

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
July 10, 2006

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, July 10, 2006, beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Present were:

District #1 – Dan E. MacNeil, Deputy Warden
District #2 – Keith MacCuspic
District #3 – Bruce Morrison
District #4 – John Graham MacInnes
District #5 – Fraser Patterson
District #7 – Wayne Budge, Warden

Also present were:

Sandy Hudson, CAO
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

Absent were:

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

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Budge called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/TIME TO ADJOURN

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Deputy Warden MacNeil, that the agenda be approved as presented and the time to adjourn be set for 6:00 p.m. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JUNE 19, 2006

The minutes of the June 19, 2006, session of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspic, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that the June 19, 2006, Victoria County Municipal Council minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

North Shore School

The appraisal of the North Shore School has been completed by Walter Sawlor. Councillor MacInnes requested a copy of the appraisal.

Employee Pension

Stephen MacEachern has met with several staff members regarding their pension investments. Dates have been scheduled to meet with the remaining employees. Positive feedback has been received from the staff.

Fire Departments

When the Fire Departments attended Council recently, the possibility of the Nova Scotia Firefighters School's mobile unit coming to the County to provide training was discussed.

A letter will be written to the Nova Scotia Firefighters School requesting that Victoria County be included on the training schedule.

CAPE BRETON-VICTORIA REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD

A letter was received from the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board advising that Keith Bain has resigned his position as School Board Member for District G – South Victoria. The seat has been declared vacant and a special election is required. Council is to set the date for the election and conduct the election pursuant to the *Municipal Elections Act*.

Sandy Hudson advised that he has requested the use of the provincial lists from the recent provincial election, but has not received a reply as yet. The School Board will reimburse the County for the costs of running the election.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Deputy Warden MacNeil, that Sandy Hudson be the Returning Officer for the School Board Special Election. Motion carried.

It was moved by Deputy Warden MacNeil, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that the date for the School Board Special Election be set for September 9, 2006, with advance polls to be held on August 31 and September 5, 2006. Motion carried.

HEAVY GARBAGE PICKUP

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Dutch Brook Disposal and David Fitzgerald have both agreed to carry out a heavy garbage pickup in their contract areas.

Collection will take place in District #5 and from the Barrachois Bridge North to the foot of Smokey on July 15 and 16, 2006.

Discussion took place on proposed dates for other areas. The schedule will be as follows:

- July 22 and 23, 2006 – From the Barrachois Bridge, South including the remainder of District #4 and all of District #3.
- July 29 and 30, 2006 – District #1 and from the southern Base of Smokey Mountain to and including the MacKrous Subdivision and all roads in between
- August 5 and 6, 2006 – District #2 and from the MacKrous Subdivision North to Dino's Restaurant
- August 12 and 13, 2006 – Neil's Harbour North to Dingwall
- August 19 and 20, 2006 – Cape North to the Victoria/Inverness border

Residents are to have their materials at curbside by 7:00 a.m. on the day of pickup and metals are to be separated from non-metals. No tires, car parts or paint is permitted.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

Discussion took place on the Department of Community Services office in Baddeck. Marian MacDonald's position has been relocated to North Sydney and she comes to Baddeck on a two day a week basis. Other staff members have at times been temporarily assigned to North Sydney. The concern is that this may lead to the permanent closure of the Baddeck office in future.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that a letter expressing Council's opposition to the elimination of positions and the possible future closure of the Baddeck Department of Community Services Office be forwarded to the Minister of Community Services, with copies to the Premier and local MLA. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Highland Manor Board

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor MacCuspig, that James Stewart be appointed to serve as a member of the Highland Manor Board of Management. Motion carried.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #3

Councillor Morrison requested that a letter of congratulations be forwarded to Peter Campbell on his winning the recent Nova Scotia Amateur Golf Championship.

District #2

Councillor MacCuspig indicated that he was approached by local resident regarding non-residents receiving the same benefits and services as permanent residents. Discussion took place.

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspig, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that the possibility of a revised tax for non-resident landowners be investigated. Motion carried.

