

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

July 9, 2001

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, July 9, 2001, beginning at 5:30 p.m. with Warden Gerald Sampson in the Chair.

Present were:

District #1 – Dan E. MacNeil
District #2 – Shane Toms
District #3 – Bruce Morrison, Deputy Warden
District #4 – John Graham MacInnes
District #5 – Gerald Sampson, Warden
District #7 – Wayne Budge

Also present were:

Brian Trask, CAO
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

Absent were:

District #6 – Lawrence Barron
District #8 – Robert MacLellan

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Sampson called the meeting to order.

AGENDA/TIME FOR ADJOURNMENT

The agenda was presented for approval. The following items were added to the agenda:

- Letter from the Cape Breton Highlands National Park
- Recommendation of the Victoria County CED Committee
- Update on meeting held with Deputy Ministers of the Environment and Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that the agenda be approved as amended and the time for adjournment be set at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried.

MINUTES

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The minutes of the June 18, 2001, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Toms, that the minutes of the June 18, 2001, Council Session be approved as presented. Motion carried.

OYSTER FISHERY

Councillor MacNeil presented Council Members with a copy of a letter received from Neil Bellefontaine, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, outlining the restrictions put in place for the relay and depuration fishery in 2001.

BRAS D'OR LAKES – SEWAGE

Courtesy of Council was extended to Laurie Suitor, Coordinator, Bras d'Or Lakes Project, Department of the Environment.

Ms. Suitor was in attendance to present to Council the 10 proposed commitments for municipal and First Nations consideration, as well as the 10 reciprocal commitments directed at government agencies for consideration. (Copy of commitments attached)

Ms. Suitor indicated these commitments are action-oriented and must be doable in order to achieve the goal of eliminating sewage from entering the Bras d'Or Lakes. With full municipal and First Nations commitment, and that of the government agencies, she indicated that an overall funded strategy for the Bras d'Or Lakes could be a possibility.

Discussion took place on the commitments and the expectations of the municipality. Getting consensus from all municipal units in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding is the goal to begin this process. It was indicated that the only way to get results is to work cooperatively and have funding in place to assist with the strategy.

Councillor Budge brought up the area of the County not bordering the Bras d'Or Lakes and the fact that possibly the two most contaminated areas in the County are located in this area. It was indicated that this strategy is meant to be a pilot project and if successful, will expand to areas beyond the Bras d'Or Lakes.

Further discussion took place on concerns raised by Council.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Budge, that the Bras d'Or Lakes strategy be endorsed, based on the assumption that there

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will be no further downloading of provincial programs to municipal governments. Motion carried.

Ms. Suitor extended thanks to Victoria County on being a leader in the process to have the Bras d'Or Lakes cleaned up and she was excused at this time.

INGONISH WATER

Courtesy of Council was extended to Ed Carey, P. Eng., who presented Council with an update on the proposed scope of work and cost estimate for the feasibility study for the Ingonish Water Supply.

The costs for Phase 1 – Water Supply Assessment and Phase 2 – Engineering Assessments and Cost Estimates, is estimated to be \$68,000. Mr. Carey indicated that property in the area of Power's Brook which has been identified as the area where the wells will be drilled is owned by 3 persons and he has referred this matter to Councillor Barron to negotiate with these land owners. He was unable to contact Councillor Barron for an update.

Mr. Carey indicated that the best time of the year to do Phase 1 work is from now until the end of the September.

A further update will be available when Councillor Barron is present to update on the landownership issue.

A vote of thanks was extended to Mr. Carey and he left at this time.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #7

It was moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Transportation and Public Works commending the road foremen, Nelson Dixon, and his workers for the excellent job of snow removal under adverse conditions during the winter of 2000/2001. Motion carried.

Councillor MacInnes indicated that the area between Cape Smokey and the Englishtown Ferry has suffered since snow removal responsibilities have been shifted to the Department of Transportation crew

from the northern area.

