

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

August 23, 1999

The Annual Meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, August 23, 1999, beginning at 9:00 a.m. with Warden MacInnes in the Chair.

Present were:

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

Also present were:

Brian Trask, CAO
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

Absent were:

District #2 - Shane Toms
District #6 - Lawrence Barron

CALL TO ORDER

Warden MacInnes called the Annual Meeting of Council to order.

AGENDA

The agenda was presented for approval. Deputy Warden Sampson indicated that he wished to provide Council with a brief report on the "Festival of Economics" seminar he attended this past weekend.

It was moved by Councillor Yetman, seconded by Deputy Warden Sampson, that the agenda be approved with the noted addition. Motion carried.

RCMP PRESENTATIONS

Courtesy of Council was extended to Sgt. Hoss MacKenzie, Baddeck Detachment, RCMP.

Sgt. MacKenzie thanked Council for allowing him the opportunity to appear before them.

The Baddeck Detachment is comprised of 8 members. Sgt. MacKenzie indicated that the report he has compiled does not include statistics for the Wagmatcook Reserve. If Council desire these figures included, they will be in the next report. He presented the statistics of the Baddeck Detachment for the past year.

One of the members will be transferred in September with a recently graduated recruit filling the vacancy. The status of the Youth Centre at Baddeck was discussed. There is presently funding that will keep this centre open through September, 1999. Sgt. MacKenzie indicated that he would be requesting Council to give consideration to assisting with a part-time clerical position for the detachment.

A number of items were discussed and Council requested that the statistics for Wagmatcook be included in future reports. Sgt. MacKenzie indicated he would investigate whether the Career Edge Program will be available again this year. The RCMP placed a worker at the Youth Centre and in their detachment under this program. The AG Bell Museum also sponsored this project and workers were placed throughout the area, including two at the Baddeck Landfill.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that Sgt. MacKenzie's request for part-time clerical help be referred to the Corporate Services Committee. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Yetman, seconded by Deputy Warden Sampson, that Sgt. MacKenzie's annual report be accepted as progress and he and his staff be extended a vote of thanks for their service. Motion carried.

Courtesy of Council was extended to Corporal John Poulain, North Sydney Detachment, RCMP.

Cpl. Poulain indicated that the North Sydney Detachment is staffed by 12 constables, 2 corporals and 1 sergeant. A new sergeant will be reporting for duty within the next couple of weeks. The area of Victoria County this detachment services is the Boularderie area.

Most of the crime in this area is of a break and enter nature, due to the high concentration of cottages in the area. A Task Force was established to deal with

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this particular type of crime throughout Cape Breton and was successful in solving 40+ break and enters.

The North Sydney Detachment is a 24 hour policing detachment and this is a benefit the Boularderie

area receives.

Discussion took place on the possibility of the Regional Police becoming responsible for policing in all of the Cape Breton Regional Municipality. Where Boularderie would fit in this scenario was questioned.? More will be heard on this matter as December 15, 1999, is the date a decision is to be made in this regard. Cpl. Poulain advised that the RCMP are remaining neutral in this issue, as it is political decision.

Further discussion took place and Cpl. Poulain answered various questions.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that Cpl. Poulain's report be received and accepted. Motion carried.

RECESS

The Warden announced that Council would recess for 10 minutes.

RCMP

Courtesy of Council was extended to Sgt. Pat Pembroke, Ingonish Beach Detachment, RCMP.

Sgt. Pembroke indicated that he took over command of this detachment in February, 1999, and is still in the familiarization mode. The Detachment consists of a Sergeant, 4 constables and a public servant. The population ratio per member is 719. It services an area of 1,500 sq. kilometers.

Historically a problem in this area is the number of arsons and the RCMP are cognizant of same. Year to date there has been 1 arson reported. Sgt. Pembroke indicated that when school commences this fall, he hopes to put a drive on to address the perils of fire with the children. This will hopefully lead to a positive result.

Sgt. Pembroke presented statistics on thefts, break & enters, drug, impaired, provincial traffic, MVA and other criminal code offences in the detachment area, providing comparison from 1997, 1998 and year to date 1999.

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There are three community consultative groups located within the detachment area - Bay St. Lawrence/Dingwall area, Neil's Harbour/New Haven area, and the North Shore area.

Sgt. Pembroke indicated that it is no secret that his detachment has been the subject of commentary over the past number of weeks. He feels that the call to decrease the number of members in this area would be a totally regressive step. He felt that the status quo should be maintained and indicated that he sees

the criticism as a means of improving things. He thanked those who support the work of the RCMP in this area.

Discussion took place on problems located within the various areas within this jurisdiction and the plans to address same.

The topic of the delivery of police services in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality and the policing of Boularderie Island were again discussed. An independent consultant is to investigate whether the RCMP or the Regional Police should provide police services.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Deputy Warden Sampson, that prior to any changes being made that will effect the policing of the Boularderie area of Victoria County, the consultants contact the Municipality to discuss same. Motion carried.

Inquiries will be made as to who the consultant will be for this process.

It was moved by Councillor Yetman, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that Sgt. Pembroke's report be accepted as progress and he be extended a vote of thanks. Motion carried.

The matter of Council supporting the RCMP for their policing efforts in Victoria County was discussed and is to lay on the table for a future meeting when all Council Members are present.

All representatives from the RCMP were extended a vote of thanks and they left at this time.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Courtesy of Council was extended to Dave Roach, C. A., and John Anderson, C. A., Roach Perry Roach Chartered Accountants.

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Mr. Roach presented the financial statements for the Municipality of the County of Victoria for the year ended March 31, 1999. He reported that the Municipality experienced a surplus from the current year's operations of \$235,950 which resulted in the lowering of the accumulated deficit from \$430,297 at March 31, 1998, to \$194,347 at March 31, 1999.

A letter of recommendation for 1999/2000 was read by John Anderson. The recommendations were as follows:

1. Encourage the Municipality to continue their efforts so that the remainder of the accumulated deficit can be retired as soon as possible.

2. Continue aggressive collection policies for tax collection, including communication with taxpayers, review of the rate roll and regular tax sales.
3. Now that formal long term financing has been received, it is recommended that any surplus funds in the capital fund bank account be utilized to repay the balance owing to the operating fund to the fullest extent possible.

A general discussion took place and the gentlemen answered questions and concerns addressed by Council.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that the external auditors report and financial statements be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Warden MacInnes extended a vote of thanks to Mr. Roach and Mr. Anderson for their representation and the information given and invited them to join Council for lunch.

LUNCH

Council adjourned for lunch until 1:00 p.m.

CAPE BRETON-VICTORIA REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD

Courtesy of Council was extended to Keith Bain, School Board Member, Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board.

Mr. Bain advised that the projected budget for the school board for 1999/2000 is \$110,466,000. The Municipal contributions to this budget amount to \$12,053,000, of which Victoria County's portion is \$1,218,200 - 10.1% of the municipal contribution.

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Mr. Bain reported that the work on the two new schools in northern Victoria is progressing. The construction at the Boularderie School is ongoing. Students from this school will be housed at Mill Creek School until the construction is complete. Rankin School received a commitment from the Board and hopefully will also be carried out on schedule.

Councillor Morrison extended thanks to Mr. Bain for his assistance in getting lighting installed in front of Baddeck Academy. The cleanliness of this school was discussed with representatives last year and hopefully has been addressed. No further discussions have been held on the relocating of the school bus garage from Baddeck.

Mr. Bain advised that Councillor Donovan's concern regarding a Resource Teacher for Cabot High is being addressed, however, it is not expected that a teacher will be in place for September, 1999. Councillor Donovan questioned on computers for Cabot and was advised that funding has been committed under the IEI program and hopefully these computers will be in place shortly. Mr. Bain advised that tenders have been called for replacing the gymnasium floor at Cabot. The next gymnasium floor to be replaced is. Baddeck Academy. Whether funding has been requested for the Cabot Sports Field was discussed. No formal request has been brought forward.

The possibility of a strike of CUPE workers within the jurisdiction of the Board was discussed and is a distinct possibility.

A general discussion took place on other matters of concern.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor Yetman, that Mr. Bain's report be accepted and he be extended a vote of thanks. Motion carried.

VILLAGE COMMISSIONERS

Warden MacInnes advised that Eddie Keeling, Chairman of the Village Commissioners, will not be in attendance today due to a death in his family.

It was moved by Councillor Yetman, seconded by Deputy Warden Sampson, that appropriate condolences be forwarded to Eddie Keeling and he be invited to appear at a future meeting. Motion carried.

DISTRICT CONCERNS/OPEN PERIOD

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District #1

It was moved by Councillor Yetman, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that a letter be forwarded to Bruce Fitzner, District Director, Department of Transportation, requesting that the culvert promised in 1982 be installed in front of Thomas Nicholson's property at Little Narrows to eliminate the problem of excessive water on his property. Motion carried.

Councillor Yetman indicated that it was upsetting that the Department of the Environment would allow construction and demolition debris from the hospital and the school to be placed on private property at Bay St. Lawrence. He proposed the following resolution.

WHEREAS the Department of the Environment has allowed materials from two buildings to be placed

on private property in northern Victoria;

AND WHEREAS the Municipality is not permitted to have a solid waste facility in northern Victoria;

AND WHEREAS this is a double standard as it costs the Municipality \$100,000 to operate a facility and also this is a loss of revenue to the Municipality;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of the Environment be requested to give permission to locate a solid waste facility for the northern area of Victoria County;

AND BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED that if a site is not approved, the materials from these two buildings be sent to the Solid Waste Facility in Baddeck for disposal.

It was moved by Councillor Yetman, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that this resolution be approved and forwarded to the Minister of the Environment and Gerard MacLellan, Solid Waste Coordinator, Department of the Environment. Motion carried.

District #3

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that a letter be forwarded to Nova Scotia Power Inc. questioning on the status of the streetlight for Alexander Drive and the procedure to

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follow to have overhead lines located on Chebucto Street, Baddeck, buried underground. Motion carried.

District #5

It was moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor Yetman, that \$200 be approved for the Ross Ferry Volunteer Fire Department's pork chop barbecue from the District #5 budget. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Sampson provided Council with a report on the "Festival of Economics" Seminar he attended at UCCB this past weekend.

Deputy Warden Sampson requested that the date for the Council Session to be held in Ross Ferry be set, so he can make the appropriate arrangements. Council will be held at the Ross Ferry Fire Hall on Monday, October 18, 1999, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

District #8

Councillor MacLellan questioned on when the remaining one-half of the fire department funding would be received. The cheques will be issued shortly.

He also questioned on the funding for the Northeast Highlands Shuttle Service. Upon receipt of a financial statement, this funding will be released.

District #4

It was moved by Councillor Yetman, seconded by Deputy Warden Sampson, that \$300 be approved for the North Shore Recreation Committee from the District #4 budget. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

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

B. E. Trask, C. A. O.

John G. MacInnes, Warden