

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
September 27, 2010

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Rankin School of the Narrows, Iona, on Monday, September 27, 2010, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Warden Bruce Morrison in the Chair.

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

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that the agenda be approved with the addition of a presentation by the Iona Recreation Field Committee. Motion carried.

Warden Morrison, on behalf of Council, extended a vote of thanks to Elizabeth and Theresa for the tour of the Rankin School of the Narrows and to Kevin, Tracey and Murdell for the tour of the Recreation Field.

IONA RECREATION FIELD COMMITTEE

Courtesy of Council was extended to Tracey Dares, spokesperson for the Iona Recreation Field Committee.

Ms. Dares provided Council with background information on how the concept of the recreation field came about. When construction of the new school commenced in 2004, funding became an issue and the soccer field was reduced in size, meaning that other teams would not come to compete on a field that was not regulation size. A group of dedicated volunteers got together to address this issue.

Ms. Dares then made a detailed presentation on the various phases of the project that have been completed and the ones yet to be undertaken (copy attached).

Ms. Dares extended a vote of thanks to Council for their support, to Councillor MacNeil for his assistance and to all levels of government, community and corporate sponsors who contributed to the project.

Councillors Donovan and Dauphinee commended the Committee on the work undertaken and on a job well done.

Councillor MacInnis commented that the beautiful view from the recreation field location and questioned whether the walking area and nature trail would be accessible in the winter time and it was indicated it could be used for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

Councillor MacCuspic indicated that it is amazing what can be done when people work together and the recreation field is a testament to this. Ms. Dares indicated that the total project is in the vicinity of \$500,000.00, of which \$179,000.00 is in kind donations.

Deputy Warden Patterson indicated that the location of the field around the school is a good one and the fact that it is for all ages is good for the community.

Councillor MacNeil extended a vote of thanks to the community, Council, Cape Breton Regional Municipality and especially to the Committee.

Warden Morrison indicated it was remarkable to see the school facilities and the recreation field. He stated that seeing it, makes Council appreciate it more and he commended the Committee.

Ms. Dares extended appreciation to Project Manager, Kevin MacKinnon, and also Dan MacDonald for the time and effort put towards this project.

Ms. Dares was extended a vote of thanks for her presentation and was excused at this time.

RECESS

Warden Morrison extended thanks to Councillor MacNeil for inviting Council to Iona, for the excellent meal and welcomed the two ladies in the audience to the meeting.

Warden Morrison advised that Council would recess for 10 minutes.

SOLID WASTE OPERATIONS UPDATE

Courtesy of Council was extended to Robert Dauphinee, Director of Public Works, who was in attendance to update Council on the solid waste operations.

Mr. Dauphinee indicated that the Municipality assumed responsibility for solid waste collection on May 1, 2010. Three side loader vehicles were purchased, along with a one-ton support vehicle. Six employees were hired and the transition has been seamless. The collection routes were modified somewhat, but no problems were experienced with the changes to the routes.

The vehicles recently underwent the 3 month bumper to bumper warranty inspection at H. G. MacNeil Service who do the warranty work. Fuel costs are lower than anticipated at this point, but a true picture of the expenses will not be known until a 12 month cycle has been completed.

Councillors indicated their satisfaction with the service being provided and advised that they are receiving no complaints from their residents. Fuel is being purchased at the 24 hour Irving card lock facility in Baddeck, as well as some at the Ingonish Irving and XTR in Neil's Harbour.

The question was raised as to whether the vehicles had been rust checked and Robert Dauphinee indicated that he checked on this matter and at the time there was an equipment matter that prevented this from being undertaken.

Councillor MacInnis indicated that he wished to commend the collection staff in the District #4 area for the work being undertaken. He questioned whether some arrangement could be made with regard to garbage collection at the Englishtown Ferry which the Ferry staff refuses to collect. It was felt it would be best to stay away from this issue, as it is a provincial responsibility.

The new Solid Waste Collection Helper recently hired is working out well and is considering relocating to the Baddeck area.

It was also indicated that there was an excellent response to the heavy garbage pickup conducted and this is to be an annual occurrence.

Mr. Dauphinee indicated that investigation is ongoing into a clear bag program for solid waste collection. Thirty-three of the fifty-five municipal units have a clear bag program in effect.

The clear bag will further promote the diversion of materials from the waste stream and this will result in savings. There will be less materials being transferred to the Guysborough site.

Mr. Dauphinee indicated he would be submitting an application to the RRFB for funding to promote and launch a clear bag program in Victoria County. Education is the key to getting the residents on board with such a program. Ideally this program would commence in the spring or the fall of the year.

A discussion took place on this matter. This issue will be brought back to Council in November/December for decision with the program commencing in the spring or fall, 2011.

