

**VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**  
**August 9, 2010**

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, August 9, 2010, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Warden Bruce Morrison in the Chair.

Present were:

District #1 – Paul MacNeil  
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 were:

District #2 – Keith MacCuspic (Due to Work Commitments)  
District #8 – Robert MacLellan (Due to Illness)

**CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Warden Morrison called the meeting to order and presented the agenda for approval.

**It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

**CAPE BRETON EXPLORATIONS LTD**

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Luciano Lisi, President and Chief Financial Officer, of Cape Breton Explorations Ltd.

Mr. Lisi thanked Council for the opportunity to appear before them and introduced his colleagues, Christine Kavanaugh, Vice-President, and David Dumont, a consultant from Seattle, Washington, to Council. Council then provided introductions to Mr. Lisi and associates.

Mr. Lisi advised that Cape Breton Explorations Ltd. (CBEX) was established in 2003 and is a private, renewable energy development company operating in Atlantic Canada.

CBEX develops renewable energy projects with a focus on the Atlantic Canada region. This region is rich in natural resources which are ideal for wind, wave, hydro, and biomass development.

Mr. Lisi indicated that his company's strategy is to conceive and develop renewable energy projects and build a portfolio of projects. Renewable energy is the future as fossil fuels are being replaced. He outlined the projects the company has undertaken and is currently involved in.

The role of government was outlined and Mr. Lisi indicated that the Nova Scotia government has recently introduced Feed-in Tariffs. Feed-in Tariffs is a policy mechanism designed to encourage the adoption of renewable energy sources and to help accelerate the move toward grid parity. The Feed-in Tariff will usher a new era of capital investment in renewable energy and Mr. Lisi explained how they envisioned this to process to work.

The Lake Uist project was discussed and Mr. Lisi indicated that the project has been renamed to East Bay Hills and is now just a wind farm project. There will be no tidal portion to the project.

Discussion took place on Victoria County and the potential for renewable energy development. Mr. Lisi indicated that the biggest resource he sees at present is the Seal Island Bridge area. Areas such as Cape North, Aspy Bay and other areas in the highlands have huge resources, but the problem is the transmission of the power. The potential for development in the Barra Strait area was also discussed.

Mr. Lisi indicated that his company's mission is to develop projects in the renewable energy field that are innovative, sustainable and economically feasible. They are interested in creating a joint venture possibly with the Municipality to identify projects possible in the municipality using all renewable energy sources.

Further discussion took place and Warden Morrison indicated that Council would discuss this matter further and be in touch at a later date. He thanked Mr. Lisi for the interesting presentation.

**RECESS**

Warden Morrison announced that Council would recess for 10 minutes.

**GAELIC CULTURAL CENTRE, NORTH SHORE**

Courtesy of Council was extended to Stewart MacDonald who was in attendance to make a presentation on the Gaelic Cultural Centre in the North Shore.

Mr. MacDonald began by speaking Gaelic and indicated that the mission of the Gaelic Cultural Centre is to save what is left of the Gaelic culture in the area from the base of Smokey to the gut of St. Ann's.

Mr. MacDonald indicated that Phase 1 of the project is the collection of information mainly on the North Shore Gaelic Singers who at one time represented the North Shore all across Canada and into the US. Phase 2 will consist of editing, cataloging and storing the information obtained and Phase 3 will involve displaying the information and the after action view to prepare for the next venture.

Mr. MacDonald indicated that the interpretive centre set up in the North Shore is visited mostly by tourists at present but he wants to see more local visits. For \$2 per person you can participate in Gaelic Immersion Classes. There are also classes in bag pipes, folk music, fiddle and every Sunday and Wednesday there are pick up ball games on the ballfield adjacent to the centre.

The Gaelic language is in a sad state of affairs in the North Shore area. There are only 4 native Gaelic speakers from the area – one living in North River, one living at the Alderwood Rest Home and the others living outside the area.

Mr. MacDonald indicated that Cape Breton University has provided a camera and audio devices that are being used to compile the information and he provided Council with a sample of the interviews that are being done.

Mr. MacDonald was congratulated on the efforts being undertaken and Councillor MacInnis indicated the enthusiasm that is being put towards this project.

Mr. MacDonald indicated that the revival of the Gaelic culture in the area is the main goal. The language is dying and they want to bring it back. Gaelic language classes are now being taught in schools in Antigonish and Inverness Counties and he felt the same should apply to Victoria County. Councillor MacNeil indicated that there is the possibility of classes in Iona in the future.

Mr. MacDonald indicated the Gaelic Cultural Centre is open weekdays until October and he invited Council to visit the centre and see the work being done. The information that is being compiled will be shared with the Beaton Institute.

