

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
December 13, 2010

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, December 13, 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
District #8 – Johnny Buchanan

Also present were:

Sandy Hudson, CAO
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

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.

NORTH SHORE GAELIC HERITAGE SOCIETY

Courtesy of Council was extended to Bill Conall, North Shore Gaelic Heritage Society. Warden Morrison also welcomed Evelyn Buchanan and Sue Miller who were in attendance with Mr. Conall.

Mr. Conall presented an 8 minute video on the North Shore Gaelic Heritage Society. They are located at the Gaelic Singers Hall in the North Shore where they have a collection of information, interactive display, teach Gaelic and milling and make presentations on the North Shore. The film “The Wake of Calum MacLeod” is also presented at the hall. A thirty to forty-five minute presentation is provided to groups coming to the Hall.

Mr. Conall advised that they borrowed camera and sound equipment from Cape Breton University and recorded the information received. The information and videos were given back to the community and can be borrowed from various sites in the district.

Deputy Warden Patterson advised that he attended an open house at the Hall in July and was amazed with the work that has been done and he congratulated the Society on their efforts. They have turned an old school into an active community cultural centre. Mr. Conall indicated that they had 200 visitors in their first season from all over the world.

Councillor Dauphinee also commended the Society on their efforts and indicated he hoped to visit next season. He indicated that tourists are looking for music and culture and the work undertaken by the Society fits in well with this. He also questioned on the 1938 cup won by the North Shore Gaelic Singers and Mr. Conall advised that it was rescued from a dumpster and restored and is now on display at the hall.

Councillor Donovan questioned whether at some point in the future the organization would be looking to expand and get the Gaelic culture into the elementary schools throughout the County. Mr. Conall indicated they are willing to host schools at the Hall or travel to schools.

Councillor Buchanan questioned whether any youth participated in the events and visited the facility and he was advised that a number of younger children have participated.

Councillor MacInnis indicated he went to school at the Hall from 1956 to 1962. He questioned whether funding would be available for next year to staff the facility and Mr. Conall indicated that applications are being submitted. Mr. MacInnis indicated that his daughter and 2 month old granddaughter attend Gaelic classes on a weekly basis. There is a core group of 8, with upwards of 14 attending classes some weeks. Amber Buchanan teaches the classes.

Mr. Conall indicated that they had the skill and technology to create documentaries that can be produced to very near professional quality.

Councillor MacCuspig also offered congratulations and indicated that the programs being provided are great for residents and tourists alike.

Councillor MacNeil also commended the group and indicated he attended a Christmas concert in his district and the younger classes at the school had a milling frolic and did a great job.

Page 3, VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, December 13, 2010

Warden Morrison thanked Mr. Conall for his presentation and again congratulated the Society on their achievements.

Councillor MacInnis questioned on the funding being requested from Victoria County. A proposal was to have been previously submitted, but Sandy Hudson indicated it has not been received. Mr. Conall indicated that are looking for \$7,000.00 to purchase camera, sound equipment, photocopier/scanner, etc.

Mr. Conall indicated he would have the financial request submitted to Council for review and he was excused at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NOVEMBER 29, 2010

The minutes of the November 29, 2010, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

Two corrections were noted.

Page 8 – should read Nona MacDermid, not Nona MacDonald

Page 10 – date for next Council should be December 13, 2010, not December 23, 2010

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that the November 29, 2010, minutes of Victoria County be approved with the noted corrections. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

The recently announced plan for hospital emergency rooms was discussed. Dr. Ross, the author of the recent document on emergency care, is to meet with staff and the public on this matter.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Deputy Warden Patterson updated Council on the Age Friendly Communities seminar he, Warden Morrison and Councillor Dauphinee attended this past week. Seven municipalities will be receiving funding and the seminar outlined how to start, where we should be in one year and suggested an advisory committee be appointed. It was felt that senior residents should be invited to sit on the advisory committee.

Further information and clarification is to be received prior to advertising for positions on the advisory committee.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that Council endorse the concept of Age Friendly Communities and work toward making Victoria County an Age Friendly Community. Motion carried.

Councillor Dauphinee indicated that from attending the seminar, Victoria County is a leader in the Age Friendly Communities initiative.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #1

Councillor MacNeil presented a petition for a road name change requesting a section of road from the entrance off Route 223 to the top of the hill at the intersection of the Branch Road and Jimmie Gillis Road be renamed from Jimmie Gillis Road to Red Point East Road.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that the petition be accepted and forwarded on the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal and the Eastern District Planning Commission for approval. Motion carried.

