

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
September 29, 2003

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, September 29, 2003, beginning at 5:30 p.m. with Warden Wayne Budge in the Chair.

Present were:

District #1 – Dan E. MacNeil
District #2 – Shane Toms
District #3 – Bruce Morrison
District #4 – John Graham MacInnes, Deputy Warden
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 #5 – Vacant

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 and the time for adjournment be set at 7:05 p.m. Motion carried.

RCMP – CPL. SCOTT WILLIAMSON

Courtesy of Council was extended to Cpl. Scott Williamson, Baddeck Detachment, Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Cpl. Williamson was in attendance representing Sgt. Mark Furey, who was absent due to previous commitments in Halifax. Cpl Williamson presented the 2nd quarter report for the Baddeck Detachment.

Currently there are five Constables and two Supervisor positions (Sgt. And Cpl.) in the Baddeck Detachment, along with two Public Servants. In addition, there are three Traffic Services personnel that utilize the office space of the Baddeck Detachment.

He presented comparative statistics for the 2nd quarter of 2003, as opposed to the 2nd quarter of 2002. There were 236 calls for service in the 2nd quarter of 2003, compared to 206 during the 2nd quarter of 2002 – an increase of 30 calls for service. Not reflected in these calls for service are those to be deemed of an assistance nature – property checks, false alarms, suspicious persons, lost and found, etc. There were 230 calls for service in the 2nd quarter of 2003, compared to 203 calls during the 2nd quarter of 2002 – an increase of 27 calls for service.

Cpl. Williamson updated on the Baddeck Detachment's bike patrols, foot patrols, and boat patrols. He also addressed the issue of the increase in false alarms. Various municipalities throughout the province are implementing a service fee to calls for false alarms.

Cpl. Williamson indicated that the 3rd quarter report will be available for presentation at the next meeting of Council and Sgt. Furey has requested time on the next agenda to make this presentation.

It was indicated that Sgt. Everett Densmore, Ingonish Beach Detachment, should be invited to appear at the next session of Council to provide an update on this detachment.

Cpl. Williamson was extended a vote of thanks and left at this time.

BRAS D'OR SYMPOSIUM

Courtesy of Council was extended to Charlie Dennis, Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources. Mr. Dennis was in attendance to make a presentation regarding "Partnering To Secure Our Future: The Bras d'Or Lakes Watershed".

Mr. Dennis indicated that the five First Nations Bands in Cape Breton have been seeking ways to better address the many environmental, social and economic issues related to the Bras d'Or Lakes Watershed by working with municipal, provincial and federal government and other organizations. The issues to be addressed are complex and interconnected and require a range of efforts at multiple levels to be resolved.

Mr. Dennis reviewed his presentation with Council, outlining the vision statement and benefits of collaborative planning that will result from the Bras d'Or Symposium. The dates for the Symposium are October 8-10, 2003. The first day will take place at the Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources, Eskasoni, and the subsequent two days will take

place at the Wagmatcook Cultural Centre, Wagmatcook. Mr. Dennis indicated that three (3) representatives are being invited to attend from Victoria County.

Warden Budge extended a vote of thanks to Mr. Dennis for his presentation and he left at this time.

MIDDLE RIVER CONCERNED RESIDENTS

Warden Budge extended the courtesy of Council to Lillian MacLeod, who was in attendance representing the Middle River Concerned Residents Group.

Mrs. MacLeod was in attendance concerning the malfunctioning sewage disposal site at Hunters Mountain owned and operated by George's Vacuum Services. She presented pictures for Council to view showing sewage overflowing from the two lagoons located at this site. She also showed a GPS map showing the actual site situated on 1.5 acres of land and the surrounding property. This land was granted by an Order in Council to Mr. MacAskill.

She indicated that the matter is now before the Courts and George's Vacuum Service has been charged with illegal dumping. Loads of sewage have been found in the surrounding area outside the lagoon area. This matter was brought to Court on September 26, 2003, and has been postponed until October 7, 2003, in Sydney, when evidence will be read and a plea entered.

The sewage has in the past leached down and flowed into the headwaters of MacDonald Brook. MacDonald Brook flows into Middle River and ultimately into the Bras d'Or Lakes. Mr. MacAskill has made application to the Crown for additional land for the site.

Mrs. MacLeod indicated that her group wants this site closed. It sits on a porous gravel pit with no liners and residents have witnessed, on at least four occasions, the sewage flowing everywhere.

Mrs. MacLeod stated that the fault lies with the Department of the Environment who are responsible for licensing and inspecting these sites. She explained the frustration experienced in trying to obtain information from the Department of the Environment. On September 19, 2003, George's Vacuum Services was given permission to resume dumping at the site based on a business plan drawn up by Ed Carey, Carey Geoenvironmental Engineering.

Mrs. MacLeod presented other correspondence the Committee has forwarded and the replies received from the Department of the Environment. She indicated that she would like at some point to see a conference organized which would bring professionals,

government representatives, environmental people, etc. together, to come up with solutions to the problems with regard to this site.

After further discussion, Mrs. MacLeod was extended a vote of thanks on behalf of Council and was excused at this time.

RECESS

Warden Budge announced that Council would recess for 5 minutes.

MINUTES

The minutes of the August 25, 2003, session of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the minutes of the August 25, 2003, Council Session be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

No Smoking Signs

The No Smoking Signs have been received and are available for distribution. Council members may obtain the signs from the Administration Office.

Cape Breton Regional Library Board Representative

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that Councillor Lawrence Barron be appointed representative on the Cape Breton Regional Library Board. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Committee Appointments

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Barron, that the Heritage Advisory Committee be reinstated and Deputy Warden John Graham MacInnes serve on this committee. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that

the following Committee appointments be approved:

- **Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission – Deputy Warden John Graham MacInnes – Alternate Warden Wayne Budge**
- **Pitupaq Committee – Warden Wayne Budge – Alternate Councillor Dan E MacNeil**
- **Victoria County Broadband Committee – Councillor Dan E. MacNeil**

Minimum Tax Billing Policy

It was moved by Deputy Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Toms, that a Minimum Tax Billing Policy of \$5.00 be approved. Motion carried.

Wages – Water Utility Maintenance Personnel

Sandy Hudson indicated that the following increases are being proposed for Dingwall Water and Neil's Harbour/New Haven Water Personnel.

- **Ricky Fraser, Dingwall Water – Increase from \$11,600 annually to \$14,000 annually**
- **Terry Hogan, Neil's Harbour/New Haven Water – Increase from \$12.00/hour to \$15.50/hour**

It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that the proposed increases as outlined for the Water Utility Personnel be accepted. Motion carried.

Snow Removal Tender

Only one tender was received from the plowing and removal of snow at the Court House and sanding at the Court House and Baddeck Landfill roadway as required. Barra Constructions tender was \$48.30 per trip for plowing and snow removal and \$48.30 per hour for sanding as required.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Toms, that Barra Construction's tender for snow removal for a two-year period be accepted. Motion carried.

Baddeck Sewer

Sandy Hudson advised that the paperwork for the turn over of the Baddeck Sewer to the Village of Baddeck has been completed.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that the Warden and CAO be authorized to sign the Deed and Assignment of Easements documents turning the ownership of the Baddeck Sewer System over to the Village of Baddeck. Motion carried.

Village Borrowing – Guarantee

A resolution is required that the Municipality guarantee Village borrowing in the amount of \$1,100,000.00.

It was moved by Councillor Toms, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that the Municipality guarantee the Village Borrowing in the amount of \$1,100,000.00. Motion carried.

Bras d’Or Symposium

The three representatives who will attend the Bras d’Or Symposium are Warden Wayne Budge, and Councillors Bruce Morrison and Dan E. MacNeil.

District #5 By-Election

Nomination day for the October 25, 2003, District #5 By-Election is tomorrow, September 30, 2003.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Correspondence from the Nova Scotia Society of Occupational Therapists regarding Occupational Therapy Week – October 19-25, 2003.
2. Letter from the Municipality of the County of Antigonish to the Honourable Chris d’Entremont regarding compensation program for the 1200 beef farmers registered in Nova Scotia.
3. Copy of letter from the UNSM to the Honourable Barry Barnet, Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, thanking the Minister for meeting with the Executive and outlining the key priority areas.
4. Letter from Ken Paruch, Nova Scotia Power Inc., regarding the water release upstream in the Ingonish River. This matter has been referred to Don Berringer, Manger of Hydro Operations.

Councillor Barron requested that Mr. Berringer be invited to appear before Council.

5. Advisory from the FCM on Green Municipal Funds.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #4

Deputy Warden MacInnes advised that the Victoria County Soccer League is making application to DNR for land to build a new soccer field. They are asking for a letter of support from the Municipality.

It was moved by Deputy Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that a letter of support be provided to the Victoria County Soccer League in their efforts to obtain Crown Land from DNR for the establishment of a new soccer field. Motion carried.

District #6

Councillor Barron questioned on the status of the lease agreement for the property to build an outdoor rink in Ingonish. Sandy Hudson indicated that a plan is required. Councillor Barron will provide the plan.

The Ingonish Beach Water Infrastructure application has been passed at the Provincial level and has been forwarded to the Federal Committee for approval.

The Ingonish Harbour Breakwater Project will be put out on tender in October.

District #8

Councillor MacLellan questioned on whether there were any funding programs for the purchase of radio systems for fire departments. This will be investigated.

COMMITTEES

It was felt that the advertisement for people willing to serve on County Committees should be postponed until the summer of 2004.

District #2

Councillor Toms questioned on the study concerning the traffic concerns at the Irving/Tim Hortons on the TCH 105. This will be investigated.

NEXT COUNCIL

The next meeting of Council will be held on Monday, November 3, 2003, at 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Deputy Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Barron, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Wayne Budge, Warden

A. W. (Sandy) Hudson, CAO