

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
September 20, 2004

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, September 20, 2004, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Warden Wayne Budge in the Chair.

Present were:

District #1 – Dan E. MacNeil
District #3 – Bruce Morrison
District #4 – John Graham MacInnes, Deputy Warden
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

Absent was:

District #2 – Shane Toms

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Budge called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/TIME TO ADJOURN

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that the agenda be approved as presented and the time to adjourn be set at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – AUGUST 26, 2004

The minutes of the August 26, 2004, session of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the August 26, 2004, Victoria County Municipal Council minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Governance Meeting – September 2, 2004

Councillor Patterson indicated that issues and concerns were well addressed at the Governance Information Session held on September 2, 2004. Hopefully, the Cape Breton Wellness Centre will take all information received at the information sessions and prepare a report for distribution.

Tenders

D. W. Matheson & Sons Contracting Ltd., the low tender, has been awarded the tenders for both the Baddeck Landfill Phase 1 Cell Closure and the Little Narrows Water Main Extension projects. The Baddeck Landfill tender is underway and weather permitting could be completed by the end of the week. The Little Narrows project is proceeding.

Tenders will be received up until 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 23, 2004, for the Ingonish Beach Water Supply project.

COASTAL COMMUNITIES NETWORK PRESENTATION

Courtesy of Council was extended to Ishbel Munro, Executive Director of the Coastal Communities Network.

Ms. Munro indicated that the Coastal Communities Network was borne as a result of the fisheries crisis in 1992. A number of agencies came together at that time to find a safe place where common ground could be found for all coastal communities. Membership in the Coastal Communities Network is diverse and ranges from the UNSM and the Maritime Fisheries Union, to the United Church of Canada and service groups. The organization meets once a month.

Coastal Communities Network realized early on that the harbours were key and went to the then Federal Fisheries Minister, Andy Mitchell, to take the plight to the federal cabinet. He indicated at that time that he needed proof and agreed to fund a study. The study “Between the Land and the Sea” was completed and provides the role that harbours play in Nova Scotia (copy attached). Also Ms. Munro presented statistics pertinent to Victoria County with regard to fish species and the comparative statistics on the catches from the years 1991 through 2001 (copy attached).

Ms. Munro also presented a copy of the “Policy Position on Owner-Operator Fisheries in Atlantic Canada”, as well as a copy of a motion “Actions to Strengthen The

Owner-Operator and Fleet Separation Polices in the Atlantic Fisheries” (copies attached).

Councillor Barron brought up the concern of the lack of access to the fisheries to the young people. If current trends continue, it is only a matter of time before there are no independent fishermen living in Cape Breton Island. He felt the only way to ensure its survival is if the government steps in and buys licenses and provides these licenses to the young fishermen.

Ms. Munro indicated that there is a pilot project ongoing in Pictou County where fishermen are permitted to sell so many traps annually to a young person. This project is and its results are being monitored.

The fact that farmers can transfer their businesses as an inheritance and fishermen cannot was discussed. There should be no difference in the ways these industries are handled.

After further discussion and questions, Ms. Munro was extended a vote of thanks for her report and was excused at this time.

BROADBAND PRESENTATION

Courtesy of Council was extended to Jim Addicott, Addicott Associates, and Tom Wilson, Director of Recreation and Tourism, who presented an update on the BRAND (Broadband for Rural and Northern Development) Pilot Project since the last report in May, 2004 (copy attached).

Mr. Addicott and Mr. Wilson were extended a vote of thanks for their presentation and were excused at this time.

RECESS

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, to recess for 10 minutes. Motion carried.

WASTE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT – MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF GUYSBOROUGH

Mr. Hudson advised that the Region 1 Solid Waste Resource Technical Committee will be meeting on October 6, 2004, to address the concerns with regard to the agreement received from municipal units and bring these concerns to Guysborough's attention.

It was moved by Deputy Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that the waste management agreement with the Municipality of the District of Guysborough be approved in principle provided all parties to the agreement approve the document. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS/DISTRICT CONCERNS

DISTRICT #3

Councillor Morrison advised of the possibility of accessing Strategic Community Investment (SCIF) Funds for a project within the Village of Baddeck. This project would involve enhancements to the lighting within the Village, viewscapes and rest areas, sidewalks and improvements to the Victoria Highland Civic Centre. This project would be in the vicinity of \$635,000 and in order to initiate the project, Councillor Morrison requested that the Municipality provide \$50,000 from their infrastructure fund to be used to lever the SCIF funding.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Barron, that \$50,000.00 be earmarked from the infrastructure fund for the Baddeck project, provided it has no impact on current infrastructure projects. Motion carried.

Bruce Morrison is to check with ECBC for clarification as to what announcements can be made in this regard.

