

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
July 10, 2000

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, July 10, 2000, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Warden John G. MacInnes in the Chair.

Present were:

District #1 – Gerald Yetman, Deputy Warden
District #2 – Shane Toms
District #3 – Bruce Morrison
District #4 – John Graham MacInnes, Warden
District #5 – Gerald Sampson
District #6 – Lawrence Barron
District #7 – David Donovan (Late Arrival)
District #8 – Robert MacLellan (Late Arrival)

Also present were:

Brian E. Trask, CAO
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Warden MacInnes called the meeting to order. The agenda was presented for approval. The following items are to be added to the agenda:

- ? Economic Development
- ? Fire Prevention Act
- ? Kearns Disintegration Systems
- ? Community Name Change

It was moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that the agenda be approved with the noted additions. Motion carried.

DANGEROUS AND UNSIGHTLY PREMISES

Courtesy of Council was extended to Paul Burt, Building Inspector, who was in attendance regarding a dangerous and unsightly premises owned by Andre J. Poulain, Ingonish Ferry, Victoria County.

Mr. Burt indicated that as required, he forwarded a registered letter to Mr. Poulain, which was refused at the point of delivery. Mr. Burt indicated that he

has acted on this matter as a result of numerous complaints. He presented photographs of the site in question to Council for review.

Mr. Burt is recommending that an order be issued to Andre J. Poulain indicating that his property situate at Ingonish Ferry, is dangerous and unsightly within the meaning of the Municipal Government Act, Chapter 18, of the Statutes of Nova Scotia, 1998, Section XV. The order will request that he remedy the situation within 30 days. Failure to do so will result in the Municipality undertaking to have this situation remedied and relaying the charges for the clean up to Mr. Poulain.

It was moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Toms, that the Municipality issue an order to Andre J. Poulain indicating that his property situate at Ingonish Ferry, Victoria County, is dangerous and unsightly within the meaning of the Municipal Government Act, Chapter 18, of the Statutes of Nova Scotia, 1998, Section XV, and ordering that he remedy this situation within 30 days. Motion carried.

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for approval.

Victoria County Municipal Council – June 19, 2000

Environmental/Solid Waste Committee – June 28, 2000

Victoria County Municipal Council – June 28, 2000

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that the minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Demolition Tender - Dingwall School

Brian Trask advised that a tender for the demolition, removal of all debris and the restoration of the Dingwall School site will be published in the Cape Breton Post on Tuesday, July 11, 2000 and Saturday, July 15, 2000.

Ewen MacLean

Rudderham's Well Drilling have been contacted to drill a well for Ewen MacLean as agreed with the MacLean's.

Roadside Cleanup – Baddeck Overpass to Red Bridge

The cleanup of the roadside from the overpass to the Red Bridge was discussed. The Baddeck Landfill Operator/Manager is to look after having this matter completed.

Ed Carey

Ed Carey recently opened Carey Geoenvironmental Engineering in Baddeck and is available to meet with Council to outline his services.

Wagmatcook First Nation

The solid waste issue and agreement reached with Wagmatcook First Nation for accepting their solid waste at the Baddeck Landfill was explained to the Committee. Solicitor Pickup is in the process of drafting the agreement that should be ready by mid-week.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Sampson, that an invitation be extended to Wagmatcook Band Council to have an elected member of the Band Council serve as a member on the Environmental/Solid Waste Committee. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Yetman commended Environmental/Solid Waste Committee Chairman Bruce Morrison and Baddeck Landfill Operator/Manager Jim MacLean for the handling of the Wagmatcook issue.

Chief Mary Louise Bernard indicated that her Band Council would be interested in meeting with Victoria County Municipal Council.

It was moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that an invitation be extended to Wagmatcook Band Council to meet with Victoria County Municipal Council to discuss and determine our common goals. Motion carried.

Solid Waste

Rol-Don Services and Hazeldale Milling & Trucking will continue to collect residential solid waste until July 31, 2000. The notice of tender has been published in the newspaper and tenders will be received until July 21, 2000.

