

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
June 21, 2004

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, June 21, 2004, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Warden Wayne Budge in the Chair.

Present were:

District #1 – Dan E. MacNeil
District #2 – Shane Toms
District #3 – Bruce Morrison
District #4 – John Graham MacInnes, Deputy Warden
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

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Budge called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the May 17, 2004, session of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Deputy Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Toms, that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of May 17, 2004, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

The Committee of the Whole minutes of June 17, 2004, were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the June 17, 2004, Committee of the Whole minutes be approved as circulated. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – GRANT THORNTON

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, 2004.

Mr. Burgess indicated that these statements were in draft form, in the old format, as additional statements are required to complete the consolidated statements. He is awaiting receipt of Alderwood and Highland Manor's financial statements, as well as finishing the water utilities and once all are received, the consolidated statements will be completed. As a result, he requested that the draft statements presented be returned to him and when the 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 surplus of \$122,134.00, based on total budget in excess of \$7,000,000.00.

Mr. Burgess reported on tax collections and indicated that an assertive collection policy should continue in subsequent years. He indicated that overall the Municipality is in good shape.

Mr. Burgess indicated that many of the recommendations contained in the internal controls review conducted by Grant Thornton have been implemented and others are ongoing and he commended Council and Administration for their action. He then presented the management letter to Council.

He again 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 Budge 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, 2004, would be included on the July Council agenda.

RECESS

Warden Budge announced that Council would recess for 10 minutes.

TAX EXEMPTION BY-LAW – COMMUNITY HALLS

Discussion took place on the Tax Exemption By-Law, in particular as to how it pertains to community halls. Sandy Hudson again explained the categories contained in the Tax Exemption By-Law and advised that community halls fall under the category that would reduce the tax payable with respect to all or part of the taxable commercial property to the tax that would be payable if the property were residential property.

Mr. Hudson presented a list of the tax amounts for all categories contained in the by-law. Council mentioned the following halls that were not contained in the by-law, for inclusion:

- St. John's Anglican Church Hall
- St. Andrew's Anglican Church Hall
- St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church Hall
- Ingonish Development Society
- Bay St. Lawrence Community Centre

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that the list of revisions to the Tax Exemption By-Law be approved retroactive to 2003. Motion carried.

VICTORIA COUNTY LOGO

Sandy Hudson advised that the topic of a new logo for the Municipality was brought up at the last staff meeting. The present logo is difficult to reproduce.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that an advertisement be placed in the local newspapers inviting proposals from marketing firms for the development a new logo for Victoria County. Motion carried.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Discussion took place on the remuneration for Deputy Returning Officers, Poll Clerks, Constables, etc. for the upcoming Municipal Election on October 16, 2004.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Barron, that the rates paid to municipal election workers be the same as the provincial rates for election workers. Motion carried.

It was felt that meals should also be provided to these workers.

Sandy Hudson advised that he would be contacting all Councillors in the near future for locations for the polling stations for the election. All facilities must be accessible.

NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS/DISTRICT CONCERNS

BORROWING RESOLUTION/SIGNING OFFICERS/BANKING

Sandy Hudson advised that the renewal of the borrowing resolution and signing officers for the Municipality is required.

It was moved by Deputy Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that a borrowing resolution in the amount of \$1,700,000.00 be approved, the signing officers for the Municipality be the CAO and the Warden and the Municipality's financial institution be the East Coast Credit Union. Motion carried.

DISTRICT #8

It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Councillor Barron, that \$1,000.00 be approved for the Bay St. Lawrence Community Centre for student grant top up from the District #8 budget. Motion carried.

Councillor MacLellan also requested that \$500 be approved for the Bay St. Lawrence Volunteer Fire Department from the District #8 budget to assist with the Crab Fest.

DISTRICT #1

A letter was received from Nova Scotia Power indicating that Richard Cook, Operations Lead for the Cape Breton area, would be available to meet concerning 3-phase power for the Iona area. Councillor MacNeil indicated that rather than meet with Council; he felt that the Iona groups (aquarium, school, Highland Village) should meet with Mr. Cook. This meeting will be coordinated.

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 2004/2005 Business Plan. The total amount of the new money to be guaranteed is \$957,434.00.

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 \$957,434.00, bringing the total guarantee amount to \$1,039,719.00. Motion carried.

Councillor MacNeil also advised that there is the possibility of Council Members traveling to Halifax to meet concerning replacement of Alderwood Rest Home.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that if it is necessary to meet in Halifax, Councillors expenses be covered. Motion carried.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that the plebiscite for the Little Narrows poll has still not been held. It has been over 1½ years since the initial request came to Council. An advertisement was published in the media today indicating the coverage area, but a date has not been set as yet. This matter is in the hands of the Alcohol and Gaming Authority and the Chief Electoral Officer.

DISTRICT #3

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Barron, that the Municipality continue to provide \$5,000.00 as a major sponsor of the Cabot Trail Relay for the 2005 relay. Motion carried.

Councillor Morrison indicated that he attended a Smoke Free Nova Scotia conference recently in Antigonish and accepted an Award of Excellence for the Municipality for outstanding leadership in Smoke-Free By-Laws and dedication to the health of the community. Victoria County was one of 10 municipalities in the province to receive this award.

DISTRICT #4

Deputy Warden MacInnes brought forward a letter received from Bill Nicholson concerning non-resident land ownership. Discussion took place.

DISTRICT #7

Warden Budge presented a letter and pictures received from Monica Hogan concerning the appalling condition of Fairview Road, New Haven.

It was moved by Warden Budge, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that a letter be forwarded to Charlie MacDonald, Area Manager, Department of Transportation and Public Works, with a copy to the Minister, requesting the

Department to check out the condition of the bridge and road on Fairview Road, New Haven. Motion carried.

DISTRICT #3

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Barron, that the Department of Transportation and Public Works be requested to carry out grading and gravelling of Hilltop Crescent, Baddeck. Motion carried.

TOM WILSON

Tom Wilson, Director of Recreation and Tourism, underwent surgery last week and will be off work for a period of six to eight weeks.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Councillor Toms, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, the meeting adjourned.

Wayne Budge, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO

