

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

November 19, 2001

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck on Monday, November 19, 2001, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Deputy Warden Bruce Morrison in the Chair.

Present were:

District #1 – Dan E. MacNeil

District #2 – Shane Toms

District #3 – Bruce Morrison, Deputy Warden

District #4 – John Graham MacInnes

District #5 – Gerald Sampson, Warden

District #6 – Lawrence Barron

District #7 – Wayne Budge

District #8 – Robert MacLellan

Also present were:

Brian Trask, CAO

Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Deputy Warden Morrison called the meeting to order and presented the agenda for approval.

Warden Sampson indicated that Earl Timmins was requesting a few minutes on the agenda prior to the approval of the November 5, 2001, Council minutes.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that the agenda be approved with the noted addition. Motion carried.

J. D. MACCULLOCH, BADDECK INTERNATIONAL NEW MEDIA FESTIVAL

Courtesy of Council was extended to J. D. MacCulloch, Executive Producer, Baddeck International New Media Festival, who was in attendance to make a presentation on the festival.

Mr. MacCulloch presented a short promotional video for the Baddeck International New Media Festival. He then proceeded with an overhead presentation with the assistance of Ross MacDonald, Director of Development for Victoria County.

Mr. MacCulloch presented the vision statement for the festival.

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- To become the industry's premiere celebration of new media content and creativity
- To showcase the work of Canadian new media producers and professionals for the global market
- To deliver a unique and rewarding experience for all participants

The Baddeck Festival was started in 1997 and has grown significantly since then. ECBC conducted an Economic Impact Study on the festival and it is estimated that since its inception the economic impact has been \$1.1 million. The long-term plans are to establish a full-time festival office in Baddeck, with a full-time staff. As well there are plans for a new media institute. The new media institute will be modelled after the Banff New Media Institute. It will be a multi-purpose facility, serving tourism, culture, technology and community interests. It will serve as a convention/meeting and performance space and be fully wired for broadcast production.

The next steps in the process were identified as:

- Identify partners
- Establish a team
- Identify key funding sources
- Secure sponsors
- Centre feasibility study

Mr. MacCulloch concluding by requesting Council for their endorsement of this project.

Mr. MacCulloch was questioned as to whether holding the media festival and Celtic Colours at the same time was beneficial or detrimental. He indicated he felt it was positive to having both events held during the same time frame.

The number of employees that could result from the establishment of a full-time media office and centre was discussed and Mr. MacCulloch indicated the number could reach 75 people.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Warden Sampson, that Victoria County Municipal Council support the efforts of the Baddeck International New Media Festival and their plans for a full-time office and new media institute. Motion carried.

Mr. MacCulloch was extended a vote of thanks and he was excused at this time.

MINUTES/BUSINESS ARISING

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The minutes of the October 15, 2001, and November 5, 2001, Council meetings were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor Toms, seconded by Councillor Budge, that the October 15, 2001, Council minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Prior to approving the November 5, 2001, minutes, courtesy of Council was extended to Earl Timmins.

Mr. Timmins was in attendance as a result of a presentation made by Olive MacKay at the last meeting concerning renaming a section of the Old Margaree Road to the Old Cabot Trail Road.

Mr. Timmins indicated his opposition to the change in the road name. He indicated that there are 14 businesses, with a total of 110 employees, between Exit 7 and Exit 8, which could be effected by the requested road name change. He requested Council to reconsider their motion supporting the road name change made at the November 5, 2001, meeting.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the motion passed at the November 5, 2001, Council meeting pertaining to renaming a section of the Old Margaree Road to the Old Cabot Trail Road be rescinded and the remainder of the November 5, 2001, Council minutes be approved. Motion carried.

SNOW REMOVAL – INGONISH BEACH SIDEWALKS

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Brian Trask advised that one tender was received for the removal of snow from the Ingonish Beach Sidewalks. The tender received from Doucette' Variety Store was \$50.00 per hour plus HST.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Warden Sampson, that Doucette's Variety

Store tender for snow removal from the Ingonish Beach Sidewalks be accepted. Motion carried.

LIABILITY INSURANCE INCREASE

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Brian Trask advised that at present the municipality carries liability insurance in the amount of \$3,000,000, but this is not sufficient. He has been in contact with MacCoy Insurance Brokers to increase our liability coverage. MacCoy is presently working on this matter and Mr. Trask is awaiting confirmation that a carrier has been found.

