

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
August 29, 2005

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, August 29, 2005, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Present were:

District #2 – Keith MacCuspig
District #3 – Bruce Morrison
District #4 – John Graham MacInnes
District #5 – Fraser Patterson
District #7 – Wayne Budge
District #8 – Robert MacLellan (Late Arrival)

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

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Warden Budge called the meeting to order.

The agenda was presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacCuspig, that the agenda be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the July 26, 2005, session of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that the July 26, 2005, minutes of Victoria County Municipal Council be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

The Sewage Pumping Pilot Program was discussed. To date there are approximately 70 people who have registered to have their septic tanks pumped under this program. The truck has arrived in Halifax and should be picked up tomorrow. A public demonstration is to be held to view the technology, but a date, time or place is not known as yet.

DOG CONTROLLER POSITION

Hansel McEvoy has retired from his position as Dog Controller and in the interim, Barry Campbell, EMC, is assuming the duties.

A proposal was received from the Cape Breton SPCA to cover Dog Control in Victoria County. They are proposing a one-year contract, with a flat fee of \$2,000.00 per month. Service calls will be charged out at \$0.40 per km, plus expenses. They are also requesting a revision of the By-Laws covering Dog Control in Victoria County and a 30-day option-out period by both parties.

Council had previously discussed dividing this position and having 2 part-time positions – one for the Northern area and one for the Southern area of the County. A letter was received from CUPE Local 2694 advising that the Union's position is that by splitting this position, there will be two part-time positions and that the employees will not be able to have the benefits as per the collective agreement and previously any changes to a Union position had to be negotiated with the Union.

Discussion took place on the SPCA option and the Union position.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that Sandy Hudson be authorized to negotiate with the Union on the Dog Controller position. Motion carried.

PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A Public Hearing is required concerning two planning matters within the Village of Baddeck. The requirement is that the Public Hearing be advertised at least 21 days prior to the hearing being held. Council holds the Public Hearing and only those Councillors present at the Public Hearing are eligible to vote on the matter at the subsequent Council meeting.

Jason Lee has made application to renovate an existing residence on Old Margaree Road, Baddeck, to a Chinese Food Take-Out Restaurant. Application has also been made to add two properties off Twining Street, Baddeck, owned by Dan Frank Morrison and Paddy Morrison to the Appendix "A" – Properties Without a Public Frontage of the Baddeck Land Use By-Law.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that the date for the Public Hearing to deal with the two planning issues be set for Monday, October 3, 2005, at 4:00 p.m. Motion carried.

SOLID WASTE UPDATES

The tender for Solid Waste Collection has been reissued and tenders will be received until September 8, 2005. Council will deal with this matter at a meeting on September 12, 2005.

Quotes were requested for a backhoe for the Baddeck Municipal Solid Waste Transfer Station. Two quotes were received:

Atlantic Cat – Caterpillar 420D Backhoe Loader	\$83,050.00
Wallace Equipment – John Deere 310SG Backhoe Loader	\$87,500.00

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that Atlantic Cat’s quote of \$83,050.00, the low quote, be approved. Motion carried.

A 53’ walking floor trailer is also required for the Baddeck Municipal Solid Waste Transfer Station and two quotes were received:

Provincial Equipment	\$87,000.00
Gillis Truckways Inc.	\$85,860.00

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that Gillis Truckways Inc.’s quote of \$85,860.00, the low price, be approved. Motion carried.

Sandy Hudson indicated that a second trailer would be required in the future.

Mr. Hudson advised that he would be meeting with Joneljim Construction tomorrow regarding the Municipal Solid Waste Transfer Station.

A tender has been issued for various earthworks at the Baddeck Landfill Site. The work includes the installation of a well, sewage system and a compost pad. Tenders for this project will be received until September 8, 2005, and will be dealt with at Council on September 12, 2005.

INGONISH WATER UPDATE

The installation of the Ingonish Water Line is proceeding well and on schedule. To date, 190 residents have indicated they wish to connect to the water system, with a possibility another 15 who have yet to sign up.

Mr. Hudson indicated that water should be pumping by December, 2005, and a public meeting will be held in early to mid September to inform the public of time lines, responsibilities, etc.

ROSS FERRY STEWARDSHIP SOCIETY

Approval was previously given to providing \$40,000.00, over a two-year period to assist in the development of the Ross Ferry Marine Park. \$20,000.00 of this amount was previously paid, and the Ross Ferry Stewardship Society are seeking the remaining \$20,000.00 commitment.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that the remaining \$20,000.00 commitment to the Ross Ferry Marine Park be released to the Ross Ferry Stewardship Society. Motion carried.

Councillor Patterson indicated that the official opening for the Ross Ferry Marine Park will take place on Saturday, September 3, 2005, at 12:00 noon.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #4

Councillor MacInnes requested permission of Council to allow Barbara Tower a few minutes on the agenda.

Ms. Tower expressed her disappointment in not receiving a response to two letters she forwarded to the Municipality concerning the BTK spray – one on June 8, 2005 and one on June 24, 2005. She indicated that she should have received an acknowledgment of her written correspondence.

Sandy Hudson apologized for not responding in writing to her letters.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that a letter be forwarded to Charlie MacDonald, Area Manager, Department of Transportation, requesting that brush clearing and ditching take place in the communities of North Shore, Indian Brook, Plaster and along the White Point Road. Motion carried.

District #3

Councillor Morrison indicated that Service Nova Scotia have indicated that Villages are to apply to their governing municipality for their share of the gas tax that will be forthcoming.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that the CAO be authorized to enter into negotiations with the Village of Baddeck concerning the gas tax issue and bring back a proposal to Council for consideration. Motion carried.

Councillor Morrison indicated that the Victoria Highland Civic Centre will be hosting their annual fundraising golf tournament at Bell Bay Golf Club on September 24, 2005. He felt the County should enter a team.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that Victoria County enter a team in the Victoria Highland Civic Centre golf tournament on September 24, 2005, at a cost of \$600.00. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that a letter be forwarded to Charlie MacDonald, Area Manager, Department of Transportation, acknowledging the significant amount of paving which has been done in the Village of Baddeck, however, indicating that on a whole, Victoria County has received the least amount of new paving of any other area in the province. Motion carried.

District #8

It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that \$1,000 be approved from the District #8 budget to the Bay St. Lawrence Volunteer Fire Department. Motion carried.

Councillor MacLellan questioned on the derelict vehicle program. The program is in effect, however, before proceeding, it was felt that a quote should be received from the hauler indicating the cost per vehicle and the number of vehicles to be hauled.

District #7

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Natural Resources requesting that a conservation officer be located in the North of Smokey area. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Sandy Hudson advised that he was approached by Kelly Fricker concerning the use of the Ingonish Beach School for an office for outreach purposes. The local theatre group previously expressed an interest in using the top floor of the school. This matter will be further investigated.

The Municipality of the District of Guysborough will be conducting a tour of the Second Generation Landfill Facilities on Thursday, September 1, 2005. Anyone interested is invited to attend.

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Sandy Hudson presented the consolidated financial statements for the Municipality of the County of Victoria for the year ended March 31, 2005, prepared by Grant Thornton LLP.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that the consolidated financial statements for the Municipality of the County of Victoria for the year ended March 31, 2005, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from Sarah Munro, Extension Forester, Department of Natural Resources, advising that a field day to recognize Jeremy Frith of North River as the 2005 Eastern Regional Nova Scotia Woodlot Owner of the Year will be held on Saturday, September 10, 1995, on Mr. Frith's woodlot in North River from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
2. Letter from Charles MacDonald, Area Manager, Department of Transportation, acknowledging Council's request for the upgrade and installation of guard rail at Bay Road Valley and River Bennett.
3. Letter from Charles MacDonald, Area Manager, Department of Transportation, advising that Council's request for the installation of a crosswalk at the entrance to the Victoria County Memorial Hospital on Old Margaree Road has been investigated by the District Traffic Supervisor and he has concluded that a crosswalk is not warranted at this location.
4. Letter from D. W. Lawlor, Manager of Licensing, Alcohol and Gaming Authority, concerning the plebiscite request for the Middle River area.

5. Letter from the Honourable Barry Barnett, Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, advising that SNSMR will contribute 50% of the eligible costs, up to a maximum of \$25,000 towards the pilot project on Septic Sludge Disposal.

IN CAMERA

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes to adjourn to In Camera.

REGULAR SESSION

Council then returned to the Regular Session.

DUNCAN GILLIS PROPERTY

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that the Municipality accept Duncan Gillis' offer to purchase his property at 42 Grant Street (in back of the Court House), Baddeck, at a cost of \$90,000.00. Motion carried.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that Councillors MacInnes, Patterson and Morrison sit on the Education Committee for the purposes of adopting an Education Policy and considering staff education requests. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Councillor MacInnes, the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Wayne Budge, Warden

A. W. (Sandy) Hudson, CAO