Medrick Dixon has been hired as the Cape North Transfer Station Operator on a three-month probationary period. Jim MacLean will monitor his probation and has gone to the site today to carry out and inspection and meet with Mr. Dixon.

Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board

The Utility and Review Board have approved a second school board member for Victoria County. One member will be elected on October 21, 2000, from Districts #1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, and one member will be elected from Districts #6, 7, and 8.

It was moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Barron, that appreciation be extended to Brian Trask, CAO, for his presentation to the Utility and Review Board, which was a contributing factor on the decision for the second school board member for Victoria County. Motion carried.

Neil's Harbour/New Haven Water System

The Utility and Review Board have approved the water rates and regulations for the Neil's Harbour/New Haven Water System effective July 1, 2000. Residential customers will pay \$461 per year for water, to be billed quarterly.

Department of the Environment Inspection – Baddeck Landfill

Peter Gouthro, Department of the Environment, conducted a field inspection at the Baddeck Landfill on July 5, 2000. He checked several vehicles entering the landfill and all, with the exception of one, were in conformance with the bans in place. Mr. Gouthro was impressed with the site operation and will be recommending that the site approval, including the composting facility, be processed for approval.

Property Tax Rebate Program for Seniors

The Nova Scotia government is extending a Property Tax Rebate program to all seniors who qualify. This rebate program is designed to help seniors remain in their own homes. It provides a rebate of municipal taxes paid for the previous year to a senior citizen. To be eligible a senior must be in receipt of the Guaranteed Income Supplement to the Old Age Security in January of each year; continue to live in own home; and have paid all your property taxes in full.

Victoria County Community Economic Development Committee

Deputy Warden Yetman questioned on the meeting the Victoria County Community Economic Development Committee requested with the Municipal Solicitor, Advisor and Auditor.

It was moved by Councillor Yetman, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that the Municipal Solicitor, Auditor and Advisor be requested to meet with Council and the Victoria County Community Economic Development Committee. Motion carried.

Warden MacInnes indicated that he forwarded the letter to Phil MacDonald, Strait-Highlands Regional Development Agency, clarifying Council's intention with regard to future involvement in the RDA.

The Victoria County Community Economic Development Committee will be meeting on July 13, 2000, at 9:30 a.m. The agenda for the meeting was discussed.

Cabot Trail Relay Association

A thank you was received from Anne Gillis, Cabot Trail Relay Association, for Council's sponsorship in the 1999 Cabot Trail Relay.

ENTERED

Councillors MacLellan and Donovan entered at this time.

RECESS

Warden MacInnes advised that Council would recess for 15 minutes.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #8

Councillor MacLellan indicated that he was given a copy of the financial statements for Cabot Volunteer Fire Department and they are requesting payment of the second half of their grant.

District #7

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor Yetman, that \$50 be approved from the District #7 budget for the Bay St. Lawrence Crabfest. Motion carried.

Councillor Donovan indicated that he was contacted by a resident of his district concerning an application forwarded for the Transfer Station Operator position. Brian Trask is to check on this matter and reply to the resident in writing.

District #5

It was moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that the following grants be approved from the District #5 budget:

? \$200 – St. James Presbyterian Church (fuel for CAP Site)

? \$100 – Big Bras d’Or Fishermen’s Group

? \$100 – New Campbellton/Cape Dauphin Road Committee

? \$200 – Community Policing Office

? \$200 – Boularderie Food Bank

Motion carried.

Councillor Sampson indicated that he still required funding for 2 students, should any Councillor not require their allotment.

Councillor Sampson advised that he was contacted by three families who live on Daldarada Drive in New Campbellton. Under 911 they are classified as being in New Harris and they want a change to indicate New Campbellton. Janet Porter, Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission, is to be contacted to determine what process should be followed to achieve the name change.

Councillor Sampson indicated that Council should meet to review the Fire Prevention Act and offer comments prior to the September, 2000, deadline.

Councillor Sampson presented information received from Kearns Disintegration Systems and indicated that Council will be invited to a demonstration of the KDS system in the near future.

The Department of Economic Development has formed a new Committee – the Human Development Partnership Committee. This committee is funded for both the CBRM and Victoria County and has a number of focuses. The contact person is Bea Buckland who can be reached at 563-3625.