District #4

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Councillor MacInnes brought up the matter of the increase in waterfront assessments.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Deputy Warden Morrison, that a letter be forwarded to the Assessment Division, Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, requesting that in waterfront properties, where there is no change in title, they institute a “grandfather clause” to allow such properties to remain at a constant level with regard to assessment. Motion carried.

District #5

It was moved by Warden Sampson, seconded by Deputy Warden Morrison, that the following be approved from the District #5 budget:

- Big Wave Festival - \$200
- Ross Ferry Pork Chop Barbecue - \$200
- District #7 Recreation Committee - \$500
- District #5 Action Committee - \$2,000
- Cape Breton Bible Camp - \$200

Motion carried.

District #1

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Toms, that \$750 be approved from the Royal Canadian Legion in Iona and \$750 for the Little Narrows Community Development Association from the District #1 budget. Motion carried.

District #2

Councillor Toms, on behalf of the residents of Middle River, extended a vote of thanks to Council for the support received in their efforts to have the Church Cross Bridge replaced. An announcement has been made that a new bridge will be installed at this location and should be in place by the fall of 2001.

Councillor Toms brought up the matter of the staffing at the Baddeck Landfill and discussion took place. Councillor Toms will have a report for the Environmental/Solid Waste Committee which will be held on Monday, July 16, 2001, at 2:00 p.m. Art Pickup will be in attendance to review the solid waste contracts. Jim MacLean, Baddeck Landfill Operator/Manager, is to be requested to attend this meeting also.

Excused

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Warden Sampson was excused at this time and Deputy Warden Morrison assumed the Chair.

District #4

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Toms, that \$1,000 be approved for the North Shore & District Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary for hall improvements from the District #4 budget. Motion carried.

District #3

It was moved by Deputy Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Budge, that \$100 be approved for the Knox Presbyterian Church Cemetery Fund from the District #3 budget. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Toms, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that a letter be forwarded to Rick Beaton, ECBC, in support of the Village of Baddeck's proposal for a new water transmission line from Peter's Brook to the Pumping Station. Motion carried.

RECREATION/TOURISM

Brian Trask advised that Tom Wilson has undergone surgery and will be off work for an extended period of time. Council are to determine how they wish to handle Recreation/Tourism matters and budget expenditures. There are program assistance applications on file that require approval in the near future. It was indicated that Zina MacNeil could handle a portion of these duties, as her position is to cover for other positions in the building.

An Executive Session to deal with budget matter will be held on Monday, July 16, 2001, at 5:30 p.m. A decision will be made on Recreation/Tourism at that time.

PAULINE DAVIS

Brian Trask advised that Pauline Davis has recently completed 25 years of service with the Municipality of the County of Victoria.

Mr. Trask also reported that aggressive tax collections in 2000/2001 have resulted in the reserve now

being \$53,000 over the outstanding taxes.

HOME SUPPORT

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Councillor MacInnes advised that the 18th Annual Provincial Home Support Conference will be held in Baddeck on September 18-20, 2001. A request was received for the Municipality to sponsor the cost of kit bags for this conference in the amount of \$900.00.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that \$900 be approved from the advertising budget for the cost of kit bags for the 18th Annual Provincial Home Support Conference. Motion carried.

CED COMMITTEE

Discussion took place on the replacements for Committee Members retiring from the CED Committee. Both Jolene Stockley and George Maher are to be replaced.

Council Members are to think of possible replacements for these individuals for a future meeting.

It was indicated that Councillor Budge, Deputy Warden Morrison and Jolene Stockley will be meeting to draw up the requirements for the Development Officer position. The drafted job description will be brought to the CED Committee and Council for approval. Pending approval, authorization was given to publish this position in The Victoria Standard, Cape Breton Post, Chronicle Herald and one other national paper, as well as posted with HRDC, Universities, etc.

MEETINGS

The following meetings will be held on Monday, July 16, 2001:

- Environmental/Solid Waste Committee – 2:00 p.m.
- Victoria County Community Economic Development Committee – 4:00 p.m.
- Executive (In Camera) Council Session – 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Councillor Budge, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.