TAX EXEMPTION BY-LAW

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Brian Trask indicated that the “By-Law Respecting Tax Exemption for Fire Companies, Charitable and Non-Profit Organizations” is in need of updating and approval. He presented the by-law for approval.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that the tax exemption by-law be approved. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

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1. Letter from the Honourable Peter Christie, Minister of Community Services, concerning the increase in the eligibility age for disabled persons.

2. Memorandum from Jerry Blumenthal, President, UNSM, updating on the roles and responsibilities.

3. Correspondence from Jack Layton, President, FCM, regarding the 65th Annual Conference of the FCM to be held in Hamilton, Ontario from May 31- June 3, 2002.

4. Copy of a letter from Joseph Janega, Chair of the Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission, forwarded to the UNSM concerning the E-911 funding allocation.

5. Correspondence from Jack Novack, Program Director, Henson College, regarding the Municipal Endowment Fund.

6. Copy of Tourism Report submitted by Tom Wilson, Director of Recreation and Tourism.

DANGEROUS AND UNSIGHTLY PREMISES

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The Dangerous and Unsightly Premises Order has been issued to Charles and Ruby MacPherson. Warden Sampson advised that he and Brian Trask visited the site concerning the derelict vehicles located on the property and arrangements have been made to remove the vehicles and clean up the associated debris.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

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District #6

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It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that \$1,000 be approved from the District #6 and \$500 from both the District #7 and #8 budgets for Ski Cape Smokey. Motion carried.

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District #1

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It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that \$300 be approved for the Little Narrows Community Development Association from the District #1 budget. Motion carried.

Councillor MacNeil brought up a concern that there is no trained back up for the Little Narrows Water System should Ron McIntyre not be available. This matter will be addressed through the Water Committee.

District #2

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It was moved by Councillor Toms, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that \$275 be approved for the Baddeck Valley Community Hall and \$200 for the Crowdis Mountain Snowmobile Club from the District #2 budget. Motion carried.

District #3

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It was moved by Deputy Warden Morrison, seconded by Warden Sampson, that \$200 be approved for the Baddeck Christmas Parade (c/o Rev. Lloyd Murdock) and \$200 for the Baddeck Academy Prom Committee from the District #3 budget. Motion carried.

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SEWER BY-LAW

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When the Sewer By-Laws were approved for Baddeck the hook up fee for connection to the sewer was set at \$1,000. Deputy Warden Morrison advised that on checking this amount is excessive and an amendment is being requested to lower the sewer connection fee to \$300.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Toms, that 1st reading of an amendment to lower the sewer connection fee in Baddeck to \$300 from \$1,000 be approved. Motion carried.

District #5

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It was moved by Warden Sampson, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that \$300 be approved for the District #5 Action Committee from the District #5 budget for bus shelter repairs. Motion carried.

District #7

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It was moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Warden Sampson, that \$500 be approved from the District #7 budget for the Ingonish Volunteer Community Association. Motion carried.

RECESS

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Deputy Warden Morrison announced that Council would recess for 5 minutes.

BADDECK SEWERS

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The following individuals entered the meeting at this time

- Eddie Keeling, Jess Kerr, Brian Chandler – Village Commissioners
 - Lisa MacKinnon, Village Clerk
 - Dan Chaisson, Village Solicitor
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Brian Trask advised that on November 7, 2001, representatives from the Village and the County met to discuss an agreement with regard to the Baddeck Sewers.

The infrastructure funding application has been received and is to be signed by the Municipality's signing officers.

It was moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that the Warden and CAO sign the infrastructure funding application for the Baddeck Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrade. Motion carried.

Brian Trask reported on the meeting held between the Village and the County and the memorandum he forwarded as a result of this meeting.

Eddie Keeling, Chair of the Village of Baddeck advised that the Village met on November 7, 2001, and passed a motion at the meeting. Dan Chaisson then read the motion which states:

- “that the Village of Baddeck agrees in principle with the memorandum of the Municipality of the County of Victoria provided by Brian Trask on November 7, 2001, and in accordance with the letter form John Anderson received on the same date, to proceed with an agreement to pursue ownership of the Sewage Treatment Plant, and to cost share all financial costs on a 50/50 basis with the Municipality of the County of Victoria, and to hold a general meeting of the Village electors to propose a motion to borrow the necessary funding.”

It was moved by Councillor Toms, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that the Village of Baddeck assume ownership and maintenance of the Baddeck Sewer and this asset be transferred to the Village; the Village of Baddeck arrange financing for the Baddeck Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrade project; the Municipality guarantee

the debenture required for the financing of the sewage project and pay 50% of the Village of Baddeck's financial costs in connection with the Baddeck Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrade project. Motion carried.

IN CAMERA

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The meeting then moved to an In Camera session.