GAELIC COLLEGE SEWAGE TREATMENT PRESENTATION

Councillor MacInnes introduced Sam MacPhee, Executive Director, Gaelic College; Kennie MacAskill, Gaelic College Board Member; John Lam, ABL Environmental; and Robert Anderson, Planning and Development Engineer, Department of the Environment and Labour; to Council.

Sam MacPhee thanked Councillor MacInnes for the introduction and advised that they were in attendance to discuss a planned project with regard to remedying a long term problem with wastewater treatment at the Gaelic College (Copy of presentation attached). They are looking at possibilities of combining efforts to provide suitable facilities for accepting commercial septage, while addressing the College's needs. Support for the project is being requested from the County..

Mr. MacPhee then turned the floor to John Lam, ABL Environmental, who explained the scope of the project to Council (copy attached). The wastewater treatment components will consist of a recirculating sand filter and septage management (fixed dewatering facility) facilities. The estimation of costs was provided with 2 options – phased implementation and full implementation costs. Life cycle costs estimates were also provided.

Discussion took place on the various aspects on the project and its anticipated completion date of year end. Questions were raised by Council and addressed by Mr. MacPhee and Mr. Lam.

Clarification was requested on the scope of the support being requested from the Municipality. It was felt that this information is required before Council can deal with this matter. The Gaelic College is to provide the additional information requested.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor MacCuspig, that this matter be referred to the Municipal Finance Committee pending receipt of the requested additional information from the Gaelic College. Motion carried.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #5

Councillor Patterson presented a petition for a road name change in his district which will be forwarded on to the Department of Transportation and Public Works and the Eastern District Planning Commission for approval.

Deputy Warden MacNeil requested that the Department of Transportation and Public Works be contacted regarding the status of the request to rename a road in his district from the Rear Estmere Road to the MacKinnon Road.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from Robert Bachand Jr. requesting Council to consider selling property located at Hunter's Mountain.

Any property sold by the Municipality must be by public tender.

It was moved by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacCuspig, that the property be advertised for sale by public tender through Solicitor MacDowell. Motion carried.

2. Letter from Michel Audy, Executive Secretary, Historic Sites and Monuments Board, in reply to council's resolution regarding the designation of the Ingonish Beach Campgrounds, Park Headquarters and Park Information Bureau in the Cape Breton Highlands National Park as national historic sites.

3. Letter from the Honourable Brooke Taylor, Minister of Natural Resources, in reply to council's resolution on management of garbage and conflict with wildlife.
4. Copy of email from Nick Argento, North Shore Hostel, regarding the real estate appraisal of the North Shore School property.
5. Letter from Brookside Residential Care Facility, Margaree Valley, concerning their organization and its purpose, requesting financial assistance.
6. Correspondence from the Honourable Angus MacIsaac, Minister of Transportation and Public Works, advising that a new policy has been adopted that allows the display of bilingual (English and Gaelic) community boundary signs. Victoria County is one of seven rural municipal units that have been identified for inclusion in this policy.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Jim MacLean will be retiring in November of this year and a previous discussion took place on his replacement being an engineer who would, along with solid waste management, oversee the water utilities in the Municipality.

Sandy Hudson presented a draft job opportunity for a Director of Public Works. Council reviewed the advertisement and agreed that this position should be advertised immediately, with the view to hiring in September, 2006.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #7

Warden Budge again brought up the matter of the lack of monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Natural Resources in the rivers North of Smokey area.

Blaise Landry is to be contacted for him or his representative to meet with Council to discuss concerns with regard to monitoring North of Smokey.

BADDECK VALLEY COMMUNITY HALL

The Baddeck Valley Community Hall is requesting they receive title to the property from the Municipality. Sandy Hudson indicated that copies of 1961 minutes indicate they were to receive title, however, it does not appear to have been completed.

Under Section 141, *Municipal Government Act*, a Public Hearing is required to give the public an opportunity to voice their opinions on this matter. Sandy Hudson has been in contact with Joan MacPhee, Baddeck Valley Community Club, regarding this matter and the necessary action.

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspig, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that the Public Hearing on the Baddeck Valley Community Hall be held in September, 2006. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Councillor MacCuspig, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

A. W. (Sandy) Hudson, CAO

Wayne Budge, Warden