

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

July 8,2002

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held on Monday, July 8, 2002 at the Court House in Baddeck.

Present were:

District #1 Dan E. MacNeil
District #2 Shane Toms, Late Arrival
District #3 Deputy Warden, Bruce Morrison
District #4 John G. MacInnes
District #5 Warden Gerald Sampson
District #6 Lawrence Barron
District #7 Wayne Budge
District #8 Robert MacLellan

Also present were:

Heather MacLean, Interim CAO
Jim MacLean, Landfill Manager
Denise MacKinnon, Director of Finance
Zina MacNeil, Recording Secretary

Warden Gerald Sampson called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Bruce Morrison, seconded by Councillor Lawrence Barron, that the agenda be approved and the time set for adjournment be 7:05 pm. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor John G. MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Wayne Budge, that the minutes of the June 17th, 2002 meeting be approved. Motion carried.

Business Arising

Ed Carey had reported that the infrastructure projects are progressing and everything is moving on them.

It was moved by Councillor John G. MacInnes, seconded by Deputy Warden Bruce Morrison, that council accept the hiring of Cathi Pierrard in the tax office as Accounts Payments Clerk/Receptionist. Motion carried.

Lawrence Barron and Gerald Sampson reported on the meeting with Department of Transportation in regards to the Ingonish Water Project and their offer was not acceptable with us and they will work with Heather MacLean on doing a business plan and see if they will increase there offer.

The more benefits we can show the more money that may be available. There are no economic benefits of the system. The only benefit is to provide potable water to the people as there is no land available to develop in that area.

Electoral Boundaries was under discussion and a written submission will have to be sent in by the end of August. That is the deadline with a decision on where we stand on that issue. Bruce Morrison and John Graham were to work on that submission.

ENVIRONMENTAL SOLID WASTE ISSUES

Jim MacLean was asked to come forward to report on the issues that had been brought up at the previous meeting and respond to the letters that had been sent.

One issue was the purchase of shipping containers which he had requested to purchase for the storage of paint containers. Each of the two depots would have three containers each. The landfill would receive \$2500 a month for storage and \$25 for each container when it was shipped to the RRFB. They are stored inside right now and there is a continuous paint swap. They have enough now to fill four to six containers. Within a period of three years we would have our money back on the investment of purchasing these containers.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Robert MacLellan, that we purchase the six containers from Long's Towing and Sanitation for the approximate cost of \$3200 each. Motion carried.

The hand held radios at the landfill are a problem. They seem to stop working as soon as the warranty is up. Jim MacLean wanted to know what council thought he should do; keep on buying the cheap ones which they purchase now from Radio Shack for \$160 a set, or try something else. They need a minimum of four at all times with the operation of the different equipment.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Bruce Morrison, seconded by Councillor John G. MacInnes, that council give Jim MacLean permission to purchase two sets of Cobra Radios. Motion carried.

Equipment Training

Jim MacLean had sent a letter of reply back to council on the training of the staff. Jim reported to date that he had been conducting the training off staff. Council decided to find out if Jim could be properly licensed to train them. The staff do not have certification and Jim is not licensed to give proper training. The Department of Labour still has not responded to the written request of what we need. The county could be liable if staff are not certified.

It was recommended that Heather MacLean call or fax the Department of Labour for Guidance on qualifications. Lawrence Barron recommended a man named Randy Kennedy.

Nova Scotia Community College does training certification and will provide onsite training. Heather MacLean will check into this. Denise MacKinnon mentioned that Brian Trask had received a quote from them about 2 years previous for onsite training.

Truck Purchase/Allowance

Jim MacLean had sent in a reply to council on the use of a truck if the county agreed to give him an allowance for it. It would service the enviro-depot needs, the landfill needs, errands for floats, parts, palettes and prevent possible damage to staff vehicles. The freon to be removed from the fridges and freezers from both depots you need to take the equipment to remove it. One of the staff is trained from Holland College to remove it. The registration and ownership was an issue if the county provided the allowance Jim MacLean could purchase it and the insurance and registration would be his responsibility. Denise MacKinnon mentioned that the county does have an insurance policy to cover staff if expenses are incurred while on county business but does not cover regular car insurance. She would check into adding Jim MacLean to this policy.