DISTRICT #1

Councillor MacNeil advised that the sod turning took place at the site of the new school in Iona on Tuesday past. He requested that a letter be forwarded to Don Lohnes, Department of Education, requesting that the new school be wired, so it will be capable to be used as an EMO Centre.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that a letter be forwarded to Don Lohnes, Department of Education, requesting that during construction of the new school at Iona, the electrical work be done to accommodate an EMO Centre. Motion carried.

Councillor MacNeil brought up that current challenge faced by the MacKinnon Harbour Survival Association with regard to the oyster fishery.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the Municipality offer support for the MacKinnon Harbour Survival Association in their meeting with the Executive Director, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, regarding the ongoing challenges of the Association. Motion carried.

DISTRICT #8

It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that \$2,700.00 be approved for the Bay St. Lawrence Community Centre and \$4,000.00 be approved for the Bay St. Lawrence Volunteer Fire Department from the District #8 budget. Motion carried.

DISTRICT #5

Councillor Patterson announced that the ECBC funded project in Ross Ferry was announced on May 1, 2004, and to date no money has been received as yet. Approval was given last week for the new launch. The Ross Ferry Stewardship Society is administering this project.

Councillor Patterson brought up the matter of the Scouts Canada Jamboree which will be held at Camp Carter in New Harris in 2005. Council is to consider assistance from this project in next year's budget.

DISTRICT #3

Councillor Morrison brought up a concern regarding the rumored loss of equipment from the Baddeck Department of Transportation and Public Works Depot and the snow removal plans for the upcoming winter season.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that representatives from the Department of Transportation and Public Works be invited to attend the next session of Council to advise on the disbursement of equipment from the Baddeck DOT&PW Depot and the status of private contracts from snow removal throughout Victoria County in the upcoming winter season. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that the Department of Transportation and Public Works be requested for information on the costs of private contracts for both summer and winter activities throughout Victoria County, providing a breakdown for each area. Motion carried.

DISTRICT #6

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that \$4,000.00 be approved for the Smokey Recreation Society from the District #6 budget. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Copy of letter from Chuck Thompson to Brian MacDonald, Chair of the Cape Breton Regional Library Board, submitting his resignation as a member of the Board of the Cape Breton Regional Library.
2. Letter from the Honourable Carolyn Bolivar-Getson, Minister of the Status of Women, requesting all Councillors to vote in favour of a resolution to be presented at the annual UNSM Conference to research the barriers of women's political participation.
3. Two proclamations to be signed by the Warden:
 - a. Cape Breton Regional Library – Proclaim October 1-31, 2004, as “Library Card Month” in the Municipality of the County of Victoria
 - b. Honourable Judy Sgro, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, - Proclaim October 18-24, 2004, as “Canada's Citizenship Week” in the Municipality of the County of Victoria.
4. Copy of letter from Tanis Delaney to Tom Wilson requesting funding from the Recreation Department to assist in decorating for the World's Biggest Square Dance.
5. Copy of letter from the Municipality of the District of Guysborough to Rural Caucus representatives, advising that Guysborough Council has asked that the Heritage Town Status for the Town of Canso not be pursued by the Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations.
6. Letter from Grant Burgess, CA, Grant Thornton LLP, outlining their observations and recommendations as a result of their completed audit of the Municipality of the County of Victoria for the year ended March 31, 2004.
7. Copies of photos of dogs roaming at large in the Bay St. Lawrence/St. Margaret's Village area.

Discussion took place on this problem and what could be done. This matter has been discussed with Sgt. Densmore, Ingonish Beach RCMP, and his staff is willing to discuss this situation and work with the Dog Controller in this regard.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that the Municipality investigate the Dog By-Law prohibiting certain breeds of dogs recently introduced by the Municipality of the District of Guysborough. Motion carried.

8. Letter from Daniel Oates concerning his Neil's Harbour Water Bill.

Sandy Hudson will reply to this letter advising that the outstanding water bill is to be paid prior to him being reconnected to the water system next spring.

COUNCIL

Sandy Hudson advised that this would be the last session of Council before the Municipal Election on October 16, 2004. The proposed date for the next Council is November 1, 2004. All existing council committees will be disbanded and new appointments to all committees will be made in November.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Sandy Hudson advised that those who have not provided names for Deputy Returning Officers and Poll Clerks should do so as soon as possible, as training sessions will be set up for these workers either the last week of September or first week of October.

Mr. Hudson also advised that he will be setting up times in all districts of the County concerning proxy voting.

LILLIAN MACLEOD

Lillian MacLeod requested Council for a couple of minutes of their time. She thanked Council on behalf of the concerned residents of Middle River regarding the sewage lagoon problems. There have been a number of meetings with the Minister and Deputy Minister of Environment and an agreement has been reached to have an independent reviewer from out of province come in and review all files on this matter. This reviewer will investigate how this file was handled and depending on the outcome, determine what should happen with regard to this matter.

Ms. MacLeod indicated that the residents' fight is ongoing and will continue until a permanent resolution is found.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Barron, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Wayne Budge, Warden

A. W. (Sandy) Hudson, CAO