

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
July 31, 2006

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, July 31, 2006, beginning at 4:30 p.m. with Warden Wayne Budge in the Chair.

Present were:

District #2 – Keith MacCuspig
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 #1 – Dan E. MacNeil, Deputy Warden (Due to Illness)
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 MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that the agenda be approved as presented and the time to adjourn be set for 6:10 p.m. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JULY 10, 2006

The minutes of the July 10, 2006, session of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspig, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of July 10, 2006, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Road Name Approval

Council was advised that approval was received from both the Eastern District Planning Commission and the Department of Transportation for the naming of 11765 Kempt Head Road as “Eagle Pass”.

It was moved by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that the road name change “Eagle Pass” be accepted by Council. Motion carried.

Heavy Garbage Pickup

The heavy garbage collection is proceeding throughout the Municipality and will be ongoing until August 20, 2006. Positive feedback has been received from the areas completed to date.

Department of Community Services Office

The letter concerning the Department of Community Services office in Baddeck has been forwarded to the appropriate officials.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #4

Councillor MacInnes indicated that Joan MacInnes is requesting that a Heritage Advisory Committee be put in place to deal with an application for registration as a Municipal Heritage Property.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that John Graham MacInnes, Bruce Morrison, Keith MacCuspig, Fraser Patterson and Wayne Budge (ex-officio) form the Heritage Advisory Committee. Motion carried.

Councillor MacInnes was nominated to serve as Chairman of this Committee.

District #3

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacCuspig, that two (2) streetlights be approved per district in the 2006/07 budget. Motion carried.

District #2

Councillor MacCuspic questioned on whether the letter on the non-resident property tax issue was sent. Sandy Hudson advised that he is still gathering information on this matter and it will be sent out to the appropriate parties.

District #5

Councillor Patterson indicated that the Sell Committee (sub-committee of the Community Development Committee) met last week and developed a RFP (Request for Proposal) for a new County logo. The RFP has been distributed and advertised.

Councillor Patterson expressed concern with the Tourism Strategy for Nova Scotia. Despite the fact that Cape Breton Island has been named as the 4th island destination in the world and the 1st in North America, it is not highlighted. He also expressed displeasure that no government representative is attending the presentation of Cape Breton Island's island destination status.

District #4

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that \$2,000.00 be approved from the District #4 budget for the North Shore Recreation Committee for a top up for student grant workers. Motion carried.

District #7

Warden Budge again brought up the matter of the lack of enforcement in the rivers North of Smokey. Representatives from the Department of Natural Resources are to be requested to attend the September meeting of Council.

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES AND REPRESENTATION

A review of the municipal boundaries and Council representation is to be carried out and a report submitted to the Utility and Review Board by the end of 2006. Sandy Hudson indicated that he has collected some statistical information and questioned Council on how they wished to proceed in this regard.

It was felt that public meetings should be held to obtain the views of the electorate on this matter. One meeting will be held in northern Victoria and one in southern Victoria in late September/early October.

LONG SERVICE AWARDS – UNSM

Councillors eligible for UNSM Long Service Awards at the UNSM Conference in October are:

- Warden Wayne Budge (24 Years) – Eligible for 20 year award
- Councillor John G. MacInnes (21 Years) – Eligible for 20 year award
- Councillor Lawrence Barron (21 Years) – Eligible for 20 year award
- Councillor Robert MacLellan (15 Years) – Eligible for 15 year award

MARKETING LEVY UPDATE

Sandy Hudson provided Council with an update on the proposed marketing levy. The Wardens/Mayors and Chief Administrative Officers of the Cape Breton municipalities met in early June and at that meeting, it was decided that the Chief Administrative Officers would sit down with Destination Cape Breton Association to review the process and determine how to proceed.

This meeting took place on June 28, 2006. A suggestion was put forth that the marketing levy only apply to accommodations with ten (10) or more rooms. Sandy Hudson advised that accommodations of this type accounted for 78% of the facilities; however, the loss in revenue from exempting these facilities would only be 25%. It was also suggested at this meeting that each municipal unit on Cape Breton Island have a representative on the Board of Destination Cape Breton Association. The representative would be a Council Member.

These suggestions were to be brought back to the respective Councils and Destination Cape Breton Association was to inform the industry of same. There has to be an open forum of communication.

Council agreed that this would seem to be the most appropriate direction in which to proceed.

RCMP UPDATE

Courtesy of Council was extended to Cpl. Scott Williamson, Baddeck Detachment RCMP.

Cpl. Williamson provided Council with an update on the staff complement of the Baddeck Detachment. He presented a comparative statistical report of reported offences for the time frames of January to June, 2005 and January to June, 2006 (copy attached).

He indicated that an additional position for Wagmatcook First Nation has been approved and should be in place within the next six months.

Cpl. Williamson indicated that the RCMP are increasing their recruitment efforts and have plans to train 2000 members annually. At present 1000 are trained each year. A full-time recruitment position has been established in Cape Breton which is manned by Constable Julia Bernier-MacKenzie.

Victoria County will come under the District Policing concept in the future and this process is ongoing. Sgt. Densmore has been transferred from the Ingonish Beach Detachment and a replacement Corporal should be in place by mid to late August.

Discussion took place and Cpl. Williamson answered various questions of Council.

Warden Budge extended a vote of thanks to Cpl. Williamson for his report.

PLANNING AND ZONING PRESENTATION

Courtesy of Council was extended to John Bain, Director of the Eastern District Planning Commission.

At a previous Council meeting, Councillor Barron had indicated that some interest was expressed in the Ingonish area regarding planning. Mr. Bain was invited to this meeting to explain the planning process for new planning areas.

Mr. Bain indicated that in Victoria County there is no zoning outside the boundaries of the Village of Baddeck.

Mr. Bain indicated that the first thing to determine would be the boundary for the planning area. When a plan is put in place, everything that exists at the time is included in the plan as a legal non-conforming use.

The process can be community driven. It is recommended that a local committee be established, comprised of Council and community members. This Committee would serve as an advisory committee to Council.

Mr. Bain indicated that Ingonish would be a wonderful place to get planning and land use zoning in place. This would be a positive thing for the area.

The process could begin with open houses in the Ingonish area where Planning Commission staff would be present to discuss planning informally with interested citizens. From this open house, a Committee could be struck which would work with the Planning Commission staff to draft a planning document, which would be brought to Council for approval.

Mr. Bain indicated that he could host open house sessions in the Ingonish area in September over a two day period. He would then report back his findings to Council.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that John Bain be authorized to investigate planning and zoning for the Ingonish area and bring back his findings and recommendation to Council. Motion carried.

John Bain will contact Councillor Barron in this regard. After the initial public open houses, more should be known on if or how to proceed.

John Bain was extended a vote of thanks by Warden Wayne Budge.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #1

Councillor MacCuspig reported on the Middle River Bicentennial Celebrations which were held last weekend. Peggy MacLeod did a great deal of work organizing these celebrations.

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspig, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that a letter and certificate of appreciation be forwarded to Peggy MacLeod. Motion carried.

District #4

Councillor MacInnes advised that Jim and Lucy Piche are retiring, having sold Piper's Trailer Court in Indian Brook. They have been in business for the past 35 years and will be staying in the community.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor MacCuspig, that a certificate of recognition be forwarded to Jim and Lucy Piche on their retirement. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING

There will be no Council meeting held in August. The next meeting will be held in September.

ADJOURN

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

Wayne Budge, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO