

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
November 29, 2004

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, November 29, 2004, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Present were:

District #2 – Keith MacCuspig
District #3 – Bruce Morrison
District #4 – John Graham MacInnes
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 was:

District #1 – Dan E. MacNeil, Deputy Warden (Due to illness)

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Budge called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/TIME TO ADJOURN

The agenda was presented for approval. Councillor Morrison requested that an update on the Baddeck Academy Soccer Field be added to the agenda.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that the agenda be approved with the noted addition and the time to adjourn be set for 6:00 p.m. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the November 1, 2004, Council Session were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Barron, that the November 1, 2004, minutes of Victoria County Municipal Council be approved as presented. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

Councillor MacInnes presented Resolution 04-08-01 – Committee Appointments to Council for approval. (copy attached)

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that Resolution 04-08-01 – Committee Appointments be approved effective January 1, 2005.

It was moved by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that an amendment be made to Resolution 04-08-01 – Committee Appointments appointing Gina Reid as a replacement for Councillor John Graham MacInnes on the Cape Breton Regional Library Board. Motion carried.

The original motion approving the Committee Appointments was then put and carried.

BADDECK NURSERY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Courtesy of Council was extended to Jeanette Layes and David Parkinson, representing the Baddeck Nursery School Association.

Mrs. Layes presented an update on Baddeck Nursery School Association since their last appearance before Council and Mr. Parkinson presented the financial statements and projections. (copy attached)

The Baddeck Nursery School Association is seeking short-term bridge funding in the amount of \$7,500 from the Municipality to assist in finishing the current school year and they are also seeking a partnership commitment of \$10,000 for each of the next three years to assist in their goal of sustainability for the school.

The current enrollment in the school is 33 children and it is anticipated at this point that the 2005-2006 school term enrollment will be in the vicinity of 22 to 23 students. The revenue generated from the child enrollment is \$1,800 per month. Mr. Parkinson stated that they hesitated to increase the fees, because they felt the participation rate would decrease if the fees increased.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that notice of motion be given that at the next Council meeting a request will be made that the Municipality consider a grant of \$7,500 for the current year operation of the Baddeck Nursery School Association and their request for annual funding in the amount of \$10,000 for each of the next three years be forwarded to budget talks for 2005/2006. Motion carried.

SMOKEY RECREATION SOCIETY

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that a capital grant in the amount of \$27,600 be approved for the Smokey Recreation Society for their outdoor rink project. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS/DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #3

Councillor Morrison brought up the matter of the soccer field at Baddeck Academy. He indicated that Baddeck Academy recently hosted the Division IV Girls Soccer Provincials and had to use the facility at Breton Education Centre in New Waterford because of the inadequacy of the school field.

Sometime ago an estimate was done on the cost to upgrade the field and it came in at approximately \$26,000. Councillor Morrison read a letter received from Don Matheson, Director of Operational Services, Cape Breton-Victoria District School Board, concerning the soccer field.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that funding for the Baddeck Academy Soccer Field be referred to the 2005-2006 budget talks with consideration being given to providing \$15,000 towards the upgrade of the field. Motion carried.

Sandy Hudson is to correspond with Don Matheson to clarify issues such as public use of the field, etc.

Councillor Morrison also brought up the matter of paving Hilltop Crescent, Baddeck. He requested that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Transportation advising that Hilltop Crescent has been placed on the County's priority list for paving and request that they advise the cost to pave the road. This matter is to also be referred to the 2005-2006 budget deliberations.

District #3

Councillor MacCuspig brought up the matter of the sewage lagoon at Crowdis Mountain. It was indicated that the facility was closed as of November 16, 2004, and was to have a remediation plan submitted by today, November 29, 2004.

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspig, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that a letter be forwarded to the Department of the Environment requesting written clarification on the status of the sewage lagoon located on Crowdis Mountain. Motion carried.

District #5

Councillor Patterson presented Councillors with a document entitled, **Conservation and Environmental Enhancement of the Ross Ferry Wharf and Adjacent Lands: A Proposal for Development of a Marine Park**, which was prepared by the Ross Ferry Stewardship Society. The organization is requesting the Municipality to consider municipal participation in the project by making a financial contribution. Federal, provincial and private sector funding has been committed.

It was moved by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that notice of motion be given that at the next Council meeting a motion be made that funding of up to \$40,000 spread over two fiscal years, be provided to the Ross Ferry Stewardship Society, contingent on ECBC funding. Motion carried.

Councillor Patterson questioned on who was responsible for updating the County website. He was on the site recently looking for information on a specific topic and there was no information there. This will be investigated.

Councillor Patterson indicated that he has registered for the Pathways Conference that will be held in St. Ann's on Saturday, December 4, 2004. Councillors MacInnes and Morrison indicated that they were also planning on attending this conference.

LOAN GUARANTEE – ALDERWOOD REST HOME

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that the Municipality guarantee the loan requirements for Alderwood Corporation in the amount of \$1,439,975.00. Motion carried.

DOMAIN REQUEST – VICTORIA, B.C.

A request was received from Victoria, British Columbia, who wish to register victoria.ca as their domain server. In using the name Victoria, they have to contact all other areas with Victoria in their name. Mr. Hudson advised that he contacted Lorne

MacDowell, Solicitor, who advised that by agreeing the Victoria's request, this did not prevent the County from using countyvictoria.ns.ca.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that a letter be forwarded to Victoria, British Columbia, advising that we have no objection to their use of the name victoria.ca. Motion carried.

SEARCH & RESCUE

Sandy Hudson advised that the Cheticamp Ground Search & Rescue assisted in the search efforts in the recent tragedy at Green Cove, Victoria County. It was indicated that both this organization and the Cape Breton Search & Rescue assist when requested.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that \$500 be approved and this request be included for consideration in the 2005/2006 EMO budget. Motion carried.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION BALLOTS

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the ballots from the recent Municipal and School Board Elections be destroyed. Motion carried.

BAY ST. LAWRENCE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Sandy Hudson advised that the Bay St. Lawrence Community Centre has a federal charitable number and should be included for full exemption in our Tax Exemption By-Law. There are also outstanding taxes, which will have to be written off in the amount of \$9,915.76.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the Bay St. Lawrence Community Centre be added to our Tax Exemption By-Law and authorization be given to write off taxes in the amount of \$9,915.76. Motion carried.

STAFF/COUNCIL PARTY

Sandy Hudson advised that a Staff/Council Christmas Party will be held at Cathi Pierrard's residence on Saturday, December 11, 2004, at 7:00 p.m.

CAO'S REPORT

Sandy Hudson distributed his work report for the month of November for Council's perusal.

SOLID WASTE

Sandy Hudson advised that the closure of the Baddeck Landfill is now 13 months away and movement must begin on the development of a new system of handling solid waste prior to it being transferred to the Municipality of the District of Guysborough. The cost per ton to dump the solid waste at Guysborough will be \$67/ton and this does not include the transporting of the waste. Some method of compacting waste before shipping will be necessary and Mr. Hudson indicated that the Public Works Committee will be busy in the next few months figuring out the solution.

Discussion also took place on derelict vehicles and how this program can be better handled.

COMMITTEES

The Committees of Council approved earlier in the meeting are a starting point and there is a possibility of additional members being appointed to some of the committees.

DEPUTY WARDEN MACNEIL

Sandy Hudson updated Council on Deputy Warden MacNeil's current health situation and advised that he is hoping to be discharged from hospital on Friday.

LITTLE NARROWS WATER

The Little Narrows Water System extension is nearing completion and the Little Narrows Gypsum Plant should be connected in early December.

INGONISH BEACH WATER

A letter will be forwarded to residents of the Ingonish area updating them on the status of the Ingonish Beach Water Project.

ADJOURN

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

Wayne Budge, Warden

A. W. (Sandy) Hudson, CAO

B.