

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
December 11, 2006

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, December 11, 2006, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Warden Wayne Budge in the Chair.

Present were:

District #1 – Dan E. MacNeil
District #2 – Keith MacCuspig
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 Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NOVEMBER 20, 2006

The November 20, 2006, Council Minutes were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacCuspig, that the minutes of the November 20, 2006, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Marketing Levy

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that Tom Wilson be requested to provide a report on the marketing levy survey he conducted and the manner in which it was conducted for the next Council meeting in January, 2007. Motion carried.

Victoria County Logo

Discussion took place on the proposed Victoria County Logo. This matter will be referred back to the Community Development Committee.

Seasonal Tourism Business Tax Rate

A copy of the letter forwarded to Honourable Jamie Muir, Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, regarding the seasonal tourism business tax rate was presented.

Department of Community Services

A letter of reply to Council's concerns regarding the Department of Community Services staffing was received from Marian Tyson, Deputy Minister.

It was moved by Deputy Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that Marian Tyson, Deputy Minister be requested that she and Rosemary Lewis, Regional Director, meet with Council to discuss the Department of Community Services staffing concerns and how the department can justify equitable service delivery to Victoria County. Motion carried.

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY REVIEW

Sandy Hudson reported on the public meetings held in conjunction with the municipal boundary and representation review. The meetings were advertised in the *Victoria Standard* and posted locally over a period of nine weeks. Eight people attended the Cape North meeting, three in both Englishtown and Little Narrows and zero in Ingonish and Baddeck.

The public in attendance felt the most feasible option was to maintain the status quo. The number of citizens represented by each Council Member is also within the acceptable range. Discussion took place.

It was moved by Deputy Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that the status quo be maintained and an application to this affect be forwarded to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board by the December 31, 2006, deadline. Motion carried.

NON-RESIDENT LAND OWNERSHIP

Council members were previously provided with a copy of the 2001 report on Non-Resident Landownership. Discussion took place on this topic.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that questions and concerns regarding non-resident landownership be referred to the new Assessment Board. Motion carried.

LINE OF CREDIT – BORROWING RESOLUTION

Sandy Hudson advised that a renewal of both the \$1.7 million dollar line of credit and the \$2.5 million dollar borrowing resolution for the Municipality is required.

It was moved by Deputy Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that the annual renewal of the \$1.7 million dollar line of credit and \$2.5 million dollar borrowing resolution with the East Coast Credit Union be approved. Motion carried.

CULTURAL CAPITALS OF CANADA

A \$500,000.00 application has been submitted to the Cultural Capitals of Canada Program for Victoria County for 2009. A financial commitment is required from the Municipality as part of the application process.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that the Municipality of the County of Victoria commit a \$20,000.00 cash contribution and a \$21,000.00 in kind contribution for the Cultural Capitals of Canada Program application. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

ST. MARK'S LODGE

It was moved by Deputy Warden MacInnes, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that St. Mark's Lodge #35, Baddeck, be registered as a Municipal Heritage Property. Motion carried.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #3

Councillor Morrison indicated that during the recent storm, a number of units from New Brunswick Power were taken in to work on the power outages in Cape Breton. The lack of maintenance is a major reason for power outages.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that a letter be forwarded to Nova Scotia Power expressing our displeasure with the service to its customers during the recent storm where the power outages were mainly a result of improper maintenance on power lines. Motion carried.

Councillor Morrison brought up the matter of the recently released report on the McEvoy Inquiry. Ms. McEvoy was a former Victoria County resident and it was felt that the recommendations contained in Justice Merlin Nunn's report should be implemented.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Barron, that a letter be forwarded to the Honourable Murray Scott, Minister of Justice, requesting that the recommendations contained in Justice Merlin Nunn's report on the McEvoy Inquiry be implemented. Motion carried.

District #2

Councillor MacCuspig brought up the matter of winter road plowing and maintenance.

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspig, seconded by Councillor Patterson, that Charlie MacDonald, Area Manager, Department of Transportation, be invited to attend the next meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council regarding their snow removal policy. Motion carried.

District #1

Councillor MacNeil submitted a petition for a road name change in his district. This petition will be forwarded on the Department of Transportation and the Eastern District Planning Commission.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Morrison, that the following be approved from the District #1 budget:

- **\$1,100.00 be approved for the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124 for oil tank replacement**
- **\$5,000.00 be approved for the Aquarium Project towards the cost of a \$17,000.00 feasibility study.**

Motion carried.

Councillor MacNeil expressed his thanks to Council for the support shown to him over the past year during his illness.

District #5

Councillor Patterson advised that high speed internet services were turned on for the Ross Ferry/Boularderie areas last week.

Councillor Patterson felt that a review of the municipal by-laws should take place in the New Year, with the priority being the Dog By-Law.

District #6

Councillor Barron advised that the Smokey Recreation Society were successful in obtaining a Job Creation Partnership grant that will employ 6 people for a period of 22 weeks. The workers will be working on a number of projects for the Ski Hill, outdoor rink and the former Ingonish Beach School property.

The school is a County owned property and the top floor of the facility is being renovated as part of this project. Councillor Barron indicated that the project will cover the labour costs of the renovations, if the municipality will purchase the required material, estimated to be in the vicinity of \$10,000.00.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that \$10,000.00 be approved to cover the cost of materials for the renovations to the former Ingonish Beach School. Motion carried with Councillor Morrison casting a dissenting vote.

It was moved by Councillor Barron, seconded Councillor Morrison, that \$2,000.00 be approved from the District #6 budget for the Smokey Recreation Society to assist with the costs of a feasibility study on putting a roof over the outdoor rink facility. Motion carried.

District #7

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that \$500.00 be approved from the District #7 budget for the Community Learning Association North of Smokey (CLANS). Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacLellan, that \$1,000.00 be approved from the District #7 budget to assist the Smokey Recreation Society with their feasibility study. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from Colin J. MacDonald, CAO, Town of Port Hawkesbury, regarding the Grand Slam of Curling Event to be held at the Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre. He requested that consideration be given to purchasing 3 corporate ticket packages for this event at a cost of \$325/pkg.

It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Deputy Warden MacInnes, that 3 corporate ticket packages be purchased for the Grand Slam of Curling events at the Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre. Motion carried.

2. A copy of a memo sent to staff by Sandy Hudson, CAO, regarding employee evaluations.
3. Request for funding from Cape Breton Crime Stoppers Association.

This request will be referred to 2007/08 budget talks.

4. Letter from Teresa MacNeil regarding the Bra d'Or Lakes Biosphere Reserve.

This letter will be referred back to the Community Development Committee.

5. Letter from the Canada/Nova Scotia Infrastructure Program regarding the Gas Tax Transfer Agreement.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Deputy Warden MacInnes will be hosting the Annual Christmas Party for Council and Staff at his home on Saturday, December 16, 2006.

Council members are to advise Cathi Pierrard if they are attending and what they will bring.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Councillor Morrison, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Wayne Budge, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO

