

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
July 22, 2004

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Thursday, July 22, 2004, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Warden Wayne Budge in the Chair.

Present were:

District #1 – Dan E. MacNeil
District #2 – Shane Toms
District #3 – Bruce Morrison
District #4 – John Graham MacInnes, Deputy Warden
District #5 – Fraser Patterson
District #6 – Lawrence Barron
District #7 – Wayne Budge, Warden

Also present were:

Sandy Hudson, CAO
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

Absent was:

District #8 – Robert MacLellan

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Budge called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was presented for approval. Sandy Hudson advised that Grant Burgess, Grant Thornton LLP, would not be in attendance to present the consolidated financial statements at tonight's meeting as he is awaiting receipt of Alderwood and Highland Manor financial statements in order to complete the consolidated statements. He will present the statements at the August, 2004, session of Council.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JUNE 21, 2004

The minutes of the June 21, 2004, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Deputy Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Toms, that the June 21, 2004, Council minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

- The proposals for a new logo for Victoria County will be investigated over the next couple of months and the matter will be brought to Council later in the fall.
- The Provincial Rate for Election Workers for the upcoming Municipal Election will be investigated.
- Sandy Hudson advised that Hilltop Crescent, Baddeck, has been graveled and graded and the Fairview Road Bridge, New Haven, has been repaired.

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE/PROVINCIAL NOMINEE PROGRAM

Courtesy of Council was extended to Ross MacDonald, Director of Community Economic Development.

Mr. MacDonald presented Council with an update on Community Economic Development (copy attached).

He also presented information on the Nova Scotia Provincial Nominee Program (information attached) in particular the section of the program established to allow communities to make two nominations per year based on relationships potential immigrants have made with a particular community. He outlined the criteria and nomination process for nominees within the Municipality of the County of Victoria.

Discussion took place on the Nominee Program and the outlined criteria and concerns were expressed and addressed.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Barron, that the Municipality proceed with the Nominee Program process and the criteria be refined with the Nominating Committee. Motion carried.

Mr. MacDonald was extended a vote of thanks for his report and was excused at this time.

PROPERTY MATTERS

Sandy Hudson advised that there are two lots in the MacKrous Subdivision that have been put up on tax sale on two separate occasions and have not sold. These

properties will again be put to tax sale in September and if not sold, there is the option to put these properties on sale by tender.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that the two MacKrous Subdivision properties be put on tax sale in September and if not sold, then they be put to tender. Motion carried.

A request was received from Dan Chiasson on behalf of a client to purchase a piece of vested property at North Ingonish. The property in question is assessed at \$10,700.00. Discussion took place on the property.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that this request be tabled. Motion carried.

Interest has also been expressed in purchasing the 100-acre parcel of municipal-owned property at White Point.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Barron, that the Municipality retain this property as municipal property. Motion carried.

A request was received on behalf of CTH Investment Holdings Inc. to approve the name of a private road in their newly approved subdivision at Ingonish. The name suggested for the road is "George Ryerson Lane".

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that the private road name "George Ryerson Lane" be approved. Motion carried.

LOAN GUARANTEE – ALDERWOOD REST HOME

At the previous meeting, a motion was passed guaranteeing the loan requirements for Alderwood Rest Home. The amount approved at that meeting was the wrong amount and another motion is required to guarantee the correct amount.

It was moved by Deputy Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that the Municipality Guarantee the loan requirements for Alderwood Corporation in the amount of \$1,389,719.00. Motion carried.

RECESS

Warden Budge advised that Council would recess for ten minutes.

NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS/DISTRICT CONCERNS

CAPE BRETON GOVERNANCE STUDY

The Cape Breton Wellness Centre have been conducting seminars on behalf of the CBRM regarding the Cape Breton Governance Study and are requesting that Victoria County host a meeting for both Inverness and Victoria Counties on September 2, 2004. Inverness County has agreed to attend this meeting.

It was moved by Deputy Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that Victoria County host a meeting on behalf of the Cape Breton Wellness Centre regarding the Cape Breton Governance Study on September 2, 2004, at 6:00 p.m. Motion carried.

WHALE

The whale located on the Breton Cove Beach will be buried in a shallow pit and covered. There is also a seal in that area to be disposed of, as well as one in Neil's Harbour.

CAP ON ASSESSMENTS

Councillor Morrison questioned on whether there was any new information on the cap on assessments and if the municipal units had any further input on this matter. Sandy Hudson advised that there is no new information on this matter and discussions are still ongoing with regard to the Province getting out of the assessment business completely.

DISTRICT #6

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that a letter be forwarded to Charlie MacDonald, Department of Transportation and Public Works, requesting that guardrails be installed in the area of the Power Brook Bridge, Ingonish. Motion carried.

DISTRICT #5

Councillor Patterson indicated that he met with Paul Burt regarding an unsightly premise in his district and this matter is being handled.

Councillor Patterson also presented a letter he received from Scouts Canada regarding the 2005 Jamboree that will be held in Camp Carter, New Harris, in July, 2005. Further information will be presented at a later date on this matter.

