

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
July 22, 2003

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Tuesday, July 22, 2003, beginning at 4:30 p.m. with Warden Gerald Sampson in the Chair.

Present were:

District #1 – Dan E. MacNeil
District #3 – Bruce Morrison
District #4 – John Graham MacInnes, Deputy Warden
District #5 – Gerald Sampson, Warden
District #6 – Lawrence Barron
District #7 – Wayne Budge
District #8 – Robert MacLellan

Also present were:

Sandy Hudson, CAO
Lorne MacDowell, Municipal Solicitor
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

Absent was:

District #2 – Shane Toms

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Sampson called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that the agenda be approved as circulated. Motion carried.

MINUTES

The minutes of the June 19, 2003, Annual Session of Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the minutes of the June 19, 2003, Annual Council Session be approved. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

- Warden Sampson stated that a letter was received from the Honourable Michael Baker, Minister of Transportation, advising that lighting would be installed on the Seal Island Bridge before completion of the bridge upgrade this fall.
- A replacement is to be appointed for Fred Williams, who recently resigned as a Victoria County representative on the Cape Breton Regional Library Board. This will be done at the next meeting.

DINGWALL WATER UPGRADE

Sandy Hudson advised that ACL Construction Ltd. will commence the Dingwall Water upgrade on July 28, 2003, with a completion date of September 30, 2003.

TAX EXEMPTION BY-LAW

The existing Tax Exemption By-Law as it pertained to charitable and community organizations was discussed. Sandy Hudson explained the three categories of exemption included the by-law to Council. Councillors are to be forwarded copies of the categories and the organizations presently contained in the by-law for review and a complete list will be compiled and brought to a future meeting of Council for approval.

NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS

District #1

Councillor MacNeil presented a petition for the naming of a private road in his area. This petition will be forwarded to the Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission and the Department of Transportation for their review and name approval and will be brought back to Council at a future meeting.

Councillor MacNeil presented a plaque received from the Cape Breton District Health Authority for the County's involvement in "A Healthy Cape Breton" by their adoption of a Non-Smoking By-Law. This plaque will be displayed in a prominent location within the Court House building.

District #7

Councillor Budge requested that the following grants be approved from the District #7 budget:

\$200 – Dingwall Little League

\$200 – Ingonish Minor Baseball

\$700 – Veteran’s Memorial Gardens, c/o Douglas Briand

He also presented an invoice for “Children Playing” signs that he requested be paid from his district budget.

District #3

Councillor Morrison questioned on the status of “No Smoking Signs by Order of the Municipality of the County of Victoria” which were to be ordered. Sandy Hudson advised that he was working on obtaining these signs.

District #8

Sandy Hudson advised that he was contacted by MTT regarding the possible location of a cell phone tower on the Dingwall Water tower site. He questioned whether the South Ridge Road site would be on higher ground and be a better site.

It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Councillor Budge, that authorization be given to enter negotiations with MTT regarding the installation of a cell phone tower on County property in Dingwall. Motion carried.

District #5

Warden Sampson advised that he attended a meeting in Middle River last week concerning the septic overflow at the site on Hunters Mountain.

It was felt that as this site is presently under investigation by the Province, it should remain with them until such time as they have completed their investigation. After a report is completed, the matter can be brought back to Council.

BANK ACCOUNTS

Sandy Hudson advised that Grant Thornton have recommended that the Enviro-Depot Account at the Royal Bank be closed and the money transferred to the East Coast Credit Union.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that the Enviro-Depot Account at the Royal Bank, Baddeck, be closed and the money transferred to the East Coast Credit Union, Baddeck. Motion carried.

The auditors have also suggested that the number of bank accounts at the Credit Union be decreased. At present there are 13 accounts, and it is suggested that these accounts be consolidated into 6 or 7 accounts.

It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that on the recommendation of the auditors, the municipal accounts at the East Coast Credit Union, Baddeck, be consolidated from the present 13 to 6 or 7 accounts. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from Dana Publicover, Executive Director, Taking Care of Cape Breton, thanking Council for the very generous commitment to their campaign for the MRI and Bone Densitometry equipment.
2. Letter from the Honourable Michael Baker, Minister of Transportation and Public Works, advising that the department has decided to install situational lighting along the structure of the Seal Island Bridge and to augment the street lighting installed by the Municipality at the approaches to the Bridge.
3. Letter from the Honourable Robert G. Thibault, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, in response to Council's letter concerning seismic exploration offshore Cape Breton Island.
4. Letter from Heather Morrison, North Highlands Community Museum, which was forwarded by Councillor MacLellan at the previous meeting, requesting funding in the amount of \$10,000.

This matter is to be referred to the Tourism and Recreation Department and Councillor MacLellan was directed to have Heather Morrison contact the CAO for further information.

ADJOURN

The meeting then adjourned and moved In Camera.

A. W. (Sandy) Hudson, CAO

Gerald E. Sampson, Warden