Councillor MacNeil brought up the matter on increased break and enters in his district.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that a letter be forwarded to the RCMP requesting an increased presence in the District #1 area. Motion carried.

The condition of the roadways in District #1 remains a concern.

District #2

Councillor MacCuspic thanked Council for dealing with the West Middle River Road petition at the last meeting in his absence.

Councillor MacCuspic attended a meeting in Whycomagh recently concerning the Bras d'Or Lakes Festival. The meeting was to inform people of the festival and to form a society to look after funding, etc. for same. They established a Board at the meeting and will register as a society. There were 20 plus people in attendance and this is a worthwhile initiative.

District #4

It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Deputy Warden Patterson, that the street light located at Civic Address 44663 Cabot Trail, North Shore, be relocated to 755 Old Englishtown Road. Motion carried.

Discussion took place on replacing lights with energy efficient lighting and whether Nova Scotia Power now has the ability to do so.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that a letter of thanks be forwarded to the Honourable Bill Estabrooks, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, for the work and paving done in the Goose Cove area this year. Motion carried.

Councillor MacInnis requested that the funding request for the North Shore Gaelic Heritage Society be considered at budget talks.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that the Community Grants Application Policy guidelines be forwarded to the North Shore Gaelic Heritage Society. Motion carried.

The Community Grants Application Policy guidelines are to be advertised in the paper and put on the County website.

District #8

Councillor Buchanan indicated that residents would like an update on the status of the water extension to Cape North and the water system for Bay St. Lawrence. A public meeting will be arranged in the New Year to provide and update on these projects.

District #7

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that information be forwarded to community groups concerning the Community Grants Application policy, advertisement regarding same be published in the Victoria Standard and also included on the County website. Motion carried.

Councillor Donovan advised that he attended a meeting concerning the North Victoria Community Centre at Cape North. They have been given an ice plant for their rink from the Town of Berwick and the boards, glass and electrical panel from the rink at Berwick are also available.

A cost estimate for getting this equipment to Cape North is in the vicinity of \$15,000.00. Volunteers will tear down the system, Victoria Co-op Fisheries will provide the trucking of same and AB Mechanical will liaise with Acadia Refrigeration on the ice

plant. It is an opportunity that the organization does not want to miss. They are requesting the Municipality contribute a one time grant in the amount of \$5,000.00 to assist them with this project.

It was moved by Councillor Buchanan, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that the Municipality contribute \$5,000.00 towards the relocation of equipment for the North Victoria Community Centre. Motion carried.

District #5

Deputy Warden Patterson indicated that complaints have been received with regard to the County email bouncing back and not going through to its destination.

Sandy Hudson updated Council on the status of the new IT system. An RFP was issued last Thursday which closes on December 30, 2010. In January the proposals will be reviewed and it is anticipated that there will be a three week selection process, with a decision made by February 1. The start up date for the new system will be April 1, 2011. Ten municipal units are participating in this venture.

Deputy Warden Patterson advised that Nona MacDermid visited his district and met with a number business people. She obtained valuable information on the district. It was indicated that to date, she has also visited District #6.

Nona MacDermid has established a working group to develop a Business Needs Analysis and they are to meet on Wednesday or Thursday of this week to develop a survey in conjunction with this initiative.

District #3

Deputy Warden Patterson assumed the Chair.

Warden Morrison extended a vote of thanks to the Councillors who participated in the Baddeck Christmas parade on December 4, 2010. He also thanked the staff who were responsible for preparing the float for their entry.

It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that a letter of congratulations be forwarded to Jessica Wong on being selected as a member of the Under 22 National Women's Hockey Team. Motion carried.

It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that an order be placed with Nova Scotia Power to install a street light at Civic Address 699 Route 205, Baddeck Bay. Motion carried.

Warden Morrison then reassumed the Chair.

DATES FOR NEXT COUNCIL

Victoria County Municipal Council will meet on Monday, January 10, 2011, and Monday, January 24, 2011. A number of presentations are pending and will be scheduled for these meetings accordingly.

RECESS

Warden Morrison announced that Council would recess for 10 minutes

IN CAMERA

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspig, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that Council move In Camera. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that Council come out of In Camera and return to the regular session. Motion carried.

COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor MacCuspig, that the negotiated collective agreement with CUPE Local 2694 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

CHRISTMAS GET TOGETHER

A Christmas Get Together will be held at the Baddeck Legion on Monday, December 20, 2010, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Councillor MacNeil, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO

