

**VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**  
**November 19, 2007**

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, November 19, 2007, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Warden Wayne Budge in the Chair.

Present were:

District #1 – Paul MacNeil  
District #2 – Keith MacCuspic  
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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Warden Budge called the meeting to order.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**It was moved by Deputy Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – OCTOBER 15, 2007**

The minutes of the October 15, 2007, session of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

**It was moved by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of October 15, 2007, be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**Department of the Environment**

Discussion took place on the Department of the Environment requirements with regard to the installation of on-site sewage disposal systems, especially on waterfront properties.

**Dangerous & Unsightly Premises**

Discussion took place on how to deal with dangerous and unsightly properties. Whether the Municipality should develop their own Dangerous and Unsightly Premises By-Law was questioned and it was indicated that Inverness County is now looking into this matter. Contact is to be made with Kate Beaton, CAO, Inverness, to determine how they are proceeding in this regard.

**Street Light – Beverly’s Hill**

Sandy Hudson advised that he met with Roy MacDonald, Area Manager, Department of Transportation, regarding the location of a street light at the eastern entrance to the Beverly’s Hill Road.

Mr. MacDonald indicated that this request should be forwarded to the traffic division of the Department of Transportation. Background information concerning the number of residents on this road is to be obtained prior to forwarding on the request.

Discussion took place on the recent power outages in the County and the general service provided by NSPI regarding the installation and repair of street lights.

**DISTRICT CONCERNS**

**District #6**

Councillor Barron presented a request from Chester Whitty, Vice-Chairman, Smokey Recreational Society, to lease the upper level of the former school building at Ingonish Beach. This organization already leases the lower level of the building, as well as some property where the outdoor rink is located.

Renovations were completed to the upper level last year with assistance from the Municipality and a grant from Service Canada. Office space was created, with a shared kitchenette. One classroom was left for a community meeting room. The organization wishes to rent office space to community organizations and businesses.

**It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacCuspig, that the upper level of the former Ingonish Beach School be leased to the Smokey Recreational Society, to terminate at the same time as the current lease for the bottom level of the property, and when the organization rents out the office space, it be leased at competitive rates. Motion carried.**

**District #5**

Councillor Patterson updated Council on the activities of the Community Development Committee. At the last meeting on November 1, 2007, a motion was passed to issue Requests for Proposals for the updating of the Victoria County Strategic Plan "*Choice Not Circumstance*". Proposals are to be submitted by December 14, 2007, and the completed plan is to be received by August 1, 2008.

A meeting will be held with Sue Difiore regarding the Victoria County websites as soon as she is available on her return from the US.

Councillor Patterson also updated on the plans for the new Alderwood. He indicated that the acquisition of land is close to being finalized, as are the drawings for the building design which will be all on one level. There is some fine tuning to be done to the design with regard to the kitchen, laundry, etc. The building design will determine the amount of land that is required and when finalized an application will be forwarded to the Department of Health for funding.

It was felt it was important to inform the public on the status of this project and this will be done as soon as possible.

**District #2**

**It was moved by Councillor MacCuspig, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that \$1,000.00 be approved from the District #2 budget for the Middle River Watershed Society. Motion carried.**

Councillor MacCuspig brought up the matter of a dangerous and unsightly premise in his district. David MacKenzie is to be contacted to carry out an inspection of the property.

Councillor MacCuspig indicated that during the recent power outage, phone service was also lost in his area. Aliant relies on what they say is an 8 hour battery backup, which Councillor MacCuspig indicated was more like 3 hours.

**It was moved by Councillor MacCuspig, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that a letter be forwarded to Aliant requesting that they upgrade their battery backup capabilities or install a cell tower in District #2 to enable phone coverage to be maintained during power outages. Motion carried.**

Councillor MacCuspig updated on the clean up of the Crowdis Mountain sewage disposal site. The Department of the Environment felt they had removed enough material and through a resident's efforts were forced to remove an additional 1000 tons of

material, at which time some petrochemicals were detected. The Department of the Environment then halted the removal project and samples were collected which are being analyzed today. It appears this may be a contaminated site, which the residents have stated all along.

**District #1**

D. W. Matheson & Sons Contracting are to begin the Little Narrows Water Extension project on November 26, 2007.

**District #3**

**It was moved by Deputy Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that a letter be forwarded to Jessica MacDermid congratulating her and her Cape Breton University Women's Soccer team-mates on winning the Canadian Interuniversity Sports (CIS) Soccer Championships. Motion carried.**

Councillor Morrison requested that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Transportation requesting that armour stone be located in the eroded area on the waterside at Baddeck Bay between Charles Weaver's and Kirk MacDonald's. A copy of this letter is to be forwarded to Betty Sisnett.

Councillor Barron also requested that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Transportation requesting that the gravel roads north of Smokey be graded.

Councillor Morrison indicated that the local Silver Dart Centennial Association has been invited to attend a meeting of the National Group on December 4, 2007. It is important that representatives attend and Councillor Morrison questioned on whether the Municipality would fund the expenses for the Project Manager, Eleanor Anderson, and one Committee member to attend. The estimated cost is less than \$2,000.00. Meetings will also be scheduled with Mark Eyking and Peter MacKay while in Ottawa.

**It was moved by Deputy Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor MacCuspig, that the Municipality pay the expenses for two people from Silver Dart Centennial Association to attend a meeting of the National Committee on December 4, 2007, in Ottawa. Motion carried.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

Sandy Hudson presented financial statements for the Municipality up to September 30, 2007, for Council's information and review. Council are to review the

information and if they have questions on any items, they can be addressed at anytime or at the next session of Council.

**MAPPER'S POSITION**

**It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that a letter be forwarded to the Honourable Jamie Muir, Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, requesting that the Mapper's position in the Victoria County Registry of Deeds be maintained in Victoria County and not relocated to Sydney as planned. Motion carried.**

**CAPE BRETON ISLAND MARKETING STRATEGY**

Vibe has been selected as the consultant for the Cape Breton Island Marketing Strategy. Vibe will be holding a number of meetings throughout the Island. The plan is to bring forward a marketing levy proposal that is acceptable and accountable to all municipal units and the industry on Cape Breton Island.

A Victoria County tourism industry representative is required to serve on the Steering Committee. Darlene Sponagle wishes to meet with local development groups and from there hopefully an industry representative will be appointed to sit on the Steering Committee. Each municipal unit will have one industry representative and one Council representative on the Steering Committee. Councillor MacCuspic is the Council's appointee.

Council felt this was an appropriate way to proceed.

**INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING**

Sandy Hudson advised that there is \$121,000 remaining in Victoria County's infrastructure allotment. We must indicate by November 30, 2007, if we plan to use this funding or the funds will be relocated.

This funding could be put towards the Little Narrows Water Tower which is estimated to cost \$300,000.00. The Municipality must commit \$60,000.00 to obtain the \$121,000.00 from the provincial/federal levels. Sandy Hudson indicated that he spoke to Grant Brennan about using this funding for the tower project, and it is acceptable.

**It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that the \$121,000.00 in infrastructure funding, together with a \$60,000.00 allocation from the Municipality for a total of \$181,000.00, be approved towards the cost of the Little Narrows Water Tower project. Motion carried.**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Letter from the Honourable Len Goucher, Minister of Tourism, Heritage and Culture, acknowledging receipt of Council's letter concerning the Tourist Accommodations Act.
2. Letter from Ed Kirby, Department of Justice, requesting payment in full of the outstanding \$100,000.00 withheld for the County's RCMP fourth quarter invoice.

This amount was withheld due to staffing vacancies that occurred within Victoria County. An explanation was provided that the RCMP was able to meet demands of the Detachment through Acting NCOs and by deploying additional officers and equipment from other detachments. The amount withheld will be paid.

Discussion took place on the Court system and the possibility of having court services reinstated in the north of Smokey area.

**It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the Municipality make contact with the appropriate departments to attempt to get court services reinstated in Ingonish. Motion carried.**

3. Letter from Stephen MacDonald, Acting Area Manager, Department of Transportation, advising that council's request for a Gaelic road sign for North River Bridge has been forwarded to Lewis MacKinnon, CEO with the Office of Gaelic Affairs.
4. Copy of a letter to Keith Bain, MLA and prior correspondence to and from the Department of Community Services regarding a meeting to discuss staffing issues in Victoria County.
5. Correspondence from the Police Association of Nova Scotia (PANS) requesting the Municipality to advertise in their 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Crime Prevention Guide.

**It was moved by Deputy Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that the Municipality purchase a 1/10 of a page ad at a cost of \$225.00 in PANS 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Crime Prevention Guide. Motion carried.**

6. Letter and copy of draft Dog Control By-Law from Pickup MacDowell.

Council is to review the draft by-law prior to the December Council meeting and if acceptable 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the by-law will take place at that meeting.

Councillor Morrison indicated that Ann and Benny Robinson are requesting a Gaelic Road sign be erected for their community. Clarification is to be obtained from the Robinson's on the name, whether it is Bucklaw or St. Patrick's Channel.

Councillor MacCuspic indicated that he spoke with John MacKinnon, Seaside Cable, regarding high speed internet coverage in his district and he was advised to find out the names of the people who want high speed in the district and Seaside would concentrate on getting the service to the people who want it.

Councillor Morrison indicated that he is still unable to send email through to the Municipality. His emails bounce back as undeliverable.

7. Sandy Hudson advised that he contacted Robert Earle regarding the Ross Ferry right-of-way and was advised that this property was being transferred to the Department of Natural Resources.

A letter is to be forwarded to Murdock Morrison, Halifax, who made an inquiry regarding this property.

8. A copy of a letter to the Cape Breton District Health Authority from Sheila Fricker, Occupational Therapist, was received.

Discussion took place on this matter and the fact that this service may be in jeopardy in Victoria County.

**It was moved by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that a letter be forwarded to John Malcom, CEO of the Cape Breton District Health Authority, requesting that he provide more information and clarification on the letter received from Sheila Fricker, concerning the Occupational Therapist position in Victoria County. Motion carried.**

### **IT CENTRE**

Sandy Hudson advised that he met with the Credit Union representative concerning the IT Centre being maintained at the present site and there is a possibility of extending the deadline for relocation and other possible accommodations within the building. He later spoke with Gina Hunter from the IT Centre and she indicated at that time that they were looking at an alternate site and he has heard nothing further since then.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next Council meeting will be held on Monday, December 10, 2007, at 5:00 p.m.

**ADJOURN**

**There being no further business, on motion of Deputy Warden MacInnes, the meeting adjourned.**