

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

November 16, 1998

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, November 16, 1998, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Present were:

District #1 - Gerald Yetman

District #2 - Shane Toms

District #3 - Bruce Morrison

District #4 - John Graham MacInnes, Warden

District #5 - Gerald Sampson, Deputy Warden (late arrival)

District #6 - Lawrence Barron

District #7 - David Donovan

District #8 - Robert MacLellan

Also present were:

Brian Trask, CAO

Arthur Pickup, Solicitor

Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Warden MacInnes called the meeting to order.

AGENDA

Warden MacInnes suggested that Sgt. MacKenzie, RCMP, be moved up on the agenda and Council then

move In Camera to deal with confidential matters.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Toms, that the agenda be approved as amended. Motion carried.

SGT. MACKENZIE, RCMP

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

Sgt. MacKenzie presented Council members with a copy of the publication, *On Parade - The Mounties Voice*".

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Sgt. MacKenzie indicated that the past summer was a busy one and relatively crime free for the Baddeck Detachment. Members from this Detachment were called upon to assist in the Swissair disaster, but are now back and the Detachment is at full strength.

He indicated that the Ingonish Detachment has no Sergeant as yet and he felt that this is a matter that Council should pursue with corporate management in Halifax to determine the status of same.

Sgt. MacKenzie stated that he would be contacting Brian Trask with regard to the ¼ funding for part-time clerical assistance at the Baddeck Detachment.

Warden MacInnes extended a vote of thanks to Sgt. MacKenzie and he left at this time.

IN CAMERA

Council then moved to In Camera to discuss CUPE negotiations.

Councillor Bruce Morrison declared a conflict of interest as his wife is a municipal employee and he left at this time.

Council then reverted to the regular session.

BADDECK LANDFILL

Jim MacLean, Baddeck Landfill Operator/Manager, recommended that Bobby Fitzgerald, Enviro-Depot Operator, be made a full-time employee.

It was moved by Councillor Yetman, seconded by Deputy Warden Sampson, that Jim MacLean's

recommendation be accepted and Bobby Fitzgerald become a full-time employee. Motion carried.

The proposed organization chart for solid waste management was reviewed and discussed.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the solid waste management organization chart be approved. Motion carried.

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Jim MacLean, Baddeck Landfill Operator/Manager, completes his probation period on November 30, 1998. Mr. MacLean has performed his duties

in a very satisfactory manner. He has assumed the responsibilities of the position and is capable of assuming full responsibility for the solid waste management for the County.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor Toms, that Jim MacLean be employed on a full-time basis, effective December 1, 1998, at an annual salary of \$32,000. Motion carried.

An advertisement is to be placed in *The Victoria Standard* advising of the availability of composters at a cost of \$30 per unit.

Councillor Toms reported that he, along with Councillor Yetman and Jim MacLean, attended the Regional Solid Waste-Resource Management Committee this morning in Sydney. He presented Council with an update.

A Waste Reduction Assistant has been hired by the Regional Committee to assist with the education component of waste management. The paint swaps were discussed and deemed to be successful. An agreement will be signed with the dairy board on December 8, 1998, with regard to milk cartons. A "blue bag" program has been started in Inverness County and Richmond and Cape Breton Regional Municipality will be instituting same in the near future. Victoria County scored the most points within the region with regard to waste diversion. We are in line for \$16,000, in addition to the \$15,000 previously approved. This matter will be addressed at the next regional meeting.

The next meeting to the Regional Solid Waste-Resource Management Committee will be held in Victoria County in January.

Discussion took place on a paint swap for the northern area of the County. The possibility of accepting paint at any time and storing same was discussed. The regional committee is now investigating the average cost of conducting a paint swap.

NORTHEAST HIGHLANDS SHUTTLE SERVICE

The next item on the agenda was the request for funding for the Northeast Highlands Shuttle Service.

Councillor MacLellan declared a conflict of interest and left at this time.

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Brian Trask reported that under the *Municipal Act* funding can be provided for this type of service. Mr. Burton, operator of the shuttle service, is falling short

approximately \$500 to \$600 per month. The word is just getting around with regard to this service and it was felt to be beneficial to those requiring same.

It was suggested that Mr. Burton should advertise this service and expand the courier portion of the business.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor Yetman, that \$500 per month be approved for the balance of the fiscal year - total \$2,000, and it be the owner/operators responsibility to provide all necessary information prior to any additional financial assistance being provided. Motion carried.

EXCUSED

Warden MacInnes requested the Deputy Warden to assume the Chair, as he had to leave to attend an important meeting in his district.

Deputy Warden Sampson then took the Chair.

MINUTES

The following minutes were presented for approval:

Victoria County Municipal Council - September 28, 1998

Committee of the Whole - October 13, 1998

Victoria County Municipal Council - October 19, 1998

Committee of the Whole - November 9, 1998

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the minutes be approved as circulated. Motion carried.

TENDERS - SNOW REMOVAL

Two tenders were received for a price per trip for the plowing and removal of snow at the Court House and an hourly rate for sanding at the Court House and Baddeck Landfill when required.

The tenders were as follows:

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Barra Construction Ltd. - \$28.75 per trip for plowing - \$28.75/backhoe and \$28.75/tandem for removal of snow. Hourly rate for sanding when required - \$28.75

Baddeck Construction Ltd. - \$71.30 per trip for snow plowing and removal and hourly rate for sanding when required - \$34.50

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that the lowest bid, Barra Construction Ltd., be accepted pending clarification of same by the CAO. Motion carried.

TAX COLLECTION UPDATE

Brian Trask presented an update on tax collections and the outstanding tax arrears.

Donnie Morrison, Tax Collector, has been off on sick leave for the past couple of weeks and is expected to return next week if his condition continues to improve.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Yetman, that Council acknowledge the Tax Department's efforts in collecting outstanding tax arrears and trust these collection efforts will continue throughout the year. Motion carried.

OPEN PERIOD/DISTRICT CONCERNS

DISTRICT #1

Councillor Yetman advised that he was contacted by residents of the Red Point Road regarding Council expropriating property to allow them to bring the roadway up to standards.

Further information is to be obtained and this matter will be addressed with Solicitor Pickup.

It was moved by Councillor Yetman, seconded by Councillor Toms, that \$200 be approved for the Baddeck and Area Minor Hockey Society from the District #1 budget. Motion carried.

Councillor Yetman then presented a resolution opposing any drilling in the Bras d'Or Lakes. (copy attached)

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It was moved by Councillor Yetman, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that this resolution be adopted. Motion carried.

Councillor Yetman presented a resolution requesting the HRDC to provide training programs and facilities for training in the offshore gas in Victoria County. (copy attached)

It was moved by Councillor Yetman, seconded by Councillor Toms, that this resolution be adopted. Motion carried.

Councillor Yetman reported on the *UNSM Conference* and the *Succeeding Into The Third Millennium Conference* held recently.

DISTRICT #2

Councillor Toms indicated that residents of a road in his district are questioning on how to list their road. Before consideration is given to listing a road, the road must be up to Department of Transportation standards.

Councillor Toms advised that he received a couple of complaints from contractors with regard to work at the landfill. Any work at the landfill is to be rotated between the local contractors.

DISTRICT #3

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Yetman, that if necessary, the funding approved in the 1997/98 budget for the Crescent Grove Water Extension Project, be transferred to the next budget year. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Toms, that the Baddeck Sewage Treatment be designated as top priority for any federal infrastructure program that may become available. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Toms, that a letter be forwarded to Premier Russell MacLellan requesting that Victoria County be included in any committee formed

with regard to considering the future of the Cape Breton economy. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that a letter be forwarded to Fraser Webb, Shipping Agent for the

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cruise ships visiting Victoria County ports, advising of the charges with regard to disposal of their solid waste. Motion carried.

DISTRICT #7

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that a letter be forwarded to the Honourable Clifford Huskison, Minister of Transportation and Public Works, with a copy to Bruce Fitzner and Charlie MacDonald, requesting that the White Point Road be put on a priority list for upgrading. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that a letter be forwarded to David MacIver, District Manager - Eastern, Department of Health, requesting that the generator servicing the present Buchanan Memorial Hospital be given to the County when it is no longer required. Motion carried.

Councillor Donovan questioned on the status of the Neil's Harbour Subdivision. Brian Trask advised that notification was received today that the plans been approved. The Solicitor will be involved in the process for selling the lots and a meeting will be held in the near future to determine costs, any stipulations, etc. associated with the lots.

A bill for the opening of the South Harbour Channel will be forwarded by Douglas Dowling. The cost of same is \$690.

Contact will be made with Nancy Smith or Keith Bain regarding the meeting to be held with fire chiefs to discuss an EMO Plan for Victoria County.

Councillor Donovan questioned on the signage issue. He has received complaints regarding same and advised that a meeting is scheduled for the Bell Museum on November 19, 1998. This is not a County issue and it was felt that Councillors attending should do so as observers only.

DISTRICT #6

Councillor Barron brought a copy of a map recently published in *The Victoria Standard* regarding the Greater Highland Eco-System and outlining candidates for ecological reserves.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that Parks Canada be requested to have a representative appear

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before Council to explain further the Greater Highland Eco-System and also to discuss the problems of the volunteer fire departments with regard to fire protection within the Park. Motion carried.

DISTRICT #8

Councillor MacLellan advised that the culvert at the Transfer Station has been replaced . He advised that a gate will be erected further down the roadway.

Bruce Aikman and Jim MacLean will be traveling to the Transfer Station on Friday to meet with Rollie Donovan regarding his contract.

DISTRICT #5

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that \$1,000 approved for residents of Boularderie who use the facilities of the Sydney Mines Rink be made payable to the Boularderie Support Group, who will administer same. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Sampson advised that he has received complaints regarding an unsightly premises (Voutier/Marsh residence) on Maple Hill Drive, Big Bras d'Or. Paul Burt is to be requested to investigate this matter.

It was moved by Councillor Yetman, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that \$200 be approved for the Boularderie Support Group from the District #5 budget. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Councillor Barron, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

John Graham MacInnes, Warden

Brian E. Trask, CAO