

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
June 19, 2006

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, June 19, 2006, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Present were:

District #1 – Dan E. MacNeil, Deputy Warden
District #2 – Keith MacCuspic
District #5 – Fraser Patterson
District #6 – Lawrence Barron
District #7 – Wayne Budge, Warden
District #8 – Robert MacLellan

Also present were:

Sandy Hudson, CAO
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

Absent was:

District #3 – Bruce Morrison (Due to Death in Family)
District #4 – John Graham MacInnes

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Budge called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/TIME TO ADJOURN

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspic, seconded by Deputy Warden MacNeil, that the agenda be approved as presented and the time to adjourn be set for 7:00 p.m. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MAY 29, 2006

The minutes of the May 29, 2006, Session of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that the May 29, 2006, Victoria County Municipal Council minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

- Heavy Solid Waste Collection

Sandy Hudson has contacted both David Fitzgerald and Scott Richards regarding the collection and has heard nothing to date.

- Derelict Vehicles

The derelict vehicle form will be redrafted and Sandy Hudson indicated he had a call into Inverness County to see how they carry out derelict vehicle removal.

- North Shore School

Walter Sawlor is carrying out a commercial appraisal of the North Shore School property. When this is completed the fair market value figure can be set and if the project proceeds, the other outstanding issues with regard to insurance and subleasing will be addressed.

- Municipal Employees Pension Plan

Sandy Hudson met with Stephen MacEachern last week regarding the pension plan. Mr. MacEachern will be setting up a schedule to meet with all municipal employees in the near future.

DEED TRANSFER TAX BY-LAW

A public hearing was held prior to Council with regard to the adoption of a new Deed Transfer Tax By-Law. The transfer tax will increase from the present .5% to 1 % effective July 1, 2006, if the by-law receives approval.

No public submissions were received at the public hearing and a recommendation was made to Council to approve the Deed Transfer Tax By-Law. Only Councillors present at the public hearing are eligible to vote on the by-law and as Councillor MacLellan was not in attendance at the public hearing, he was ineligible to vote.

It was moved by Deputy Warden MacNeil, seconded by Councillor MacCuspig, that the second (final) reading of the Deed Transfer Tax By-Law be approved. Motion carried.

Courtesy of Council was extended to Grant Burgess, C. A., 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, 2006.

Mr. Burgess indicated that the statements were in draft form, and when other necessary information becomes available, the consolidated statements will be completed. As a result, he requested that the draft statements presented be returned to him and when consolidated statements are completed, all Council Members will receive a copy.

Mr. Burgess then reviewed the draft financial statements with Council. He reported that the Municipality ended the year with an operating deficit of \$2,919.00, based on a total budget of approximately \$7,900,000.00.

Mr. Burgess commended Council for their fiscal responsibility. He reported on tax collections and indicated that overall collections are good. The tax office staff and administration are working on collecting outstanding accounts and the established assertive collection policy should continue in subsequent years.

Mr. Burgess indicated that he received full cooperation when conducting the audit. He indicated that if in future, Council had any questions; he could be contacted at his office at any time.

Warden Budge extended a vote of thanks to Mr. Burgess for his presentation and he was excused at this time.

RECESS

Warden Budge announced that Council would recess for 10 minutes.

VICTORIA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS

Courtesy of Council was extended to Ernest Roberts, Victoria County Association of Fire Chiefs. He then introduced Lyle Donovan who was making the presentation to Council on behalf of the Association.

Mr. Donovan thanked Council for the opportunity to make the presentation. He indicated that he is the Chief of the Ingonish Volunteer Fire Department and has been involved in fire services for approximately 16 years.

He then proceeded with the presentation (copy attached). Mr. Donovan indicated that the Fire Departments are requesting an increase in funding from the Municipality. The cost of the fire service is increasing every year and the funding is needed.

Discussion took place on training. There is an established fund for training that has not been utilized to any extent. It was indicated fire department members find it difficult and cannot afford to take time off from their employment for training. The possibility of the mobile unit from the Nova Scotia Firefighters School be utilized was discussed.

Discussion took place and various questions were addressed.

On behalf of the Victoria County Fire Chief's Association and the Victoria County Volunteer Fire Departments, Mr. Donovan thanked Council for their time and consideration of the request.

Warden Budge extended a vote of thanks to the Fire Chief's Association for their interesting and informative presentation and they were excused at this time.

CAPE BRETON ISLAND REGIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Deputy Warden MacNeil, that John MacKillop be reappointed as County member of the Cape Breton Island Regional Housing Authority Board. Motion carried.

INTEREST DATE – TAXES

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that August 1, 2006, be set as the interest date for taxes. Motion carried.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #6

Councillor Barron brought up the resolution he introduced at the last meeting regarding the Highland Links Privatization Options (copy attached).

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the Municipality adopt the resolution opposing all privatization options proposed by Parks Canada for Highland Links Golf Course and copies be forwarded to the parties listed. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Transportation and Public Works requesting that guardrail be installed in the area between Brian Donovan's and Art Donovan's in Ingonish Harbour. Motion carried.

Councillor Barron brought up the concern of the use of Jake Brakes in the Ingonish Ferry area. Jake brake use is prohibited in areas where the speed limit is less than 50 km/hour. Councillor Barron requested that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Transportation requesting a decrease in the speed limit in Ingonish Ferry to 50 km/hour.

District #8

It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Councillor MacCuspig, that the following funds be approved from the District #8 budget:

- **\$847.55 for the Bay St. Lawrence Community Centre**
- **\$1,713.81 to Ingonish Home Hardware for a double door and hardware for the Bay St. Lawrence Community Centre**

Motion carried.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Deputy Warden MacNeil, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.