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Mr. MacDonald advised that funding has been received from ECBC for financing events such as the storytelling session, etc.

Discussion took place on the Office of Gaelic Affairs and the fact that there is no representative from Victoria County on the Board. A request should be made to have a representative on the Board.

Warden Morrison thanked Mr. MacDonald for his interesting presentation and congratulated him on the work being done to preserve the Gaelic culture in the area.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JULY 19, 2010**

The minutes of the July 19, 2010, session of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

**It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that the July 19, 2010, minutes of Victoria County Municipal Council be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**Age-Friendly Communities Application**

Deputy Warden Patterson advised that the Age-Friendly Communities funding application was completed and submitted prior to the deadline.

**Street Light Policy**

Council are to review the proposed street light policy prior to the August 23, 2010, meeting.

**Waterline Extension – New Haven**

Robert Dauphinee has not been requested to investigate the extension of the waterline in the area of the New Haven subdivision as yet.

**Graffiti**

The letter concerning graffiti along the roadsides in Victoria County has not yet been forwarded to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal.

**Marketing Levy**

Discussion took place on the status of the Marketing Levy By-Law. Correspondence has been provided outlining that the Solicitors for the participating municipal units have met on same and a redrafted by-law will be prepared for review.

**Highland Manor**

A meeting was held concerning Highland Manor last week. Homes for Special Care are now under the umbrella of the District Health Authority and the possibility of the consolidation of services between Buchanan Memorial Hospital and Highland Manor was discussed and is a concern. It is being suggested that the laundry and food service be handled for both facilities from the hospital. Council should voice their opposition to this action.

**It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that a letter be forwarded to the Honourable Darrell Dexter, Premier; Honourable Maureen MacDonald, Minister of Health; Yvon LeBlanc, Chairman of the Board of the Cape Breton District Health Authority; Kevin MacNamara, Deputy Minister of Health; Keith Menzies, Executive Director of Continuing Care; etc. outlining Council's absolute opposition to any deletion of jobs and services at Highland Manor and the suggested consolidation of services between Highland Manor and Buchanan Memorial Hospital. Motion carried.**

It was felt that this letter should contain the signatures of all Council members to show our unanimous opposition to any movement to remove services from Highland Manor.

Kevin MacNamara, Deputy Minister of Health, will be visiting Highland Manor on Friday, August 13, 2010, at 9:30 a.m. and all Board Members should make an effort to attend this meeting.

**POLICY REVIEW**

As indicated earlier, Council is to review the proposed street lighting policy for the next meeting.

Sandy Hudson presented a draft Grant Application Policy to Council for review. Discussion took place on this matter and a further discussion will be held at the next meeting after Council has reviewed the proposed policy.

**DISTRICT CONCERNS**

**District #1**

**It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal requesting that the cutter and grader come to District #1 to clean up the roadside and grade the dirt roads. Motion carried.**

The asphalt patching was carried out on the roads in Washabuck as requested.

Councillor MacNeil requested that the second Council meeting in September, 2010, be held at the Rankin School of the Narrows.

**District #4**

Councillor MacInnis presented a petition signed by 133 people supporting Murdock Morrison's store at Goose Cove being allowed to sell dairy products on a conditional agreement until he fulfills the requirements for sewage and running water.

**It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Deputy Warden Patterson, that the petition be tabled to Council. Motion carried.**

Councillor MacInnis expressed concern that the garbage containers at the Englishtown Ferry have been removed. The reason provided is that the staff are unable to find the time to empty the containers due to the busy traffic season. He has contacted Mike Wambolt, Supervisor of Ferries, Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, expressing concern and suggested Council members do the same. He provided Council with Mr. Wambolt's phone number.

**District #7**

Councillor Donovan questioned on the status of the fire department funding and he was advised that the funding is available as long as the requested information and proper application form is submitted.

Councillor Donovan questioned whether anything was received from the Chief Officers Committee regarding the funding for communications equipment and Mr. Hudson advised he has not been contacted to date.

Councillor Donovan questioned whether any work has been done on finding an alternate water source for Neil's Harbour. Sandy Hudson advised that nothing has been done to date but Fred Baechler will be meeting with representatives from Parks Canada in this regard.

Councillor Donovan indicated that the Recreation Nova Scotia Conference will be held from November 14-19, 2010. Further information should be received in the near future.

**District #6**

Councillor Dauphinee indicated that he has received complaints about the noise resulting from Dexter's Crusher in his district.

**It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that a letter of appreciation be forwarded to Marsha and Joey Rhodes and Michael Barron on the formation of the North of Smokey TBall group for the children North of Smokey. Motion carried.**

The Navy wish to make a presentation in the Ingonish area with regard to the HMCS Ingonish and it was felt that Remembrance Day would be an appropriate ceremony for such a presentation. This date will be suggested and the ceremony would be held at the Ingonish Legion.

