours of operation at the Baddeck Landfill extended to have a seven-day a week operation.

This issue will be discussed at the Environmental/Solid Waste Committee meeting on June 28, 2000.

Wagmatcook First Nation

At the Committee of the Whole meeting last week, the draft letter to be forwarded to Wagmatcook First Nation was reviewed and changes were made as indicated at that time. Brian Trask explained the changes to Council.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor Sampson, that the changes be approved and the letter forwarded to Wagmatcook First Nation. Motion carried.

Strait-Highlands Regional Development Agency – Board Appointments

Two appointments are required for the Board of the Strait-Highlands Regional Development Agency.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor Sampson, that this matter be referred to the Victoria County Community Economic Development Committee and they recommend the two individuals to be appointed to the Board to Council. Motion carried.

Office Space – Home Care

The Victoria County Homemakers Agency require additional office space, as at times there are four individuals in the one office. Brian Trask advised that he spoke with the Department of Community Services, however, it appears there are no immediate plans to relocate these offices. At present, there is no additional office space in the Court House for Home Care.

Councillor Sampson indicated he would advise the Victoria County Homemakers Agency Board of Directors that there is no additional office space available.

Councillor Barron indicated that if there is ever a need for office space in the Ingonish area, the Ingonish Beach Volunteer Fire Department has space available for rent.

Private Road Names

Brian Trask indicated that a letter was received from the Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission indicating 3 road name changes approved by Council in 1992, are not be recognized and other names are being used for these roads.

Councillor Sampson indicated that the postal code in Boularderie will be changing in the next couple of weeks and he received information from Canada Post concerning areas throughout Victoria County that do not have civic addressing. He forwarded this information on the Janet Porter, Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission.

It was moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that the Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission be requested to put Victoria County on their priority list, especially the Boularderie area, to clear up as many outstanding civic addressing issues as possible. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that as approval has been received from both the Department of Transportation and Public Works and the Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission, the following road names changes be accepted by the Municipality:

Private Road 6019 changed to "The Old Lake Road"

Private Road 5061 changed to "Johnnie's Lane"

Private Road 5661 changed to "Warren Road"

Motion carried.

Ewen MacLean – Water Supply

Two quotes were received for a drilled well for Ewen MacLean, Old Margaree Road. One quote was for a 105' well at a cost of \$4,462 and the other was for a 150' well at a cost of \$5,175. Discussion took place on this matter.

It was moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Toms, that pending clarification and advice from Solicitor Pickup, the Municipality make a final offer to Ewen MacLean to provide \$5,000 towards the cost of a new well. Motion carried.

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Rod C. MacNeil – Property Matter

Brian Trask advised for the information of Council that a claim of competing interest has been filed by the solicitor for Melvin Sparks in regard to the Rod C. MacNeil property matter.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from the Office of the Premier acknowledging Council's letter opposing the privatization of the Nova Scotia Liquor Commission.
2. Letter from the Honourable Michael Baker, Minister of Justice and Attorney General, acknowledging receipt of Council's resolution regarding the elimination of Court Sitings in Ingonish.
3. Letter from the Honourable Ronald Russell, Minister of Transportation and Public Works, acknowledging Council's letter of opposition to the potential privatization in the Department of Transportation and Public Works.
4. Letter from the Honourable Michael Baker, Minister of Justice and Attorney General, regarding the RCMP communications centre in Sydney.

It was moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the correspondence be received and placed on file. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor Toms, that a letter be forwarded to the Honourable Michael Baker, Minister of Justice and Attorney General, questioning on what Council can do to have the decision to eliminate Court Sitings in Ingonish reversed and also questioning whether a reprieve can be extended such as was done in Glace Bay. Motion carried.

RECESS

Deputy Warden Yetman advised that Council would recess for 15 minutes.

SKI CAPE SMOKEY SOCIETY – JACK MACLEOD

Courtesy of Council was extended to Jack MacLeod representing Ski Cape Smokey Society.
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Ski Cape Smokey Society has submitted a request to Council for an operating grant in the amount of \$25, 000 for the fiscal year 200/2001. This request has been forwarded to budget for consideration.

Mr. MacLeod extended appreciation to Council for allowing him to appear before them and for the past assistance provided to Ski Cape Smokey.

Mr. MacLeod indicated that Ski Cape Smokey is vital to the economic viability of the northern area of the County and is an important part of their overall vision for a Recreation/Tourist Centre for Ingonish. The Recreation/Tourist Centre they envision will consist of:

- ? Marina
- ? National Parks Information Centre
- ? Heritage and Cultural Centre
- ? Aquarium
- ? Retail Outlets
- ? Hotel and Restaurant
- ? Ski Hill – winter and summer

There are many attractions in the area that will add to the centre, i.e. whale watching, kayaking, deep sea fishing and diving, etc.

This project would be community driven and be done on the basis of sound planning. A business strategy that would consist of a business and financial plan for long-term viability would be developed. Mr. MacLeod presented a conceptual drawing of the plans for the area.

Ski Cape Smokey has not been without problems in the past and Mr. MacLeod outlined to Council the corrective management actions that have been and are taking place.

The Ski Cape Smokey Society is working hard preparing for next year. They have met on three occasions with representatives from ECBC, HRDC and the Province and will be again meeting on Friday, June 23, 2000. There are plans to hire a promotional marketing manager and application has been made to obtain funding for a professional marketing plan.

The future of Ski Cape Smokey is important to the entire area of northern Victoria County. The area businesses depend on the ski hill to provide their winter business. Further discussion took place and Mr. MacLeod answered various questions of Council.

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It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that congratulations and thanks be offered to Jack MacLeod for all his work with regard to Ski Cape Smokey. Motion carried.

Mr. MacLeod was extended a vote of thanks for his presentation and assured that Council would give due consideration to Ski Cape Smokey's financial request.

DISTRICT CONCERNS/OTHER BUSINESS

District #1

Councillor Sampson indicated that during the recent enumeration for the October municipal election, residents of the Kempt Head Road expressed an interest in having this road renamed the Ross Ferry Road. The proper procedure for road name changes must be followed to achieve the change.

It was moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that \$100 be approved for the Bay St. Lawrence Crab Festival from the District #5 budget. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Toms, that \$500 be approved from the District #5 budget for the purchase of new swings for the Boularderie School. Motion carried.

District #2

There are presently two people (one through the Department of Community Services and one through the Fine Option Program) that are working at the Baddeck Landfill. Councillor Toms requested that they conduct a cleanup of the roadside from the overpass to the Red Bridge.

District #6

Councillor Barron brought up the matter of a water system for Ingonish. With the recent scare in Ontario where people were poisoned by E-Coli bacteria in a water system, this brings the situation in Ingonish more to the forefront. Councillor Barron felt that a water system for Ingonish should cover the entire area contained in both his and Councillor Donovan's districts. He suggested that public meetings be held in the districts to determine how to proceed. It was indicated that Brian Trask and John Anderson should attend these meetings as resource people.

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It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor Sampson, that Councillors Barron and Donovan arrange for public meetings in Ingonish to discuss a water system and John Anderson and Brian Trask attend these meetings and provide Council with further information and recommendations. Motion carried.

District #8

Councillor MacLellan indicated that at the previous meeting he presented a request from the Friends of the Veterans concerning sandblasting and cleaning the war monuments in his area. He was to provide a cost of same and advised that they are requesting a maximum of \$2,000 for same.

District #3

Councillor Morrison indicated that he agreed with Councillor Barron concerning the need for a water system in Ingonish, however, reminded Council that the Baddeck Sewage Treatment Plant is the priority capital project for Victoria County.

Peter Mancini, MP, Cape Breton-Victoria, wishes to meet with Council. He will be invited to come and meet with Council.

Councillor Morrison questioned on the operation of the Tax Department since the recent changes. Brian Trask advised that everything is running satisfactorily and the tax money is being collected.

District #7

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor Sampson, that \$500 be approved for the Neil's Harbour/New Haven Volunteer Fire Department and \$500 for the Ingonish Volunteer Fire Department from the District #7 budget. Motion carried.

Councillor Donovan questioned on a date for the informal meeting between Council and Charles MacDonald and Bruce Fitzner from the Department of Transportation. This meeting will be set up in the near future.

Councillor Donovan thanked Council for coming to Neil's Harbour and thanked the public in attendance for coming also.

District #1

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Deputy Warden Yetman requested Councillor Sampson to assume the Chair so he could do his district concerns.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Yetman, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that \$300 be approved for the Washabuck Community Centre and \$300 for the Wagmatcook Community Centre from the District #1 budget. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Yetman advised that the Nova Scotia Highland Village received museum status on Saturday past and an announcement was made by the Cape Breton-Victoria District School Board that Gaelic instruction at Rankin Memorial School has been cancelled.

It was moved by Councillor Yetman, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that a letter be forwarded to the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board requesting that they reconsider their decision to cancel the Gaelic Program at Rankin Memorial School. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Yetman assumed the Chair.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Sampson, that a letter be forwarded to the Nova Scotia Highland Village congratulating them on their museum designation. Motion carried.

JOHN J. MACDONALD

Brian Trask presented a request for a quit claim deed for John J. MacDonald. Solicitor Pickup has investigated this matter and is recommending that the quit claim deed be issued.

It was moved Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that a quit claim deed be issued to John J. MacDonald. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Councillor Morrison, the meeting adjourned.

John G. MacInnes, Warden

Brian E. Trask, CAO