

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
June 20, 2005

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held on Monday, June 20, 2005, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Warden Wayne Budge in the Chair.

Present were:

District #2 – Keith MacCuspig
District #3 – Bruce Morrison
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 #1 – Dan E. MacNeil, Deputy Warden
District #4 – John Graham MacInnes
District #6 – Lawrence Barron

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Budge called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES – MAY 24, 2005

The minutes of the May 24, 2005, session of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacCuspig, that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of May 24, 2005, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Marketing Levy

Discussion took place on the proposed marketing levy. The Tourism Committee recommended approval in principle pending further information being received from Destination Cape Breton Association.

It was indicated that CBRM is proposing acceptance of a 2% levy – 1.5% for Destination Cape Breton Association and .5% for CBRM for their own marketing initiatives.

RCMP PRESENTATION

Courtesy of Council was extended to Sgt. Everett Densmore, Ingonish Beach Detachment, Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Sgt. Densmore presented the Annual Report for the year 2004 for the Ingonish Beach Detachment (copy attached).

The incidence of false alarms in the Detachment was discussed. Property owners are installing new alarm systems, and with the increase in the number of homes installing alarm systems, comes the increase in the number of false alarms. Sgt. Densmore indicated that an area where Council can assist is to consider adopting a by-law requiring alarm companies to provide police with updated information on key holders, etc.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that the CAO be requested to pursue a by-law concerning residential alarms. Motion carried.

Councillor MacLellan thanked Sgt. Densmore and his members for all their work in his district. They spend a great deal of time in this area and it is appreciated.

Sgt. Densmore outlined on staffing and anticipated vacancies and he indicated he is preparing a business plan in support of temporary relief.

After further discussion and questions, Sgt. Densmore was extended a vote of thanks and excused at this time.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – GRANT THORNTON

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, 2005.

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 \$121,835.00, based on a total budget in excess of \$7,000,000.00.

The deficit is mainly due to infrastructure projects undertaken during the year, i.e. Little Narrows Water Extension and Ingonish Beach Water Supply

Mr. Burgess commended Council for building up the reserve accounts and indicated that this practice should continue in future. He also reported on tax collections and indicated that overall collections are good and the assertive collection policy should continue in subsequent years.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacCuspik, that \$125,000.00, be transferred from the reserve account to the general account. Motion carried.

It was indicated that if by the end of September or October 2005, we receive word of infrastructure funding; this money will be transferred back into the reserve account.

Mr. Burgess indicated that he received full cooperation when conducting the audit and thanked the staff for their assistance.

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.

TENDER – BADDECK MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE TRANSFER STATION

Sandy Hudson advised that the tenders for the Baddeck MSW Transfer Station were received and opened on Friday, June 17, 2005. Six (6) tenders were received and were as follows:

Joneljim Concrete Construction (1994) Ltd.	\$1,142,522.00
D. W. Matheson & Sons Contracting Ltd.	\$1,208,900.00

Lingan Builders (1996) Ltd.	\$1,398,069.00
J. A. Borden Enterprises Ltd.	\$1,461,000.00
W. A. Latimer General Cont. Ltd.	\$1,573,412.00
Allsteel Coatings Ltd.	\$1,615,750.00

Sandy Hudson advised that he and Ed Carey, P. Eng., met with the low tender, Joneljim Concrete Construction (1994) Ltd. this morning and he reported on the meeting.

Discussion took place as to whether the Municipality would have to accept the low tender, as the next lowest tender, was from a Victoria County company. Mr. Hudson indicated that the Municipality would be open to a legal challenge if they don't accept the low tender.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that the low tender, Joneljim Concrete Construction (1994) Limited's tender in the amount of \$1,142,522.00, be accepted for the construction of the Baddeck MSW Transfer Station. Motion carried.

RURAL CAPE BRETON DISTRICT PLANNING COMMISSION

The Municipality of the County of Antigonish has recently joined the Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission. As a result a new municipal agreement is required to include Antigonish as a member.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the Warden and CAO be authorized to sign the new municipal agreement with the Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission. Motion carried.

VICTORIA COUNTY BUSINESS AND RESOURCE DIRECTORY

The launch of the Victoria County Business and Resource Directory will be held at the Court House, on Thursday, June 30, 2005, at 10:30 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS

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 2005/2006 Business Plan. The total amount to be guaranteed is \$2,028,002.00.

It was moved by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacCuspig, that the Municipality guarantee the loan requirements for Alderwood Corporation in the amount \$2,028,002.00. Motion carried.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #3

Councillor Morrison indicated that there are plans to build a new bypass at Port Hastings, which will direct traffic down Route 4. There is concern that those east of this turnoff will be negatively affected and lose a fair amount of traffic.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that Victoria County, in consultation with Inverness County, contact the Department of Transportation and Public Works outlining our concerns with regard to the proposed bypass at Port Hastings, and requesting assurance that proper signage will be located at the bypass indicating the Trans Canada Highway and communities east. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacCuspig, that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Transportation and Public Works requesting that “No Dumping” signs be erected at the end of the Plaister Mines Road where it meets Highway 205 (Baddeck Bay Road). Motion carried.

Bruce Morrison indicated that he will be attending a meeting on Wednesday, June 22, 2005, in Baddeck regarding decorative street lighting for the Village of Baddeck. The communities of Inverness and Cheticamp have this type of lighting and he requested permission to travel to these communities to view the installed lights.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that permission be granted to travel to Cheticamp and Inverness to view their street lighting. Motion carried.

District #2

Councillor MacCuspig questioned whether a response had been received from Dr. Jorgenson regarding the spray issue. Sandy Hudson indicated he will be sending a follow up letter concerning this matter.

Councillor MacCuspig indicated that he had one item to be addressed In Camera. A short In Camera meeting will be held following regular business.

District #5

Councillor Patterson indicated that a heavy garbage collection was held in his district recently and 1-¾ truckloads were removed. He questioned why the heavy garbage collection was not included in the contract and the possibility of including a heavy pickup in the new contract was discussed.

It was moved by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that when the tenders are being drawn up for the new contract to commence in September, consideration be given to including an annual countywide heavy garbage collection in the contract. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING

A Committee of the Whole meeting will be held on Monday, July 18, 2005, at 5:00 p.m. The next Council meeting will be held in August.

IN CAMERA

It was moved by Councillor Morrison to move In Camera.

Council returned to regular session.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Councillor MacCuspik, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Wayne Budge, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO