

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

August 16, 1999

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, August 16, 1999, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Warden John G. MacInnes in the Chair.

Present were:

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

Also present were:

Brian 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. Warden MacInnes advised that Tom Wilson was in attendance to make a brief presentation on the Victoria County Tourism Council and a partnership proposal with Victoria County CAP Sites. Councillor Yetman indicated that he wished to bring forth discussion on the UNSM structure and Deputy Warden Sampson indicated he had a report on the UNSM Resolutions Committee meeting he attended in Halifax last week.

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor Toms, that the agenda be accepted with the noted additions. Motion carried.

TOM WILSON

Courtesy of Council was extended to Tom Wilson, Recreation and Tourism Director.

Mr. Wilson indicated that when Council was making appointments to Committees, they overlooked the 2 Council appointments to the Victoria County Tourism Council.

It was moved by Councillor Yetman, seconded by Deputy Warden Sampson, that Councillor Bruce Morrison and Councillor David Donovan be appointed as the Council representatives on the Victoria County Tourism Council. Motion carried.

Mr. Wilson indicated that some time ago he, Brian Trask and Dori Delaney met concerning a partnership between the County and the Victoria County CAP Sites Association. The purpose of this partnership is to provide one-stop access centres in rural communities. There is no cost involved to the County, other than use of the IBM mainframe server, access to Lotus Notes for all CAP Sites, and technical support. This is a pilot project until March, 2000, and it will be re-evaluated at that time.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that Council grant permission to enter into a Partnership Agreement between the Municipality and the Victoria County CAP Sites Association as outlined. Motion carried.

RECESS

The Warden announced that Council would take a short supper break.

MINUTES - BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

The minutes of the following meetings were presented for approval:

July 26, 1999 - Environmental/Solid Waste Committee

July 26, 1999 - Committee of the Whole

August 9, 1999 - Committee of the Whole

The Environmental/Solid Waste Committee minutes contained a recommendation to purchase a large baler to bale cardboard.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Deputy Warden Sampson, that a large baler be purchased for the Baddeck Landfill at a cost of \$12,000. Motion carried.

Discussion took place on Ewen MacLean's water supply. Brian Trask read a draft agreement drawn up by Solicitor Pickup. The agreement states that the County will construct a dug well by a licensed dug well driller upon the lands of the MacLeans at the location of MacLeans choice. Upon the completion of the

installation of the dug well, the Municipality's obligation under will cease whether or not water has been located.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Toms, that the Agreement between the Municipality and Ewen and Katherine MacLean for the dug well be approved. Motion carried.

The inspection report conducted on the MacLeans water supply was received from Terry MacPherson, Hydrogeologist, Department of the Environment.

Brian Trask presented the costs for borrowing \$1,000,000.00 through the Municipal Finance Corporation.

Correspondence was received in reply to Council's requests regarding the following:

? Letter from the Deputy Minister of Natural Resources regarding emergency exit from MacKrous Subdivision. This is not their responsibility.

? Letter from Charlie MacDonald, Department of Transportation advising that a tender has been called for Bridge Rehabilitation on Fife's Brook Bridge, Boularderie, with tender closing on August 10, 1999.

? Letter from Howard Windsor, Department of Housing and Municipal Affairs, responding to Council's request regarding financial assistance for the Baddeck Sewage Treatment Plant Study. The province is operating without an approved budget and they are unable to commit funding until the budget issue is resolved. The application will be held on file.

It was felt that this correspondence should be kept in the active file and resubmitted when the budget is approved.

It was moved by Councillor Yetman, seconded by Deputy Warden Sampson, that the correspondence be received and placed on file and the Baddeck Sewage Treatment Plant correspondence be retained in an active file for resubmission at the appropriate time. Motion carried.

The possibility of accessing funding programs to assist in the staffing at the Baddeck Landfill was discussed and it was felt that this avenue should be pursued. A meeting of the Environmental/Solid Waste Committee is required in the near future to discuss this and other matters.

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It was moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that the Environmental/Solid Waste Committee look into the possibility of accessing funding programs for the Baddeck Landfill staffing and report to a future meeting. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Yetman, seconded by Deputy Warden Sampson, that the minutes of July 26, 1999, Committee of the Whole and Environmental/Solid Waste Committee and the August 9, 1999, Committee of the Whole be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUDGET

Brian Trask presented proposed budget figures for 1999/2000 to Council. He indicated that the external auditors have completed their audit and it appears that we will end the year with a \$236,337 surplus, which will be applied against the accumulated deficit. The auditors will present their report at the Annual Session of Council on Monday, August 23, 1999.

The proposed tax rates for 1999/2000 are \$1.27 residential and \$2.14 commercial. Council reviewed the budget figures and Mr. Trask explained what was included in the various categories.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Deputy Warden Sampson, that the 1999/2000 budget be accepted and the tax rates for 1999/2000 be \$1.27 residential and \$2.14 commercial. Motion carried.

Council reiterated their concern on uncollected taxes and the fact that the collection of outstanding taxes should remain a top priority.

OPEN PERIOD/DISTRICT CONCERNS

UNSM Structure and Resolutions

Councillor Yetman expressed concern on individual municipal units going directly to government when we have a representative body, the UNSM, which should be the avenue for bringing our concerns forward.

It was moved by Councillor Yetman, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that we notify the UNSM that it be our policy that the appropriate avenue for bringing concerns and requests of Municipalities to the provincial government be the municipal representative body, the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Sampson advised that he attended a meeting of the UNSM Resolutions Committee for the Annual UNSM Conference to be held in November, 1999.

He advised that Council's resolution regarding the 24 hour manned weigh scale at the Canso Causeway was classified as a C resolution and it is up to the Council to speak on this issue at the conference.

He indicated how other resolutions would be addressed at the Annual Meeting.

The position of Second Vice-President has been added to the UNSM Table Officers for the upcoming conference.

It was felt that Council should meet prior to the UNSM Conference to review and discuss the resolutions.

District #1

It was moved by Councillor Yetman, seconded by Councillor Toms, that the UNSM be requested to meet with Premier John Hamm to request that the government re-institute controls on gasoline prices in Nova Scotia through the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Yetman, seconded by Councillor Toms, that a letter be forwarded to the Minister of Transportation requesting the Department of Transportation to undertake an immediate assessment of the dangerous intersection (Exit 7 at the Red Barn) located on the TCH 105 leading to the Cabot Trail at Nyanza to determine the appropriate lighting for this area and that the speed be reduced in this area and speed limit reduction signs be erected on Beverly's Hill and at BJ's Drive-In. Motion carried.

This letter is to be faxed to the Minister's office tomorrow and copies are to be forwarded to the following:

Ken MacAskill, MLA

Constable Barry Forrest, Baddeck RCMP

Charlie MacDonald, P. Eng., Department of Transportation

Bruce Fitzner, District Director - Eastern, Department of Transportation

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It was moved by Councillor Yetman, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Housing and Municipal Affairs requesting that the funding for the investigation of water for the Ottawa Brook/MacKinnon's Harbour area be

increased from the requested \$4,000 to \$12,000, and that favourable consideration be given to this request once the budget is approved. Motion carried.

District #3

The total funding approved for the Crescent Grove Water Extension is \$75,000. One-half of the funding is provincial/federal monies, with the remaining one-half shared equally by the residents and the Municipality.

To date, legal, survey and engineering fees have accounted for \$27,949.31. Tenders were called with one tender being received in the amount of \$74,146.60 including HST. These amounts combined put the project over budget by approximately \$21,000.

Subsequent meetings have been held and the residents have agreed that the water be brought just to their property lines, saving \$8,500. The Village have donated a fire hydrant and there is a \$3,000 contingency allowance included in the tender that may or may not be used. They are now requesting the Municipality to advance \$6,000 to the Water Utility, with repayment being from the contingency fund and the balance from the Water Utility once they start to collect revenue from the users.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that the Municipality advance \$6,000 to the Baddeck Water Utility for the Crescent Grove Extension, with repayment to be from the contingency fund and the Water Utility once they begin collecting revenue. Motion carried.

District #5

It was moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Transportation requesting they equip a grader with a brushcutter for use in Victoria County. Motion carried.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor Yetman, that \$100 be approved for the District #5 Action Committee from the District #5 budget. Motion carried.

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Deputy Warden Sampson requested the Coastal Mapping and RITC remain on the list of Committees and he will continue to attend these meetings at his own expense.

District #3

Councillor Morrison requested that the Department of Transportation be contacted to grade Alexander Drive, Baddeck.

District #7

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor Yetman, that a letter be forwarded to Bruce Fitzner, Department of Transportation, requesting that patching be carried out on the White Point Road and that the sign recently erected in Ingonish indicating "North Ingonish" be taken down, and a proper sign indicating "Ingonish" be erected. Motion carried.

Councillor Donovan brought up the topic of a heavy garbage pickup. The Environmental/Solid Waste Committee will look into this matter.

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor Yetman, that \$350 be awarded to Highland Manor from each of the District #4, #7 and #8 budgets. Motion carried.

Councillor Donovan brought up the matter of the remaining deficiencies with regard to the Neil's Harbour/New Haven Water System. Wayne Vervaet, Washburn & Gillis Associates, suggested that the remaining problems and damages be investigated, to determine what the problems are and who is at fault so this matter can be put to rest.

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor Yetman, that the damage and remaining deficiencies with the Neil's Harbour/New Haven Water Supply be investigated to determine who is at fault and how to proceed. Motion carried.

District #6

Councillor Barron indicated that he had a problem with RCMP policing in his district and provided Council with background information on the problem.

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It was suggested that the Warden, Deputy Warden and CAO meet with Sgt. MacKenzie, Baddeck RCMP, to determine the proper protocol and how we can respond to these concerns.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor Yetman, that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Transportation requesting that the side roads in the Ingonish area be graded. Motion carried.

District #4

It was moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that \$300 be approved for the North Shore Recreation Committee and \$300 for "No Littering" signs from the District #4 budget. Motion carried.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor Yetman, that a letter be forwarded to Charlie MacDonald, Department of Transportation, requesting that the brushcutter carry out work in the St. Ann's/North Gut area. Motion carried.

VOTIX CORPORATION LIMITED

The Solicitor has drafted a quit claim deed for lands at Bucklaw, Victoria County, to be issued to Votix Corporation Limited in exchange for \$2,000.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor Yetman, that a quit claim deed be issued to Votix Corporation Limited for \$2,000.00. Motion carried.

COUNCIL REMUNERATION AND EXPENSE POLICY

Brian Trask explained the changes made to the Council Remuneration and Expense Policy.

It was moved by Councillor Yetman, seconded by Deputy Warden Sampson, that the Council Remuneration and Expense Policy be accepted. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Deputy Warden Sampson, the meeting adjourned.