

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
December 12, 2011

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, December 12, 2011, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Warden Bruce Morrison in the Chair.

Present were:

District #2 – Keith MacCuspic
District #3 – Bruce Morrison
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

Absent was:

District #1 – Paul MacNeil (Out of Town)

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.

STANLEY THOMPSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Courtesy of Council was extended to Ken Donovan, Historian, Stanley Thompson Historical Society.

Mr. Donovan advised that he is a native of Ingonish and he, along with four friends, formed the Stanley Thompson Historical Society. The Society is an officially recognized charitable organization established for the purpose of raising the necessary funds to be used for the creation of a statue commemorating Stanley Thompson, the designer of the Highland Links Golf Course, on the golf course grounds.

Mr. Thompson then provided Council with a presentation on the work of the Historical Society and the plans for the erection of a life size bronze statue of Stanley Thompson at Highland Links this coming summer (copy attached).

Mr. Donovan indicated that Stanley Thompson was Canada's foremost golf course architect and Cape Breton Highland Links is one of his designs and it has consistently been ranked in the top 100 golf courses in the world and has been named the #1 golf course in Canada by *Score Golf Magazine*.

His presentation touched on the sacrifices made by the local residents when their lands were expropriated under difficult circumstances by the National Park.

Mr. Donovan indicated that \$61,000.00 has been raised for the bronze statue and Canadian Sculptor, Robert Dey, of Paris, Ontario, has been commissioned to make the statue. Two bronze plaques are to be placed with the statue for the work of the people from Northern Victoria County and Stanley Thompson. Mr. Donovan requested the Municipality to consider providing \$5,000.00 towards the cost of the bronze plaques.

Council members expressed congratulations to Mr. Donovan on the work done on this project and the resulting upgrades that have been made to the Highland Links Golf Course to bring the course back to its original condition when built in the late 1930's.

Warden Morrison advised that the \$5,000.00 request will be considered by Council and Mr. Donovan was extended a vote of thanks for his presentation.

As there are time constraints with this request and budget deliberations for next year will not be held until the spring, it was decided that this request should be given immediate consideration.

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that \$5,000.00 be provided to the Stanley Thompson Historical Society for the bronze plaques in conjunction with the Stanley Thompson statue. Motion carried.

Mr. Donovan expressed appreciation to Council for their donation.

RECESS

Warden Morrison announced that Council would recess for 10 minutes.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STRATEGY UPDATE

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Vince Forrestall, Physical Activity Strategy Coordinator, who was in attendance to provide Council with an update on the Physical Activity Strategy.

Mr. Forrestall introduced Eileen Woodford, who has been named the Chair of the Victoria County Physical Activity Strategy Senior Management Committee. Ms. Woodford indicated that she is pleased and excited to be a part of the development of Victoria County's strategy and it will be an excellent asset for the County in moving forward.

Mr. Forrestall thanked Council and the CAO for their support and provided Council with a presentation updating on the status of the strategy (copy attached).

Councillor MacCuspik questioned on the outreach community consultation with residents in Middle River and Mr. Forrestall indicated it would take place tomorrow evening at 6:00 p.m. in the Middle River Community Hall.

Discussion took place on our assets, such as our natural environment and facilities, and building on them and creating new opportunities.

The proposed logo for the strategy was discussed and more work will be done on the development of same.

Mr. Forrestall has met with 120 plus people in his consultations and a lot of information has been provided and exchanged as a result of the consultations.

Council thanked Mr. Forrestall for his presentation and indicated that the development of the strategy is being positively received within the communities and the residents are looking forward to the finished product.

Warden Morrison thanked Mr. Forrestall for his presentation and advised that selecting Eileen Woodford as Chair of the Senior Management Committee is an excellent choice.

The School Board representative on the Senior Management Committee has not as yet been selected but Mr. Forrestall indicated he has a couple of names to pursue. If he is unable to find a representative, he will bring it to Council.

Discussion took place on the Green Gym technology and the possibility of acquiring funding for same through ECBC. It was indicated that the strategy will outline priorities and it must be realized that not everything can be achieved in the first year and that it is a five year plan.

TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES

Courtesy of Council was extended to Mike Drinnan, Drinnan Computers, concerning the technology upgrades for Council.

Mr. Drinnan provided an IPAD II and a new Lenovo Laptop for Council's consideration. He outlined the technology, software and capabilities of both machines. It was felt it was an individual choice as to which technology Council desired.

Training was discussed and Mr. Drinnan was questioned as to whether he could provide training when the new equipment is instituted. Council could come to a meeting at 1:00 p.m. prior to a Council session and receive the appropriate training.

Council members are to advise on which technology they prefer and the equipment will be ordered accordingly.

Mike Drinnan was extended a vote of thanks and it was indicated that he would be advised of the order when determined.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NOVEMBER 28, 2011

The minutes of the November 28, 2011, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that the November 28, 2011, minutes of Victoria County Municipal Council be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Letter to Nova Scotia Power

Councillor MacInnis questioned whether the letter concerning Wreck Cove being the site for the Muskrat Fall Project to come ashore was sent. This matter will be investigated and if not done, it will be sent tomorrow.

Former Rankin Memorial School Property

Sandy Hudson was talking to Paul Oldford, Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board, concerning the school property and he indicated he needed more specific information on the concerns. He also indicated that the caretaker of the Rankin School of the Narrows checks the property on a daily basis.

Baddeck Library Lease Agreement

The proposed lease agreement for the Baddeck Library is still before the Baddeck Volunteer Fire Department's Building Committee. Sandy Hudson will check on this matter.

Baddeck Christmas Parade

Warden Morrison extended a thank you to the Council members who attended the Baddeck Christmas Parade and requested that the staff members who worked on the Municipality's float be extended a vote of thanks for their efforts.

Island Vacuum Ltd.

Sandy Hudson advised that he will be meeting with Alan and Glenda MacAskill, Island Vacuum, on Thursday, December 15, 2011.

CIVIC ADDRESSING BY-LAW

A public hearing on the Civic Addressing By-Law was held prior to Council and some changes were suggested at that time.

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspik, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that the second and final reading of the Civic Addressing By-Law be approved with the noted changes addressed at the Public Hearing. Motion carried.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #5

Deputy Warden Patterson brought up the matter of the possible 80% funding available through ECBC for approved projects. The remaining 20% funding must be in place with the organization applying for the funding.

He questioned on the criteria and whether there was a formal application process that is to be submitted.

There is a very short window of opportunity to access this funding and it was felt it was important to define County wide and district projects as soon as possible.

Projects of County-wide significance identified were:

- Bus Service for the whole County

- Infrastructure to attract doctors to northern Victoria County
- Green Gym technology for the Municipality
- Acquiring property of historical significance

A committee comprised of the CAO, Deputy Warden Patterson and Councillors Donovan and MacInnis will investigate applying for these projects as soon as possible.

District #7

Councillor Donovan brought up the matter of partnering with RONA to provide a community housing service for low income, seniors and persons with disabilities. He discussed this matter with Lloyd Donovan, the local RONA dealer in the North of Smokey area. The partnership would involve cost of mail outs and hall rentals for meetings and would be in the vicinity of \$500.00.

It was felt that it would be best to go through an organization in the North of Smokey area and a donation is to be made to the Northeast Highlands Chamber of Commerce for this initiative.

Councillor Donovan questioned on the status of a new County flag and this contest will be issued for Victoria County schools.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis questioned on why there were no Economic Development meetings held in recent months and he was advised that this committee, along with all other Council committees, were disbanded sometime ago.

Nona MacDermid, Economic Sustainability Officer, meets with Council to update on a regular basis.

Councillor MacInnis questioned on the status of the unsightly premises he reported sometime ago in Wreck Cove. This matter will be investigated.

District #2

Councillor MacCuspig indicated that a street light has been installed as requested on Alderwood Lane and now a request has been received for an additional street light to be installed on the second turn on the road.

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspic, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that a street light be ordered to be installed on the second turn on Alderwood Lane. Motion carried.

Councillor MacCuspic indicated that he received some concern that the engineering firm doing the testing for the Baddeck Water Project was drilling holes in the asphalt pavement in the Big Baddeck area.

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspic, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that Richard Morykot, P. Eng., be contacted to ensure that the holes drilled are remediated. Motion carried.

Councillor MacCuspic questioned on the location of the helipad for the air ambulance and it was indicated that it is rumored to be located at the Department of Natural Resources Depot site.

District #3

Deputy Warden Patterson assumed the Chair.

Warden Morrison requested that contact be made with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal expressing concern that no salt was spread in the upper Queen Street area during the last snowfall. They are to be requested to travel all the way up Queen Street when applying salt.

Warden Morrison questioned on whether Council should make a stand on fracking. Discussion took place on this matter and it was felt that more information was required before an informed decision can be made.

Representatives from both the pro and the negative side of the fracking issue are to be invited to Council in the New Year.

Warden Morrison returned to the Chair.

VICTORIA COUNTY WEBSITE

Sandy Hudson advised that a Committee has been working on changes to the present Victoria County website and he provided Council with a mockup of the proposed changes to the site for their information.

SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF VICTORIA ARISING OUT OF THE FRAUD OF BRIAN TRASK

Sandy Hudson advised that the Municipality of the County of Victoria settled the litigation involving Roach Perry Anderson and the Royal Bank of Canada on September 29, 2011.

The Municipality of the County of Victoria will receive \$375,000.00 in the settlement. There was no finding of liability or fault on the part of Roach Perry Anderson or the Royal Bank of Canada in the litigation and the settlement is made without any admission of liability or fault on their part.

This will conclude this matter. An article on this matter will be published in tomorrow's issue of *The Victoria Standard*.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Council indicated that the Christmas Party held with staff at the Gaelic College, St. Ann's, was excellent and a number of positive comments were received from staff.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO