

**VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**  
**ANNUAL SESSION**  
**June 19, 2003**

The Annual Session of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Thursday, June 19, 2003, beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Present were:

District #1 – Dan E. MacNeil  
District #2 – Shane Toms  
District #3 – Bruce Morrison  
District #5 – Gerald Sampson, Warden  
District #6 – Lawrence Barron  
District #7 – Wayne Budge  
District #8 – Robert MacLellan

Also present were:

Sandy Hudson, CAO  
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

Absent was:

District #4 – John Graham MacInnes

**CALL TO ORDER**

Warden Sampson called the meeting to order.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA/TIME TO ADJOURN**

Warden Sampson advised that Bernadette Theriault, HRDC, will not be available to make her presentation today and arrangements have been made to tour the new Baddeck Sewage Treatment Plant facility at 2:30 p.m.

**It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that the agenda be accepted as amended. Motion carried.**

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the May 20, 2003, Council Session were presented for approval.

**It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the minutes of the May 20, 2003, session of Victoria County Municipal Council be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

Warden Sampson questioned whether a reply had been received from the Department of Transportation regarding lighting for the Seal Island Bridge.

Sandy Hudson advised that a reply has not been received to date.

Sandy Hudson will follow up with the Department of Transportation on this matter, as well as the request for a larger, more visible "Do Not Enter – No Exit" sign and possibly a flashing light, to be erected on Shore Road, Baddeck, at the Exit 8 intersection.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Courtesy of Council was extended to Grant Burgess, Grant Thornton LLP Chartered Accountants, who presented the Draft Non-Consolidated Financial Statements for the Municipality of the County of Victoria for the year ended March 31, 2003.

He reported that the Municipality ended the year with an accumulated surplus of \$122,715.00, based on total revenues of \$7,294,250.00 and total expenditures of \$7,171,535.00. Included in the total revenue is the accumulated surplus of \$103,319.00 carried forward from the previous year. This means that the Municipality experienced a surplus from current year's operations of \$19,396.00.

Mr. Burgess reviewed the financial statements in detail with Council.

**GRADE SIX STUDENTS – NORTH HIGHLANDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Warden Sampson then interrupted the presentation of the financial statements to welcome Ken Verner, former Victoria County Councillor and Principal of North Highlands Elementary School, and the Grade 6 Class who entered the meeting.

Mr. Verner advised that the students have held a mock Council at their school and have a sense of how Council operates and would like the opportunity to address Council with a few questions. Council agreed to comply with this request on completion of the financial statement presentation.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Mr. Burgess commended Council on their tax collections. Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations compile statistics from all municipal units in the Province and the Municipality falls within the provincial average. He indicated that this aggressive collection policy should continue in subsequent years.

He indicated that overall the Municipality is in good shape.

### **GRADE SIX STUDENTS**

As the students had to leave by 2:15 p.m., Warden Sampson opened the floor to the students to ask questions.

Four students asked questions, which were answered by the CAO. Mr. Verner thanked Council on behalf of the students and they left at this time.

### **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Mr. Burgess indicated that many of the recommendations contained in the internal controls review conducted by Grant Thornton have been implemented and he commended Council and Administration for their action. He indicated that as this is the first year doing the audit and as the internal controls review contained many recommendations, he did not have a management letter to present this year.

He indicated that in future audits he would like to meet with the Audit Committee before the start of the audit to discuss concerns, priorities, etc. He indicated that the statements presented were in draft form only and he would be providing the final document for approval at the July Council.

Warden Sampson extended a vote of thanks to Mr. Burgess for the financial statement presentation and indicated that final approval of the financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2003, would be included on the July Council agenda.

### **TOUR – BADDECK SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT**

Council then recessed to tour the new Baddeck Sewage Treatment Plant.

### **RECONVENE**

Council reconvened and Warden Sampson extended a vote of thanks to Council Morrison for arranging the tour of the Sewage Treatment Plant for Council. It is an impressive facility. Councillor Morrison thanked Council for supporting this project.

### **BUDGET/TAX RATES**

The proposed 2003/2004 budget was presented in draft form at the May Council Session. 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 taxes rates. The 2003/2004 budget is a \$6.7 million dollar budget.

Councillor Barron indicated that the Smokey Recreation Society is in discussions with the Municipality regarding obtaining a piece of land from the Municipality once the proper deed is obtained from the School Board for the former Ingonish Beach school property. They hope to build an outdoor community rink at a cost of approximately \$20,000.00 and Councillor Barron requested a one-time grant from the Municipality for \$5,000.00.

**It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the 2003/2004 recreation budget be increased by \$5,000.00 and these funds be allocated for the proposed outdoor rink to be located in Ingonish.**

Discussion took place on this motion and whether this amount could be found in the existing tourism/recreation budget. The County budget was based on maintaining the current tax rates.

It was also indicated that the Victoria County Tourism Advisory Committee requested that the tourism budget for 2003/2004 revisited.

After further discussion, the motion was then put and carried.

Councillor Morrison requested Council to consider funding to assist in the extension of the Village sewer line. The extension would be cost shared by the Village, the County, the owner and private investor and it would connect 8 or 9 high end building lots that would sell for upwards of \$50,000.00 per lot. This would be an investment for the municipality.

**It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Toms, that the Municipality consider funding an extension to the Baddeck Sewer line beyond Alexander Drive up to a maximum cost of \$5,000.00. Motion carried.**

Councillor MacNeil advised that the Aquarium Project group in his district are undertaking an additional study and he would like to see the Municipality contribute a maximum of \$5,000.00 towards this study.

**It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Barron, that provided the Aquarium Project Group get all the study funding they are currently seeking from other sources and if there is a shortfall of up to \$5,000 in this funding,**

**the Municipality provide funding up to a maximum \$5,000.00 to assist with this study. Motion carried.**

Further discussion took place on the 2003/2004 budget.

**It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that the 2003/2004 municipal budget be accepted and the tax rates for 2003/2004 be \$1.25 residential and \$2.12 commercial. Motion carried.**

### **BORROWING RESOLUTION**

**It was moved by Councillor Toms, seconded by Councillor Budge, that the borrowing resolution in the amount of \$1,700,000.00 be approved. Motion carried.**

### **SIGNING OFFICERS**

Sandy Hudson advised that a resolution renewing the signing officers for the Municipality is required. This resolution is done on an annual basis. The Warden, along with the CAO, or his designate, has signing authority for the Municipality.

*Be It Resolved by this Council that Alexander (Sandy) Hudson, as Chief Administrative Officer for the Municipality of the County of Victoria is herein authorized to execute the powers and duties as outlined in the **Municipal Government Act**, as well as, but not limited to, signing authority on banking and having control and custody of the Municipal Seal. The Chief Administrative Officer and the Warden shall sign all cheques of the Municipality. In the absence of the Chief Administrative Officer, the Chief Administrative Officer shall appoint another qualified employee to sign in his stead.*

**It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that the Warden and CAO, or his designate, be the signing officers for the Municipality. Motion carried.**

### **SOLID WASTE UPDATE**

Sandy Hudson advised that we are less than one month into the seven day per week operation of the Baddeck Landfill and Enviro-Depot and Cape North Transfer Station. Everything appears to be running well and this schedule will remain in effect until October at which time it will revert to the previous schedule. A decision will be made over the winter months on next year's operations.

### **INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE**

#### **Baddeck Sewage Treatment Plant**

Sandy Hudson advised that the Baddeck Sewage Treatment Plant is still in the name of the Municipality, however, it is anticipated that it will be turned over to the Village in the near future. The tour of the site today gave Council a first hand look at the state of the art technology in the new plant.

**Dingwall Water**

ACL Construction Ltd. was awarded the tender for the Dingwall Water Upgrade last fall and due to the lateness, the project was delayed until this year. Work will commence on the upgrade in early July and the project should take 8 to 10 weeks to complete with a completion date of mid-September.

**Ingonish Beach Water**

Sandy Hudson advised that the Management Committee of the Canada/Nova Scotia Infrastructure Program is meeting this week and it is hoped that they will approve the Ingonish Water project as an infrastructure project.

Mr. Hudson has talked with Parks Canada, Department of Transportation and Public Works, and the Keltic Lodge concerning funding assistance towards this project. Firm commitments will be obtained when it is known that the project will proceed.

**Ingonish Harbour Breakwater**

Sandy Hudson advised that he spoke with Wendy Arseneau, Department of Natural Resources, and there should be no problem in issuing a license for this project. A commitment concerning federal funding to cover the cost of this project will have to be obtained.

**Baddeck Landfill Cell Tender**

Tenders have been called for the construction of a new cell for the Baddeck Landfill. The deadline for tendering is June 26, 2003.

**LOAN GUARANTEE – ALDERWOOD REST HOME**

A request was received from Arlene Morrison, Administrator of Alderwood Rest Home, for the Municipality to Guarantee a new loan for capital projects contained in Alderwood's 2003/2004 Business Plan. The total amount of the new money to be guaranteed is \$181,000.00.

**It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the Municipality Guarantee the new loan requirements for Alderwood Corporation in the amount of \$181,000.00. Motion carried.**

**NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

**District #2 and #3**

**It was moved by Councillor Toms, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that a letter be forwarded to Charlie MacDonald, Department of Transportation, with a copy to Bruce Fitzner, District Director, DOT&PW, requesting that the gravel section of the Old Margaree Road be repaired (graded and graveled) and the Beinn Bhreagh/Red Head Road be graded. Motion carried.**

**District #7**

Councillor Budge requested that \$200 be forwarded to the Dingwall Little League from his district budget funds.

**District #6**

Councillor Barron indicated that the Smokey Recreation Society wish to lease 0.847 acres of land from the Municipality for the proposed outdoor rink. They will provide a legal description of the property they wish to lease.

**It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that once the Municipality obtains ownership and proper documentation for the former Ingonish Beach School property, approval be given to lease 0.847 acres of land to the Smokey Recreation Society. Motion carried.**

**District #8**

Councillor MacLellan requested that \$200 forwarded to the Dingwall Little League from his district budget funds.

Councillor MacLellan indicated that a group of individuals in the Dingwall area wish to lease the former Dingwall School property to develop this property into a park area. It was felt this group should form a society or proceed through an existing society.

**It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Councillor Barron, that the Municipality enter negotiations with a duly registered society (new society or existing society) for the lease of the former Dingwall School property. Motion carried.**

A request was received from Alex Dunphy, on behalf of residents of Shore Road, Dingwall, that the County support their request to have this road paved.

**It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Councillor Budge, that a letter be forwarded to Charlie MacDonald, Department of Transportation, requesting that Shore Road, Dingwall, be added to their priority list of paving projects. Motion carried.**

**District #5**

Warden Sampson questioned whether other areas are having problems with NSPI completing their requests for streetlight repairs. He has had difficulty in his area.

A letter is to be forwarded to Ken Paruch, NSPI, concerning streetlight repairs.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Letter from the Honourable Jamie Muir, Minister of Justice and Attorney General, advising that the request for an additional RCMP member has been approved for the Baddeck Detachment.
2. Letter from Carol Kennedy, Chair, St. Ann's Bay Development Association, regarding the possible closure of DNR's picnic park on the Oregon Road, North River. The Association is asking Council to write to the Ministers involved to request that the North River Park remain open and maintained.

**It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Budge, that a letter be forwarded to the Ministers of Natural Resources and Environment and Labour, voicing Council's opposition to any impending or future closure of the North River Picnic Park. Motion carried.**

3. Correspondence from the Honourable Robert G. Thibault, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, acknowledging receipt of Council's correspondence concerning seismic testing on the coast of Cape Breton.
4. Letter from Jane Purves, Minister of Health, in response to Council's letter concerning ambulance services in Northern Victoria.
5. Letter from Fred Williams submitting his resignation as a Victoria County representative on the Board of the Cape Breton Regional Library.

Council are to consider possible replacements for Mr. Williams.

6. Letter from Stanley MacLellan, President of the Grandona Legion, requesting Council's support for their application to obtain an Agency Liquor Store License.

**It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Toms, that the Municipality provide a letter of support for the Grandona Legion in their application to obtain an Agency Liquor Store License in Iona. Motion carried.**

7. A request was received from Athol Grant, Rare Earth Ventures, to allow them to build a roadway over an existing easement in Little Narrows.

**It was moved by Councillor Toms, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that Rare Earth Venture be given permission to construct a roadway over the existing Little Narrows Water easement. Motion carried.**

8. A request was received from the Community Learning Association North of Smokey for funding to assist with the administrative expenses that will be incurred in the upcoming school year.

It was agreed that the Councillors in the northern area of the County would provide funding through their district budgets.

**ADJOURN**

**There being no further business, on motion of Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Toms, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.**

**Sandy Hudson, CAO**

**Gerald E. Sampson, Warden**