DISTRICT #1

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Toms, that a letter be forwarded to Charlie MacDonald, Department of Transportation and Public Works, questioning on when repairs might be expected on the Gillis Point Road, as it was identified by the Department as a priority for repair under their RIM Program. Motion carried.

DISTRICT #2

It was moved by Councillor Toms, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that a letter be written to Charlie MacDonald, Department of Transportation and Public Works, requesting that the western end of the Old Margaree (Swamp) Road be regraded and ditched and the eastern end of the Big Baddeck Road be repaved. Motion carried.

DISTRICT #3

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Toms, that \$1,005.00 be approved for the Baddeck Lion's Club for the Kidston Island Beach Project from the District #3 budget. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Toms, that a letter be written to the Minister of the Environment requesting clarification and a breakdown by municipal unit on the 26% waste diversion figure for Region 1 Cape Breton Island. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that congratulations be forwarded to the Bras d'Or Yacht Club on the occasion of their 100th anniversary on July 25, 2004. Motion carried.

DISTRICT #4

Deputy Warden MacInnes requested that the Coastal Communities Network be requested to come to Council to speak on the topic of Fleet Separation. They will be invited to attend Council in September.

DISTRICT #6

Councillor Barron indicated that complaints were received concerning the condition of the gravel pit on top of Smokey. The ownership of this property was discussed and questioned.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that a letter be forwarded to Lawrence MacDonald, Department of the Environment, with a copy to the Minister, to determine who owns the site and that the site be reclaimed and brought back to its original state. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. A letter was received from John A. MacDonald, President & General Manager, Midway Motors, concerning the truck recently leased by Victoria County. Midway Motors was not afforded the opportunity to bid on this vehicle. Midway Motors has been an automotive dealer in Victoria County since 1926, employing 40 people, and are a substantial taxpayer in Victoria County.

Discussion took place on this matter and Sandy Hudson advised that Mr. MacDonald is totally accurate in his comments and indicated that he was totally at fault and would send a letter of apology to Mr. MacDonald.

Council felt that such a large expense item should have come before Council, the Solid Waste Committee or the Corporate Services Committee. Council mentioned that there was a policy in existence whereby expenses over a certain amount are to be tendered or approved by Council.

The three-year/25,000 km/year vehicle lease with Canso Ford was discussed. Mr. Hudson tried to opt out of the lease but Canso Ford has advised that this lease cannot be broken. Further investigation is being done through our solicitor.

Council agreed that Midway Motors were indeed warranted in their concern, as they should have been asked to submit a bid. All Council Members should have been aware that this item was being obtained also, as not knowing makes them look in a bad light.

Council felt that they should be provided with a report on a monthly basis as to what the County is directly involved in. Mr. Hudson was requested to provide a monthly report to Council.

Mr. Hudson is to investigate any existing policy with regard to expenditures and forward an apology letter to Midway Motors. Council Members are to be provided with a copy of this letter.

Mr. Hudson indicated that our existing insurance expires in September and he will be requesting proposals from Fraser & Hoyt and McCoy Insurance Brokers.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that he would like investigation done regarding preference being given to local Victoria County businesses when tendering such things as solid waste collection, etc. Sandy Hudson will investigate this matter for the next meeting.

2. Correspondence was received from Tom Wilson concerning Destination Cape Breton's request that the Municipality support a marketing levy for Cape Breton Island if 51% of the rooms of the tourism industry supports this initiative.

The Victoria County Tourism Advisory Committee is to provide a recommendation in this regard and Council felt that a great deal of additional information is required before a decision can be made.

BROADBAND AGREEMENTS

Sandy Hudson advised that he received a Broadband Agreement for signature an hour prior to Council and it is to be signed and delivered to the federal government by July 28, 2004. This does not allow ample time for review of the document.

Discussion took place on this matter. The CAO and the Warden are to review this document.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that the Warden and CAO review the document and if it is found to be acceptable, Council give authorization to sign the Broadband Agreement. Motion carried.

IN CAMERA

The Warden announced that Council would move to an In Camera session.

GRIEVANCE – ROY NICHOLSON

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that the grievance submitted by Roy Nicholson be denied. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS

Sandy Hudson brought up the matter of the seasonal layoffs that recently occurred at the Department of Transportation and Public Works, Baddeck. Six seasonal workers were laid off. Mr. Hudson spoke to Charlie MacDonald, Area Manager, in this regard and advised Council of his findings.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Barron, that a letter be forwarded to the Minister of Transportation and Public Works expressing Council's displeasure with the recent layoffs in Victoria County and the repercussions that will result from these layoffs. Motion carried.

HEARING AND SPEECH CHARITY CLASSIC

Victoria County will be participating in the Hearing and Speech Charity Classic at Bell Bay Golf Club in Baddeck on September 16, 2004. The County sponsorship will remain the same as last year and golfers participating will be Sandy Hudson, Wayne Budge, Bruce Morrison and John Graham MacInnes.

REPORT TO COUNCIL

Sandy Hudson will provide an update to Council of County involvements on a monthly basis. This information is to be provided to Council along with the notice and agenda of regular Council meetings.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Councillor Barron, the meeting adjourned.

A. W. (Sandy) Hudson, CAO

Wayne Budge, Warden