**District #5**

Deputy Warden Patterson indicated that he received correspondence from Gary Walsh with regard to the Cabot Trail Writers' Festival. They are requesting funding in the amount of \$6,000.00. Sandy Hudson advised that Mr. Walsh has requested to appear before Council at a September meeting.

Deputy Warden Patterson advised that the Regional Development Authorities Conference will be held in the fall and it too is something for the Municipality to look at and send representatives to.

Deputy Warden Patterson advised of a afternoon break and enter that took place recently in his district. A neighbour took the license plate resulting in two individuals be apprehended. Councillor MacNeil indicated that another break and enter took place in the Washabuck area recently.

Deputy Warden Patterson advised that the annual Ross Ferry Pork Chop Barbecue will be held on Saturday, August 14, 2010.

**District #3**

Deputy Warden Patterson assumed the Chair.

Warden Morrison advised that the St. Paul's Historical Society have been attempting to have the old St. Paul's Lighthouse returned to Dingwall's Community Museum. Hamilton Carter has also provided the funding to purchase the lighthouse on behalf of the Society.

**It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans supporting St. Paul's Historical Society in their efforts to have the St. Paul Lighthouse returned to Dingwall and a letter of thanks be forwarded to Hamilton Carter for providing the funding to purchase the lighthouse. Motion carried.**

**It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that a letter be forwarded to Steve MacDonald, Area Manager, Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, with a copy to the Minister, acknowledging the cooperation received by Council in addressing issues and concerns throughout Victoria County. Motion carried.**

Warden Morrison returned to the Chair.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICER**

Sandy Hudson presented a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Municipality and CUPE Local 2694 with regard to a one year contract position for an Economic Development Officer. Discussions have been previously held with Union representatives and an agreement was reached. He will bring this MOU to the Union for signing.

Sandy Hudson felt that the next step should be to establish a small group to assign specific, achievable and meaningful goals and milestones for an Economic Development Officer to achieve in the one year term.

Councillor Donovan, Deputy Warden Patterson and Warden Morrison will be Council's representatives on this working group and it was felt that Curt Hussey and Rodney Chaisson should be approached to sit on this working group.

**It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that a working group comprised of the representatives outlined be established to develop a work plan for the Economic Development Officer. Motion carried.**

Gordon McIntosh, LGL Institute, is available on September 20, 2010, to assist with the development of an Action Plan. This will be a one day session and the

individuals who participated in the fall economic development strategy session at the Inverary Resort are to be invited to attend.

**CORSON'S BRIDGE**

The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal will be replacing Corson's Bridge at Ingonish Harbour and have submitted an offer to purchase a small portion of land (0.035 hectares) owned by the Municipality.

**It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that the Municipality agree to provide the land requested to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal for the Corson's Bridge replacement provided it does not interfere with the municipal waterline and that the Municipality maintains access from the highway to the Ingonish Water Utility Pumping Station. Motion carried.**

**AUGUST 23, 2010 COUNCIL SESSION**

Grant Burgess, CA, Grant Thornton LLP will be presenting the financial statements for the Municipality of the County of Victoria for the year ended March 31, 2010, at the August 23, 2010, Council session. Keith MacDonald, Cape Breton Partnership, will also be making a presentation at this meeting.

Councillor MacInnis questioned on whether it would be possible to have this session at the North Shore & District Volunteer Fire Department Hall at Indian Brook. He would like to take Council members on a boat tour around Bird Island prior to the meeting at 3:00 p.m. Council agreed that the August 23, 2010, meeting be held in Indian Brook.

**FIRE SERVICE STUDY**

Sandy Hudson provided a draft Request for Proposals which will be forwarded to selected consultants for a Fire Service Study for the Municipality. He anticipated that the proposals be received by mid to late September, with work completed and a report provided by January, 2011.

**GIANT HOGWEED**

Sandy Hudson advised that a couple of inquiries were received with regard to Giant Hogweed and he wondered where the responsibility lies. Contact is to be made with other municipalities to see what they do in this regard.

**SEPTEMBER COUNCIL MEETINGS**

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Victoria County Municipal Council will meet on September 13 and September 27, 2010, with the September 27<sup>th</sup> meeting being held at the Rankin School of the Narrows in Iona.

The next meeting on August 23, 2010, will be held at the Fire Hall in Indian Brook.

**ADJOURN**

**There being no further business, on motion of Deputy Warden Patterson, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.**

**Bruce Morrison, Warden**

**Sandy Hudson, CAO**