Mr. Dauphinee indicated that changes are also required to the existing Solid Waste Management By-Law and he would like to begin work to revamp the existing by-law.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that a beautification committee has been started in his district and they want to undertake a clean up day and he questioned whether the County would supply garbage bags and rubber gloves for the clean up. The liability issue was discussed and is a concern. Warden Morrison indicated that a clean up day is held in the Village of Baddeck and BABTA supplies to materials for the clean up.

Mr. Dauphinee indicated that the only approved Soil Remediation Facility east of New Glasgow is located at the Baddeck facility. An expansion of the existing site is required to handle the volumes received. Only hydro carbon contaminated soil is accepted and test results of the contamination are required before any material is accepted. This facility has the potential to be a good revenue generator for the Municipality. At present the tipping fee for accepting contaminated soil is \$45/ton. This matter will also be looked at in the review of the Solid Waste Management By-Law.

A general discussion took place and Mr. Dauphinee answered various questions from Council.

Warden Morrison extended a vote of thanks to Mr. Dauphinee and he left at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 13, 2010

The minutes of the September 13, 2010, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of September 13, 2010, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Union Negotiations

Sandy Hudson advised that negotiations with CUPE Local 2694 have ended and the matter is going to conciliation.

Baddeck Sewer

Councillor Donovan questioned on the \$45,000 item in the budget regarding Baddeck Sewer and why the Municipality was paying for same when the Village of Baddeck receives the revenue from the sewage system.

An agreement is in place between the Village of Baddeck and the Municipality to cost share 50%/50% on the cost overrun of the Baddeck Sewage Treatment Plant infrastructure project. The Municipality's commitment is \$45,000 over a 15 year period.

This project was and the Baddeck Water Supply Project is a County infrastructure project, the same as other water supply projects that have been completed in the County. Councillor Donovan indicated that he understood this, but did not agree with same as the Village obtains the revenue generated from these projects, not the Municipality.

Environmental & Sustainable Development Program

Deputy Warden Patterson advised that he applied for and was not successful in obtaining a position on the Environmental & Sustainable Roundtable Committee. Mayor John Leefe, Region of Queens, was appointed.

Waterline Extensions

Councillor Donovan questioned on the next step regarding a waterline extension to the Neil's Harbour/New Haven Water System to service the lots in the New Haven Subdivision. A preliminary costing estimated the extension to be in the vicinity of \$300,000.

Extensions to the Little Narrows and Dingwall Water Systems were also discussed and both have been costed in the vicinity of \$225,000.

Discussion took place on adding these three waterline extensions to the Municipal Infrastructure Priority list.

Other areas identified as possible water line extensions included the Red Point area in District #1, Big Baddeck and the Ingonish Centre area.

The Baddeck Water Supply Project is the current infrastructure project and the next priority has been identified as Bay St. Lawrence/St Margaret's Village water. Any future projects would not be undertaken until a minimum of 5 years from now.

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that possible infrastructure projects identified, but not prioritized, include:

- **Extension to Neil's Harbour water to the New Haven Subdivision**
 - **Extension to Little Narrows water to Hazeldale**
 - **Extension to Little Narrows water to Red Point**
 - **Extension of Baddeck water along Old Margaree Road to the Baddeck Transfer Station**
 - **Extension of Dingwall Water line**
 - **Water for the Ingonish/Ingonish Centre area**
- Motion carried.**

POLICY REVIEW

The Community Grants Application Policy was reviewed. Since the last review an addition has been made that the applicants must indicate on their application their Registry of Joint Stock Companies reference number.

In the policy the total funding under this program is not to exceed one percent of the general tax revenue. 1% would equal \$56,000. It was felt that the percentage of the tax revenue allocated to this program should be determined annually by Council.

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that the total funding under the Community Grants Application Policy be based on a percentage of the general tax revenue to be determined by Council on an annual basis. Motion carried.

The clause of the policy indicating that applications cannot exceed 50% of the total project costs to a maximum of \$10,000 was discussed. This amount was felt to be too low. This clause is to be redrafted to indicate that funding applications cannot exceed up to 1/3 of the total project cost.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that the Community Grants Application Policy be approved with the two noted changes. Motion carried.

This policy is to be advertised so organizations will know of the proper procedure to follow when applying for funding.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #7

Councillor Donovan questioned on the observance of Halloween this year, as it falls on a Sunday.

It was agreed that Halloween be observed on Sunday, October 31, 2010, in Victoria County with a curfew set at 8:00 p.m. A notice is to be placed in the newspaper indicating the observance of Halloween in Victoria County.

A request has been received with regard to Halloween watch in Dingwall and it was agreed to do the same as previous years and to also have someone on watch at the Ski Cape Smokey facility.

The mess left behind by the Coast Guard when they dismantled the light at Money Point was discussed. The property was left in a horrendous mess and this is not acceptable.

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that a letter be forwarded to the appropriate Minister expressing Council's concern on the mess left behind by the Coast Guard after the dismantling the light at Money Point. Motion carried.

Councillor Donovan brought up the matter of the Neil's Harbour Skate Park and public washrooms. He requested a letter of support with regard to the location of public washrooms around the Cabot Trail.

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that the Municipality provide a letter of support for the location of public washrooms at Neil's Harbour and around the Cabot Trail. Motion carried.

Councillor Donovan advised that last year a Santa Claus Parade was held North of Smokey and this is to be an annual event. He indicated he would like the County to consider sponsorship of a float for Santa. He was thinking of acquiring an old riding sleigh that could be used for this parade, and other parades around the Municipality.

Councillor Donovan will investigate sourcing and pricing a sleigh for use for the float and finding a place to store same.

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that the Municipality investigate the sponsorship of a float for Santa for Christmas parades held in Victoria County. Motion carried.

District #1

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Deputy Warden Patterson, that an order be placed for a street light to be located at Civic Address 4119 Highway 223, Iona (Larry Redden residence). Motion carried.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that there would be a meeting held in Wagmatcook tomorrow at 3:00 p.m. regarding Wagmatcook hosting the Mik'maq Games. He is unable to attend and requested someone attend this meeting. Councillor MacCuspic agreed to attend the meeting.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that the grader has not done the back roads in his district as yet.

District #5

Deputy Warden Patterson advised that there is a Focus Session being held on Heritage Properties that he may attend.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that an order be placed for a street light to be located at Civic Address 8564 Kempt Head Road (Lorne Redmond residence). Motion carried.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that \$2,000.00 be approved from the District #5 budget for the Friends of Big Bras d'Or Hall to assist with repairs. Motion carried.

District #2

At the recent Economic Development Action Plan session held at the Inverary Resort the concern was raised that the session was not advertised on the County website.

Sandy Hudson agreed that it should have been on the calendar and website and indicated it was an oversight.

It was felt that in general the website requires more work and needs to be updated on a regular basis.

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspic, seconded by Deputy Warden Patterson, that an expression of interest be advertised for the upgrading of the Victoria County Website. Motion carried.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis questioned on whether there was a policy in place regarding abandoned municipal properties. He indicated that the former North Shore School property, owned by the Municipality, requires attention. The whole area needs to be bush whacked.

A request for proposals for a bush hog to clear the property of alders will be put out. The possibility of Ski Cape Smokey undertaking the work with their machine was discussed and will be investigated.

Councillor MacInnis questioned on the placing of Victoria County signs at the entrances to Victoria County. This matter was before the Tourism Committee, before Committees were dissolved.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal be contacted with regard to placement of Victoria County signage at the County entrances. Motion carried.

District #6

Councillor Dauphinee advised that the Hike the Highlands Festival was very successful and had a big economic impact to the area.

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that a letter of congratulations be forwarded to the organizers of the Hike the Highlands Festival. Motion carried.

Councillor Dauphinee indicated he was approached by businesses in the area that have been adversely affected by the construction within the Cape Breton Highlands National Park. He questioned whether there were any programs that could assist these businesses and indicated he has been in contact with Keith Bain, MLA, in this regard.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from Keith Menzies, Executive Director, Continuing Care Branch, Department of Health, with regard to Highland Manor and the outstanding requirements of the Office of the Fire Marshal.
2. Letter from Cape Breton Christmas Daddies requesting financial assistance from Municipality in their broadcast coverage area to promote Cape Breton Island. The amount being requested is \$1,000 to \$1,500.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that \$1,000.00 be approved for the Cape Breton Christmas Daddies. Motion carried.

VICTORIA COUNTY STRATEGIC PLAN

It was indicated that Nona MacDermid feels that the Economic Development Action Plan Session was very beneficial and is a good starting point for her. She is presently attending the Annual Conference of the Regional Development Authorities.

Warden Morrison indicated that he received a note back from Gordon McIntosh, LGL Institute, concerning the session.

PROPOSAL FOR FIRE SERVICES STUDY

Sandy Hudson advised that three (3) proposal submissions were received the fire services study.

- Risk Management Services (RMS) - \$18,000 plus HST
- Marathon Human Resources Consulting Group Ltd. - \$35,000 plus HST
- Morrison Hershfield Ltd - \$44,500 plus HST

It was indicated that the lowest proposal is not necessarily the best one for what is being requested and it was decided to meet with representatives from the Chief Fire Officers Association to review and discuss this matter. The proposals will be forwarded in advance to the Chief Officers and a meeting will be set up to review and recommend to Council.

IT PROJECT

Sandy Hudson advised that he attended a meeting in Antigonish two weeks ago concerning the provision of IT Services to 10 municipal units in the eastern region of the Province. Information was exchanged at that time and a further meeting will be held tomorrow, again in Antigonish. It is anticipated that a suitable system will be identified in February/March, 2011, with a phased in approach in each of the 10 municipal units.

Council will be kept apprised as information is available.

NEXT MEETING

Councillor MacNeil thanked Council for coming to Iona to hold this session of Council.

The date for the next meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was set for Monday, October 18, 2010, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Councillor MacCuspic, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO