

**VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**  
**September 18, 2006**

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, September 18, 2006, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Warden Wayne Budge in the Chair.

Present were:

District #1 – Dan E. MacNeil, Deputy Warden  
District #2 – Keith MacCuspig  
District #3 – Bruce Morrison  
District #4 – John Graham MacInnes  
District #5 – Fraser Patterson  
District #6 – Lawrence Barron  
District #7 – Wayne Budge, Warden  
District #8 – Robert MacLellan

Also present were:

Sandy Hudson, CAO  
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

**CALL TO ORDER**

Warden Budge called the meeting to order.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was presented for approval. Council was advised that Bruce Nunn, Department of Natural Resources, would not be in attendance.

**It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Deputy Warden MacNeil, that the agenda be approved as amended. Motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JULY 31, 2006**

The minutes of the July 31, 2006, session of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

**It was moved by Councillor MacCuspig, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that the July 31, 2006, minutes of Victoria County Municipal Council be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**RCMP**

A reply was received from the Honourable Murray Scott, Minister of Justice, to the letter of concern with regard to the retirement of Sergeant John Trickett, Baddeck Detachment, indicating that he had forwarded the letter onto the RCMP Commanding Officer for his information and any action he deems necessary.

Warden Budge and Councillor Barron met with Minister Scott on Thursday past regarding policing in the North of Smokey area. He was accompanied by Keith Bain, MLA. Minister Scott and Mr. Bain met later in the day with Sandy Hudson and RCMP representatives in Baddeck.

**Department of Community Services**

A letter of reply was received from Marian Tyson, Deputy Minister of Community Services, to a letter forwarded from the Municipality to the Honourable Judy Streach, Minister, regarding to staffing concerns in the Baddeck Department of Community Services office.

**It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Deputy Warden MacNeil, that a letter be forwarded to the Honourable Judy Streach, Minister of Community Services, expressing displeasure with the Deputy Minister's response and requesting that the staffing of the Department of Community Services office in Baddeck remain as it was originally structured. Motion carried.**

**Dog By-Law**

The Dog and Animal By-Laws are being reviewed and one by-law will be drafted to cover both.

**Meetings with MLA and MP**

Keith Bain, MLA, Victoria-The Lakes, will be invited to attend our October meeting of Municipal Council.

Mark Eyking, MP, Sydney-Victoria, will be requested to attend a Council Session at a time convenient to him in November, 2006.

**County Logo**

Councillor Patterson indicated that the Sell Committee, a sub-committee of the Development Committee, sent out a Request for Proposals (RFP) to develop a new logo

and design for County signage. Three submissions were received and upon review, the Committee is recommending VIBE Creative Group from Sydney.

The Sell Committee will work on the design process with VIBE and the first meeting will take place on September 27, 2006 at 5:00 p.m.

The County of Victoria was named for Queen Victoria in 1851 and it was questioned whether there was ever an official coat of arms. This will be investigated.

### **Marketing Levy**

Discussion took place on the status of the marketing levy. Destination Cape Breton is to go back to the industry to provide them with an update, as CAO's have done within their respective Councils.

### **Non-Resident Land Ownership**

Sandy Hudson has requested Mark Peck, Municipal Advisor, Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Affairs, to provide him with information on non-resident land ownership.

### **BADDECK VALLEY COMMUNITY CLUB**

A public hearing was held prior to Council on the Baddeck Valley Community Club property transfer. Only Council Members present at the public hearing are eligible to vote on the matter at Council.

**It was moved by Councillor MacCuspic, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that the Municipality issue a quit claim deed to the Baddeck Valley Community Club. Motion carried.**

### **CAPE BRETON SCHOOL OF CRAFT & DESIGN**

Courtesy of Council was extended to Helen Gromick, Member of the Board of Directors, and Carol Beaton, Executive Director of the Cape Breton School of Craft & Design.

Ms. Gromick advised of the capital campaign for fundraising for the construction of the new building to house the Cape Breton School of Craft & Design. It is hoped to raise \$500,000.00 through the capital campaign.

The construction of the new building is a \$2.5 million dollar project. ECBC/ACOA has committed \$1.4 million towards this project and negotiations are ongoing with the province regarding funding.

Ms. Gromick presented a power point presentation on the Cape Breton Centre for Craft & Design (copy attached).

Ms. Beaton presented a handout folder which included a copy of their newsletter, Cape Breton Artisan Trail Map, and a Relocation Brief for the Centre. She distributed samples of the work of Cape Breton artisans for Council to view. She indicated that a new facility will better serve the community and artisans.

Carol Kennedy who was in attendance as a local artisan gave testimony to the assistance the Cape Breton Centre for Craft & Design is to its members and in particular the assistance that has been provided to both her and her artist husband, Gordon Kennedy. Wendy Smith, another local Victoria County artist, reiterated Ms. Kennedy's comments on the value of the Centre. Ms. Beaton indicated that Ms. Smith has recently joined the Board of Directors of the Centre.

Discussion took place and the ladies answered various questions from Council. It is hoped that the building will be up and operating for the next tourist season. The new centre will be a drawing card for Cape Breton with its Charlotte Street location.

Ms. Beaton indicated that the assistance being requested from the Municipality is \$5,000.00.

**It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacCuspig, that Victoria County Municipal Council forward a letter of support to the Minister of Economic Development on behalf of the Cape Breton Centre of Craft & Design in their funding request to the Province. Motion carried.**

**It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor MacCuspig, that the request for financial assistance be referred to the Municipal Tourism Committee. Motion carried.**

On behalf of Council, Warden Budge extended a vote of thanks to the ladies for their presentation.

**RECESS**

Council then recessed for 10 minutes.

**EXCUSED**

Councillor MacLellan was excused at this time.

**LITTLE NARROWS WATER EXTENSION**

Sandy Hudson advised that a letter was previously forwarded to the Canada-Nova Scotia Infrastructure Program advising that the Municipality would not be accessing funding in 2006, as the Municipality wished to fully complete the Ingonish Water before beginning another project.

It is now time to make application for 2007 funding and he requested that Council pass a motion reaffirming their list of priorities.

**It was moved by Deputy Warden MacNeil, seconded by Councillor MacCuspig, that the Municipality continue to support the Little Narrows Water Extension as the #1 infrastructure priority of the Municipality. Motion carried.**

**It was moved by Deputy Warden MacNeil, seconded by Councillor MacCuspig, that the Municipality proceed to tender for survey and design engineering for the Little Narrows Water Extension. Motion carried.**

**It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that the Municipality reconfirm our current infrastructure priorities as:**

- **#1 – Little Narrows Water Extension**
- **#2 – Baddeck Water Supply Project**
- **#3 – St. Margaret's Village/Bay St. Lawrence Water**
- **#4 – Dingwall Water Extension to Cape North area**

**Motion carried.**

### **MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES AND REPRESENTATION**

Sandy Hudson advised that an advertisement has been published in the *Victoria Standard* concerning public hearings to review the number of Municipal Councillors and size of Municipal Districts. At present, there is a series of five meetings scheduled throughout the County, with the first one taking place at the United Church Hall, Cape North, on Monday, September 25, 2006.

Mr. Hudson indicated that he will be in attendance to explain why this process is being carried out and it is up to the public to provide their input. After the meetings are complete, the matter will be brought to Council in December and a decision will be made on the contents of the application to be submitted to the Utility and Review Board.

### **UNSM ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

The Annual Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities Conference will take place at the Membertou Trade & Convention Centre, Sydney, from October 17-20, 2006. Councillors interested in attending are to contact the County Office and advise if they require accommodations.

**DISTRICT CONCERNS**

**District #6**

Councillor Barron expressed displeasure with the reply received from Alan Latourelle, Chief Executive Officer, Parks Canada, regarding the Ingonish Beach Campground in the Cape Breton Highlands National Park.

**It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that a letter be forwarded to Alan Latourelle expressing disappointment with his response as it did not address the concerns outlined in Council's resolution. Motion carried.**

The problem with graffiti along the highways was discussed.

**It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that a letter be forwarded to Charlie MacDonald, Area Manager, DOT&PW, requesting that the graffiti along Victoria County highways be removed. Motion carried.**

**District #5**

**It was moved by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that \$1,000.00 be approved from the District #5 budget for the New Harris/New Campbellton/Cape Dauphin Cemetery Association to assist with cemetery signage. Motion carried.**

Councillor Patterson indicated that this is a shared expense with Keith Bain, MLA, Victoria-The Lakes.

**It was moved by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that \$1,250.00 be approved from the District #5 budget for the Big Bras d'Or Hall Committee to assist with the purchase of furniture. Motion carried.**

Councillor Patterson indicated that residents of his district are requesting more and regular RCMP patrols. He will speak to Cpl. Scott Williamson who, at present, is the member in charge of the Baddeck Detachment.

**District #1**

Deputy Warden MacNeil indicated that the Province of Nova Scotia has instituted by way of a local Municipal Council resolution, a policy for bilingual signs in English and Gaelic in Nova Scotia's seven eastern counties. He presented a resolution requesting support for signs in English and Gaelic for communities in District #1 (copy attached).

**It was moved by Deputy Warden MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Barron, that the resolution concerning Gaelic signage for community names in District #1 be approved and forwarded on to Charlie MacDonald, Area Manager, DOT&PW, for his action. Motion carried.**

**District #2**

**It was moved by Councillor MacCuspic, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that \$1,500.00 be approved from the District #2 budget for the Baddeck Valley Community Club. Motion carried.**

Councillor MacCuspic questioned on the Municipality's prior participation in the Strait-Highlands Regional Development Agency. He was advised of the background on the Municipality's withdrawal from the RDA. It was felt that this topic should be included as an agenda item for the next Municipal Community Development Committee meeting.

**District #3**

Councillor Morrison indicated that there is a motion on the books that \$50,000.00 be approved to be put in reserve for the Baddeck Mainstreet Project. The Committee would now like to access this money.

**It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that the \$50,000.00 held in reserve for the Baddeck Mainstreet Project be released and combined with ECBC and provincial funding to commence the first phase of the Baddeck Mainstreet Project. Motion carried.**

The project was explained to Council and it was indicated that the first phase could begin by October 1, 2006, and would include concrete sidewalks from the A. G. Bell National Historic Park to the Victoria County Memorial Hospital.

Councillor Morrison acknowledged Councillor MacInnes' son, Chris, who was instrumental in obtaining ECBC funding for the project.

**District #4**

Councillor MacInnes questioned on his appointment to the Committee regarding the proposed sewage facility to be located at the Gaelic College. He has not been informed of a meeting since his appointment and questioned whether the county had received any further information. He was advised that nothing further has been heard since the presentation made to Council on July 10, 2006.

Councillor MacInnes advised that he has received questions on the Municipality adopting a by-law regarding bees. There is a concern on the importing of beehives from other areas into Cape Breton. Cape Breton is one of three areas in the world where native beehives are not infected with disease – the other two being New Zealand and Hawaii.

Local beekeepers want to ensure that their bees remain disease free. There is a Cape Breton Beekeepers Association and Councillor MacInnes indicated that Dennis Laffin, Murray Road, could provide further information on this matter.

Sandy Hudson is to contact Mr. Laffin for further information and send a letter to the Department of Agriculture for further information on this matter.

**District #3**

Councillor Morrison indicated that he received a letter from the Village of Baddeck with regard to the location of a horse barn within the Village.

**It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that this matter be forwarded to the Planning Advisory Committee for review. Motion carried.**

**District #7**

**It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that \$1,000.00 be approved from the District #7 budget for the Ingonish Volunteer Fire Department for the location of dry hydrants. Motion carried.**

**DUTCH BROOK DISPOSAL**

Sandy Hudson advised that he has been approached by Scott Richards, Dutch Brook Disposal, with regard to the Municipality accepting compost materials from schools in CBRM. The Municipality would receive \$35/ton tipping fee for accepting these materials.

There are a number of issues to be addressed. The compost would have to be clean and contain organic material only. It would have to be transported in a water tight container. Discussion took place.

**It was moved by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that the Municipality agree to enter into a 3-month trial period with Dutch Brook Disposal to accept compost materials from CBRM schools, with the restrictions as outlined in the discussion. Motion carried.**



The 3-month trial would give the Municipality the opportunity to determine the volumes and the extra work involved before committing to the long-term.

**LIBRARY CARD MONTH**

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that the Municipality of the County of Victoria proclaim October 1-31, 2006, to be LIBRARY CARD MONTH, in recognition of the essential role the library plays in promoting information access, lifelong learning and literacy to all residents of the Municipality. Motion carried.

**MIDDLE RIVER SCHOOL**

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspic, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that a letter of congratulations be forwarded to the Middle River School on their recent designation from *Today's Parent* magazine as one of the three best "One of a Kind" schools and one of the top 30 schools in Canada. Motion carried.

**IN CAMERA**

It was moved by Deputy Warden MacNeil to move In Camera.

Council then returned to regular session.

**DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS POSITION**

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that the two qualified candidates for the Director of Public Works position be interviewed. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Deputy Warden MacNeil, that Councillor Morrison, Chairman of the Public Works Committee; Sandy Hudson, CAO; and an outside Municipal Engineer form the Interview Committee. Motion carried.

**ADJOURN**

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

**Wayne Budge, Warden**

**A. W. (Sandy) Hudson, CAO**