It was moved by Councillor Dan E. MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Toms, that council approve the allowance of a truck for the landfill at and amount of \$264 a month and 19.5cents a kilometre for county business. Motion carried.

Transfer Station Road

This road is in serious condition and councillor is receiving numerous complaints. It was determined it is not a public road but a private one. The county has been keeping it plowed the days it is in operation. The county is paying for this expense.

Jim MacLean was given authorization to get a price on what it would cost to repair it and a few loads of gravel for the landfill site as well because of all the rain there is lots of mud. He will report back to council.

Ed Carey is working on a list of priority issues for the landfill of things that need to be fixed immediately. There hasn't been any work done in four years. There is problems with manholes, methane vents, ditching, leechate leakage and the need for a fence. It should be surveyed to know where lines are exactly. Ed Carey is working on the list to satisfy the Department of Environment.

Environment had started to monitor banned materials last week. Everything seemed to be satisfactory.

A letter was received from the RRFB regarding an application sent in by Brian Trask for the expansion of the Neil's Harbour Enviro-Depot. They approved \$35,000 for this project. We have until July 30, 2002 to reply. It would cost approximately \$57,600. We

get the cardboard from this depot and nothing else but providing a building on Fire Department property.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Bruce Morrison, seconded by Councillor John G. MacInnes, that pending consultation with the Fire Department we put this on hold and ask that the county receive a portion of the revenue from the operation before we go ahead with expansion. Motion carried

The Solid Waste Committee should sit down with the fire department representatives and negotiate with them. But the expansion will be on hold until that time.

Regional Solid Waste Committee

The county needs a representative on the solid waste committee. It was recommended that someone from the financial background be a part of this committee.

It was moved by Councillor Wayne Budge, seconded by Councillor John G. MacInnes, that Denise MacKinnon be our new representative on all three solid waste committees until further notice. Motion carried.

Robert Dauphinee called Jim MacLean and the Regional Solid Waste Meeting will be held on July 17th. He will be sending emails out regarding time.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Morrison, seconded by Shane Toms, that Jeff Cameron be hired at the landfill until Cathi Pierrard's position is filled at a rate of \$6.50. Motion carried.

Non-Resident Land Ownership

This was a concern of a number of residents of Victoria County with regards to the prime land being bought by non residents and nothing being done with the property. They are purchasing the land and not developing it. In PEI if not living more than 183 days a year you can only purchase ten acres of land. We should check into what other municipalities are doing and if they have a non-resident by-law. Heather MacLean will check into this.

It was moved by Councillor John G. MacInnes, seconded by Deputy Warden Morrison, that we contact Municipal Affairs for information and a guideline for non-resident tax.

Break at 6:30.

Call back to order at 6:40.

RECREATION/TOURISM MATTERS

Youth Assistance

It was moved by Councillor John G. MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Lawrence Barron, that council approve the immediate recommendation of the \$4900.00 in youth assistance applications from the Recreation Department and to increase the youth assistance budget to \$10,000.00. Motion carried.

Tom Wilson had sent in minutes from VCCTAC meetings from May 29 and June 19.

It was moved by Councillor Lawrence Barron, seconded by Councillor Shane Toms, that the recommendation to council for \$10,000 to be approved for North Highlands Community Museum capital project be referred to the Corporate Services Committee for budget talks. Motion carried.

A letter was received from Nancy MacLean for the Baddeck Gathering Ceilidhs looking for support. She approached Mark Eykings office and they will support her if she shows she the support from the Municipality first.

It was moved by Councillor John G. MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Dan E. MacNeil, that a letter of support be given to Nancy MacLean in support of the Baddeck Gathering Ceilidhs. Motion carried.

