

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
July 19, 2010

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, July 19, 2010, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Present were:

District #1 – Paul MacNeil
District #2 – Keith MacCuspic
District #3 – Bruce Morrison, Warden
District #4 – Merrill MacInnis
District #5 – Fraser Patterson, Deputy Warden
District #6 – Larry Dauphinee
District #7 – David Donovan

Also present were:

Sandy Hudson, CAO
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

Absent was:

District #8 – Robert MacLellan (Due to Illness)

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Morrison called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was presented for approval. Warden Morrison advised that Grant Burgess, Grant Thornton LLP, would not be in attendance tonight to present the year end financial statements.

It was decided that Victoria County Municipal Council will be held on August 9 and August 23, 2010. Two presentations will be scheduled for the August 9, 2010 session – Luciano Lisi and Stewart MacDonald and Grant Burgess and pending availability, Suzanna Fuller will be the two presentations scheduled for August 23, 2010.

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

JACQUELINE CAMPBELL, DEPARTMENT OF SENIORS

Courtesy of Council was extended to Jacqueline Campbell, Department of Seniors, who was in attendance to make a presentation on Age-Friendly Communities in Nova Scotia.

Ms. Campbell's presentation (copy attached) outlined:

- The role of the Department of Seniors;
- Nova Scotia population aging statistics;
- Nova Scotia's international and national involvement in promoting age-friendly communities;
- Qualities of an age-friendly community;
- Moving forward in Nova Scotia;
- Copies of links and resources to other sites to learn more on age-friendly communities.

It was noted that Nova Scotia has the oldest population in Canada and Victoria County has the oldest population in Nova Scotia. It is anticipated that in the next 20 years the senior population will double in Nova Scotia. Each month 700 Nova Scotia residents turn 65 years of age.

The Silver Economy Summit which recently took place was discussed. Both Deputy Warden Patterson and Warden Morrison attended and found it to be very informative.

The question was raised as to whether it was more of a challenge in rural areas as opposed to urban and Ms. Campbell indicated that this was so in terms of the delivery of programs and services. She indicated that one thing she has seen is that when coordination is done of program and service delivery, it not only helps the elderly, but also assists in attracting the younger population.

Ms. Campbell indicated that in the process of looking at what is important for an age-friendly community, it is important to ensure how it does and can fit with the County's strategic priorities.

Councillor MacInnis indicated that the Community Health Board in his area has, for the past five years, provided a hot meal for seniors one day per week. There are upwards of 65 people that attend and it is a great thing for the seniors and is very important to them.

Councillor MacCuspig indicated that the Nova Scotia Housing grant program to assist seniors to stay in their home is flawed in that if there is only one person in the home they qualify, but two people don't qualify because of financial guidelines. He questioned whether there was any way to change this program. Ms. Campbell indicated that this is the essence of why we want to develop the age-friendly communities. When

you multiply voices to speak to issues, you pull more people together and this assists in removing barriers.

Ms. Campbell outlined the age-friendly communities' grants. All municipal units are eligible to apply for a \$5,000 grant from the Department of Seniors. The applicant is required to match the amount either in cash or in-kind. The application deadline is July 30, 2010 and grants will be awarded in September, 2010.

It was indicated that all that would be required by July 30, 2010, is a letter in intent indicating an interest in pursuing the process of age-friendly communities. These grants can be multiple, as long as they are different.

Councillor MacNeil brought up the change in policy that occurred at the seniors' complex in his district to it being more of a low income housing, where local seniors no longer wish to live.

Deputy Warden Patterson is a member of the UNSM's Age-Friendly Community Committee. He indicated that to date they have met only a couple of times.

Further discussion took place and Ms. Campbell indicated that she would leave her business card and if at any time Councillors had any questions, to not hesitate to contact her.

Warden Morrison extended a vote of thanks to Ms. Campbell for her presentation.

RECESS

Warden Morrison advised that Council would recess for 10 minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JUNE 28, 2010

The minutes of the June 28, 2010, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Deputy Warden Patterson, that the June 28, 2010, minutes of Victoria County Municipal Council be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Highland Manor

A reply has not been received from the Minister of Health in response to Council's letter concerning Highland Manor.

It was indicated that Keith Bain, MLA, Victoria-The Lakes, wrote to the Premier Dexter and he has been advised that the Deputy Minister is supposed to do a site visit at Highland Manor. Highland Manor would still like to see the Premier visit the site.

BUILDING PERMIT FEES BY-LAW

A public hearing on the Building Permit Fees By-Law was held prior to Council.

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspic, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that the second and final reading of Building Permit Fees By-Law be approved and the by-law adopted. Motion carried.

MUNICIPAL TRAVEL EXPENSE POLICY

The Municipal Travel Expense Policy was presented. Sandy Hudson indicated that a \$10 per day incidental allowance has been included and a decision is required on the mileage rate.

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that the Municipality follow the provincial mileage rates set for travel. Motion carried.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that the Municipal Travel Expense Policy be adopted. Motion carried.

Councillor Donovan indicated that in Inverness County, the provincial mileage rate is followed, but every Council member receives an additional \$2,000.00 annually to compensate for the use of their vehicles.

STREET LIGHTING POLICY

A draft Street Lighting Policy was submitted for review. Council members are to bring back their comments and suggestions for the final review on August 9, 2010.

Discussion took place on the development of a derelict vehicle policy. This will be investigated.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Labour Relations Committee

An update was provided on the current negotiations with CUPE Local 2694. A meeting was held today to exchange information and they will be meeting again tomorrow to continue negotiations.

Age-Friendly Communities

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, to support the concept of Age-Friendly Communities and make an application for funding to assist in the development of age-friendly communities from the Department of Seniors. Motion carried.

Budget Committee

Councillor Dauphinee indicated that the minutes of the July 5, 2010, Budget Committee require a correction to indicate the funding commitment for the Theatre on the Hill is a two year commitment.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor MacCuspig, that the July 5, 2010, Budget Committee minutes and funding request recommendations with the correction noted to the Theatre on the Hill request be approved by Council Motion carried.

Sandy Hudson advised that Grant Burgess has indicated that the Municipality will end the year with a surplus.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #2

Councillor MacCuspig questioned on the tax rebate form for seniors and whether it could be accessed on the County website.

Sandy Hudson is to contact the Tax Department to ensure the municipal rebate form is available on the website and also that information pertaining to the provincial tax rebate program be available on the County website.

District #4

It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Deputy Warden Patterson, that a letter of congratulations be forwarded to new Inverness County Councillor, Jim Mustard. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that a letter be forwarded to the Minister of Transportation questioning why 8-axle trucks pay the same fare to cross the ferries as a regular passenger vehicle. Motion carried.

District #7

Councillor Donovan indicated that the waterline only goes as far as Stephen Hussey's and there are other houses above this area on the municipal lots that would like to see the waterline extended. Robert Dauphinee will be asked to investigate and provide a report to Council.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that there are areas in Little Narrows that would like waterline extensions also.

Councillor Donovan questioned whether anything could be done on the graffiti that covers the rocks and guardrails in Victoria County. A request was made to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal in this regard a couple of years ago. Whether a by-law could be adopted regarding graffiti was discussed.

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that the Solicitor be contacted with regard to the legality of developing a Graffiti By-Law for Victoria County. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Transportation requesting that the guardrail in Neil's Harbour across from Highland Manor be replaced. Motion carried.

District #2

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Transportation requesting that they investigate the location of a "No Engine Brake" sign in the area from the top of Smokey to the Ski Lodge and also in Little Narrows in the area of the Little Narrows Gypsum Plant. Motion carried.

District #3

Warden Morrison indicated that along with the new Inverness County Councillor, he felt that letters should be forwarded to Warren Olsen, new CAO for Richmond County and new Village Commissioners of Baddeck, Fraser MacLeod and Richard Roberts.

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that a letter of congratulations be forwarded to the new Alderwood on their official opening on July 23, 2010. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from Deputy Mayor Darren Bruckschwaiger, CBRM, requesting the Municipality to assist towards the cost of “Caper Night” at the UNSM Annual Convention to be held in Sydney from October 26-29, 2010.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that the Municipality contribute \$2,500.00 towards the cost of sponsorship of “Caper Night” in conjunction with the UNSM Annual Conference. Motion carried.

2. Letter from Neal Conrad, Executive Director, Community and Rural Development, in reply to Council’s concern with regard to Student Career Skills Development Program approvals for CAP sites in Victoria County.

3. Memorandum from Debbie Nielsen, UNSM Municipal Sustainability Coordinator, regarding the launch of Nova Scotia’s Climate Change Adaptation Fund.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacCuspig, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO