

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
November 20, 2006

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, November 20, 2006, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Present were:

District #2 – Keith MacCuspic
District #3 – Bruce Morrison
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 were:

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

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Budge called the meeting to order.

ROBERT DAUPHINEE, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Courtesy of Council was extended to Robert Dauphinee, Director of Public Works.

Sandy Hudson introduced Mr. Dauphinee to the Council. Mr. Dauphinee is entering his third week on the job. He has visited all the water utilities, with the exception of Little Narrows, to date and has been to both the Dingwall Transfer Station and the Neil's Harbour Enviro-Depot. His office is located in the Baddeck Municipal Solid Waste Transfer Station.

Mr. Dauphinee indicated that Victoria County is quite progressive in terms of their solid waste management. He will hopefully provide a fresh perspective and to this point everything is going well. He outlined his past employment in the field of solid waste management and advised that he is glad to be back in Cape Breton.

A general discussion took place on solid waste management and the need for public education with regard to recycling. Mr. Dauphinee indicated that as he becomes more familiar with his position, he will look at ways to economize while still maintaining an effective operation. He also advised that he would like to develop a business plan for the Municipal Solid Waste Transfer Station site.

After further discussion, Mr. Dauphinee indicated that at any time he may be contacted at 295-3144 or by email at robert.dauphinee@countyvictoria.ns.ca.

Warden Budge extended a vote of thanks to Mr. Dauphinee and he was excused at this time.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspic, seconded by Councillor Barron, that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – OCTOBER 23, 2006

The minutes of the October 23, 2006, session of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that the October 23, 2006, minutes of Victoria County Municipal Council be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Non-Resident Land Ownership

Mark Peck, Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, has provided Sandy Hudson with a contact name to obtain information regarding non-resident land ownership. This information will be obtained and brought to a future meeting.

Municipal Boundaries Meeting

There is one public meeting remaining with regard to the municipal boundary review. This meeting is scheduled for St. Michael's Hall, Baddeck, on Thursday, November 23, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. This topic will be on the agenda for the next session of Council. An application will be developed for submission to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board prior to the December 31, 2006, deadline.

North Highlands Community Museum

Discussion took place on Heather Morrison's presentation to Council at the last meeting regarding the North Highlands Community Museum. The request for financial assistance from the Municipality will be forwarded to next year's budget deliberations.

It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that a letter be forwarded to the Province in support of the North Highlands Community Museum, outlining its historical significance and importance to the community, requesting that consideration be given to supporting this community museum. Motion carried.

Business Occupancy Tax

Discussion again took place on Business Occupancy Tax changes, and in particular the 25% rebate of commercial taxation provided to tourist facilities closed at least four months of the year. This cost the municipality \$123,000.00 this current year. It was felt that by this action, the province is encouraging businesses to become seasonal. Victoria County is one of the areas most affected in the province and we would like to see changes made before the next budget year.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Barron, that a letter be forwarded to Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations indicating that Victoria County will continue to campaign against the inequality as a result of provincial legislation regarding the 25% rebate on commercial taxation. Motion carried.

PROPOSED MARKETING LEVY

The proposed marketing levy for Cape Breton Island was addressed at a recent public meeting held on November 14, 2006. The matter was to be brought to Council for a decision.

The Council previously supported the institution of a marketing levy in principle. The comments addressed at the public meeting were discussed.

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspic, seconded by Councillor Barron, that the decision on the marketing levy be deferred until additional information is received. Motion carried.

Tom Wilson, Director of Recreation and Tourism, was in attendance and questioned on what additional information was required. He will contact both BABTA and the Northeast Highlands Chamber of Commerce seeking a letter of support for the

marketing levy. These bodies have membership coverage that includes the entire County. They will be questioned if they support the implementation of a marketing levy on tourist accommodations of 10 or more rooms. He will provide this information to Council for their next meeting.

VICTORIA COUNTY LOGO PROPOSAL

The proposals received for the new Victoria County logo have been reviewed by the Community Development Committee and have been forwarded to Council for consideration.

Council reviewed the three proposals and narrowed it down to two possibilities. As they wanted to have a public unveiling of the new logo, it was decided to vote by secret ballot on the two logo proposals.

Heather MacLean collected and counted the ballots and advised that a logo has been selected and will be referred to the Committee Development Committee for action in having the logo developed for public unveiling in the New Year.

APPOINTMENT – HIGHLAND MANOR

It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Councillor Barron, that Jody Pilling be appointed as a member of the Highland Manor Board. Motion carried.

ALDERWOOD REST HOME – BORROWING GUARANTEE

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that that Municipality guarantee the loan requirements for Alderwood Corporation in the amount of \$1,618,579.00, pending the CAO receiving clarification from Alderwood's administrator. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Informal Council Meeting

The offsite meeting for Council Members will be held at the St. Ann's Bay United Church, on Monday, December 4, 2006, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Financial Information

Sandy Hudson presented Council with an income statement as of September 30, 2006, for the Municipality. The statement was reviewed and it was felt it would be beneficial to receive this information on a quarterly basis.

The negotiations between CUPE Local 2694 and the Municipality have been completed. There is a motion on the books that non-union and Council receive the same percentage increases as the Union. The increase is to be retroactive to April 1, 2006, for Council and non-union staff with the exception of Sandy Hudson. His employment contract expired in September and his increase is to be retroactive to September, 2005.

It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that the CUPE negotiations recently completed be applied equally to Council and non-union staff with the increase being retroactive to April 1, 2006, and in the case of Sandy Hudson, CAO, the increase being retroactive to September, 2005. Motion carried.

Dingwall Post Office

It was moved by Councillor MacLellan, seconded by Councillor Barron, that a letter be forwarded to the Canada Post Corporation in support of the residents request for a change in the hours of operation at the Dingwall Post Office on Saturdays to the morning hours. Motion carried.

Cape North Sewage Lagoon

The present lease for the sewage lagoon site at Cape North has expired. A survey of the property was conducted and the lagoon site is on County property. Council was questioned as to whether they wished to renew the lease. The Department of the Environment have issued a permit to Island Vacuum and Portables to operate the lagoon on the condition that the lease be renewed.

Discussion took place on leasing County owned property. Council agreed to renew the lease for a five year term and Sandy Hudson is to contact Solicitor Pickup with regard to this matter.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #6

Councillor Barron advised that the Ingonish Beach Campground will remain open and there are no future plans for closure.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that a letter be forwarded to Tim Reynolds, Superintendent, Cape Breton Highlands National Park, congratulating him on the decision to keep the Ingonish Beach Campgrounds open. Motion carried.

District #5

It was moved by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that \$1,000.00 be approved from the District #5 budget for the Ross Ferry Volunteer Fire Department. Motion carried.

District #2

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspic, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that \$1,700.00 be approved for the Middle River Community Hall from the District #2 budget. Motion carried.

Councillor MacCuspic questioned on the appropriate forms for the derelict vehicle program. Robert Dauphinee, Director of Public Works, is investigating the best way to handle this program.

District #3

Councillor Morrison requested that a letter be forwarded to Charlie MacDonald, Department of Transportation, questioning on when the guardrail will be replaced at Exit 9.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from the Honourable Murray Scott, Minister of Justice, concerning Justice issues in Victoria County.
2. Letter from Pat Lunn, Correspondence Coordinator, Office of the Premier, acknowledging Council's letter concerning the Cape Breton Centre for Craft and Design.
3. Letter from the Honourable Len Goucher, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Heritage, acknowledging Council's letter of support for the Cape Breton Centre for Craft and Design.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Deputy Warden John Graham MacInnes will be hosting this year's Christmas Party on Saturday, December 16, 2006. This will also be a retirement celebration for Jim MacLean.

NEXT MEETINGS

The informal session of Victoria County Municipal Council will be held at the St. Ann's Bay United Church Hall, on Monday, December 4, 2006, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

The next regular session of Victoria County Municipal Council will be held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, December 11, 2006, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Mark Eyking will be available to meet with Council in January and a Council meeting will be arranged around this schedule.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Councillor Morrison, the meeting adjourned.

Wayne Budge, Warden

A. W. (Sandy) Hudson, CAO