Heather MacLean read a letter that is to be sent to Premier John Hamm in regards to Ski Cape Smokey. It was written by Councillor Lawrence Barron and made comparison to Upper Clements Park and all the support they are receiving.

It was moved by Councillor Lawrence Barron, seconded by Councillor John G. MacInnes, that this letter be approved and sent on county letterhead and a copy be presented personally to Premier John Hamm on his visit to Baddeck on Thursday, July 11. Deputy Warden Bruce Morrison will present the letter to him. Motion carried.

Issues to be listed for the Premier's visit July 11 at 5:30 in the Masonic Hall:

- Ski Cape Smokey
- Advertising Nova Scotia is another issue to be added to list for the Premier. Where are our ads?
- Ferry rates another issue.
- Road conditions
- Boundaries

A letter was received from Nova Scotia Power regarding the change in the grants in lieu of taxes. This is no longer done annual payments are now being made to Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations. The municipality has not received any money from the first payment and we want to know when we get our share. Wreck Cove is one of the largest generating plants and is in our county so we should be receiving a substantial portion of those revenues sent in to the province.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Robert MacLellan, that we send a positive letter looking for our share of this revenue. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor John G. MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Wayne Budge, that this issue be added to the list of items to be presented to Premier John Hamm at Thursday's meeting. Motion carried.

Ross MacDonald's Requests for Motions of Support:

It was moved by Councillor John G. MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Lawrence Barron that the county will send a letter of support for the application of the St. Ann's Bay Development Association for the upgrading of the North River Falls Trail, but will not provide the administrative support for the project or be the sponsoring agent. Motion carried.

It was discussed that opening the door for administering of community organizations projects would be setting a precedent for other organizations to look for the same type of support.

It was moved by Councillor John G. MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Dan E. MacNeil, that the recommendation for the "Request for Proposals" for the training for personal care and home support services be advertised on county letterhead. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor John G. MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Dan E. MacNeil, that September 8, 2002 be recognized as International Literacy Day. Motion carried.

A letter was received from the Cape Breton Regional School Board which shows our share this year is \$1, 265,000.00. Denise MacKinnon said that this amount is increased from last years contribution which was around \$1, 219,000.00.

A letter was received from the Baddeck Nursery School looking for monetary assistance for the costs incurred with the closing of May 28 due to obnoxious odours and repairs to fix the problems. The total expenses incurred were \$1648.07. Deputy Warden Bruce Morrison gave a cheque from his district budget for \$750 towards this leaving a balance of \$898.07.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Bruce Morrison, seconded by Councillor John G. MacInnes, that the county will pay \$450 of the expenses left owing if the property owner or other funding partners of Kinder House will pay for the remainder of the bill. Motion carried.

Warden Sampson mentioned that Vince Steele would like to come before council. It was decided he be asked to come to the September 9th, 2002 meeting.

Our next regular session will be held on July 22, 2002 at 5:30.

Wayne Budge and Robert MacLellan requested derelict vehicle forms. This program is in effect until March 2003 and then will be prorated. We reapplied for funding. There is a maximum of \$50,000 for the province.

A letter was received from Mr. Wiseman stating he never received a reply from the Village of Baddeck in regards to the Baddeck Sewer Treatment Plant progression. It was discussed that Lisa MacKinnon be asked if a letter of reply was sent from the Village.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Shane Toms, that Mr. Wiseman be sent a letter advising that the work on the Baddeck Sewer Treatment Plant is progressing, and that the tenders are out. Motion carried.

Business Occupancy Tax

A letter was received from the UNSM and a reply is required by July 12 indicating if we are in favor or should we eliminate it business occupancy tax.

It was moved by Councillor Shane Toms, seconded by Councillor Wayne Budge, that we reply to the UNSM and indicate that we are in favour of Business Occupancy Tax.

Motion to adjourn to in camera by Councillor Lawrence Barron at 7:30.