District #3

Page 7, VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, July 10, 2000

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Yetman, that the Warden and CAO

contact Bruce Fitzner concerning the future of the Department of Transportation and Public Works Highway Garage in Baddeck. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Sampson, that a letter be forwarded to Lawrence Macdonald, Department of the Environment, requesting the Department to carry out a water sampling program in Baddeck Harbour and if the Department will not cover the costs of same, the Municipality cover the cost of the water sampling. Motion carried.

District #2

Councillor Toms questioned whether a reply had been received to the request concerning guardrailing in the Big Baddeck area. Brian Trask advised that this request, along with others, would be considered by the Department of Transportation.

District #1

Deputy Warden Yetman indicated that Arlene Morrison has been hired as the new administrator at Alderwood Rest Home.

An additional parking area is presently being installed at Alderwood and will be a welcome addition to the facility.

District #4

It was moved by Councillor Toms, seconded by Deputy Warden Yetman, that \$400 be approved for the North Shore Recreation Committee from the District #4 budget. Motion carried.

BUDGET

Brian Trask presented Council members with a draft operating budget for 2000/2001. Included in this draft is the budget for the Tourism and Recreation Department which Tom Wilson was in attendance to outline.

Courtesy of Council was extended to Tom Wilson, Recreation and Tourism Director. Mr. Wilson passed out a copy of the July newsletter for Tourism. He indicated that he attended a meeting today and ECBC have agreed to carry out one marketing plan for all Cape Breton Island.

Page 8, VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, July 10, 2000

Mr. Wilson also indicated that the Cape Breton Island Economic Adjustment Fund Panel will announce programs for tourism (infrastructure, accommodations and attractions) in September, 2000. There is also \$130,000,000.00 in funding for economic development in Atlantic Canada through the Atlantic

Innovation Fund. Rick Beaton, the Vice-President of ECBC, is pushing to have Cape Breton become involved in E-Commerce.

Mr. Wilson presented his budget. He indicated that the present situation regarding clerical assistance in his department is unsatisfactory. He would like to see assistance in his department provided by an individual interested in taking on various projects to free up more of his time. Brian Trask indicated that he also included money in the budget for a person who could be utilized as a floater between the various departments for sickness, vacation, etc.

Discussion took place on the Victoria County Economic Development Committee and the budget being requested. The implementation of the strategic plan was discussed. Brian Trask indicated that Victoria County could not afford to remain in the RDA, hire someone to carry out the strategic plan and increase the tourism/recreation budget as requested. Tom Wilson suggested that the SHRDA be requested to provide a full-time staff person to implement the strategic plan.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Deputy Warden Yetman, to accept the draft report as tabled and refer to budget talks for consideration and any decision be deferred until after the Victoria County Community Economic Development Committee meeting on Thursday, July 13, 2000. Motion carried.

Council reviewed the draft operating budget. The list of grant requests from organizations was reviewed. Brian Trask indicated that the grant requests have increased 43.27%. Deputy Warden Yetman indicated he would like \$2,000 included for the MacKinnon Harbour/Ottawa Brook Water Committee and Councillor Sampson indicated that he would like \$1,000 to be included for both the Boularderie Support Group and the District #5 Recreation Committee.

Discussion took place on fire department funding. A 14.71% increase has been included for fire departments. As well the Municipality has agreed to fund Level 1 Fire Training. Mr. Trask indicated that he included \$27,000 in the budget for fire department upgrading which Council felt should be the responsibility of the Chief Officers Committee to distribute.

Page 9, VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, July 10, 2000

Discussion took place on the Tax Office and Brian Trask indicated that collection is going well and the Municipality will not have to put anything into a reserve this year.

The stipend for the incoming Council will also be determined and included in this budget.

Council will peruse the draft budget document and meet again on Monday, July 17, 2000, at 5:00 p.m.

DISTRICT #4

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that \$500 be approved for the Englishtown Community Hall from the District #4 budget. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

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

B. E. Trask, CAO

John G. MacInnes, Warden