

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
November 15, 2010

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, November 15, 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
Zina MacNeil, 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 Deputy Warden Patterson, that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Department of Transportation/Steve MacDonald & MLA ,Keith Bain

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Steve MacDonald and MLA Keith Bain.

Mr. MacDonald addressed the correspondence he received from council on various issues. There is a couple still outstanding but the rest have been addressed. The issue with school bus stopping signs is a school board issue and the request has to come from them. Once they get the request from the school board he will send out the traffic supervisor to check it out.

The brush cutting issue the request came in but no exact locations mentioned. It has been finished in some districts still some to go. The machine is in Inverness now. If council gives him specific locations he will prioritize the requests. We have one machine between two counties.

The issue with the flashing light at the hospital was looked into. They engaged the traffic supervisor to look at it and his response was that a flashing light was not warranted there. Firstly there have been no accident reports from that location and secondly the stop and sight distance meets the requirements so it isn't warranted. He did make other recommendations for improvement for that location and that correspondence will be forwarded to council.

Municipal signage at the county lines there is a provincial program for that. The cost in municipal at approximately \$11,000 each sign installed. He will send the information to council.

The issue with graffiti along the roadways there is no set policy to deal with it. About 15 years ago Kelly's Mountain was sandblasted. It is an expensive process. They will have to do more research on policies. You would need to have fall arrest, etc to reach some of those rocks. He will raise the concern at provincial meeting. At the park in Ingonish Councillor Dauphinee mentioned they try to clean up right away when vandalism like that. The highways do that with signs when vandalized they are cleaned up as soon as possible. It is more of an enforcement issue but will check out what is done elsewhere.

The sidewalk extension at the hospital would be a municipal responsibility. An asphalt sidewalk is one possibility where it just ends on one side of driveway.

The grading has been done north on two occasions that he is aware of. There is a private contractor down there. There is one grader for the county highways.

The issue with community signage in Ingonish area he will talk to Nelson on that. They do provide signage but need to know the boundaries. There is a program for gaelic signs. The gaelic signs are a larger structure. Let them know the boundaries and what signs.

The drainage on Ross St. has been done. The pavement marking in Big Baddeck is moving forward. Alderwood Drive winter maintenance was negotiated. There is a copy of the policy and he will talk to Sandy on that. The staff at Alderwood need to understand the level that road falls under as a local paved road. He doesn't anticipate a problem with the plowing being done but there is a procedure in place for emergency plowing if need be. The call has to come from a registered nurse, EHS etc. for this.

The list of priorities has not changed. Next year another section of the Cabot Trail and Bay St. Lawrence Bridge and Meat Cove Culverts will be done. As well, 223 Peter MacLean Road to Red Point and Gillis Point Section are still on the list. There is a 10% reduction cuts from the new government across the board for all departments. He is unsure where the reductions will be in there budget but repavement is the highest part of their budget.

There is another section at St. Ann's, North Shore and Kelly's Mountain towards Seal Island Bridge for recoating for next year. He will forward all councils concerns to his area manager.

There is another program for gravel roads a stabilizer program. He adds the roads to a list based on requests from councilors a survey is done and the roads are rated. He can provide council with that list if they want.

RIM Program he sees no change in budget next year of \$600,000. Council should send in list of recommendations and he will take the recommendations and prioritize them. They are looking at a double chip seal program on roads possibly next year.

Deputy Warden Patterson issues addressed was the stabilizer program and Black Rock Rd. was not on that list. He would like a copy of the list of conditions on Alderwood Drive maintenance so he can pass on to Alderwood staff so they are aware of them. Signage requests have to be formally done through council on a particular community; the maps don't show the boundaries. Kempt Head potholes were done this week.

Councillor Dauphinee commented that the grader was in his area today and Nelson was excellent to deal with on issues. Rocky Point Rd survey was done. A lady is paying someone to fill in holes. There are 10-12 homes on this road. The salt silo will not be put in North Shore this year. Last year worst year out of salt by the time they get to North Shore. He spoke to the director and there is no supplemental salt storage going there this year. There is a new vehicle for that area this year so between the two units in that area the level of service should improve. They will keep monitoring that area as well. It was commented that the new unit couldn't handle those roads. The backhoe will be going down there to load the new truck.

Councillor Donovan commented as well on Nelson and how easy he was to deal with and if Steve could pass on as well that they were very pleased with him. They had issue with Carson Bridge in Meat Cove this year and it was done but hope that the other maintenance would still be done and not forgotten about. The guardrails and such that were to be done, but due to time constraints with bridge were put off. The roads in Neil's Harbour if graded today it would be the first time this year. There is a program which use 60% gravel and 40% rack. It is blended with grader and can be regarded if problems. It provides a better end result. The roads need to be approved by the director for this program. If council can come up with a list of roads to Steve he will put them in for the racking and try the blend.

On White Point Rd. the brush needs to be cut along the roads down there, Steve said he would see if he can get that done this year. A lot of damage done to that road in the same storm that damaged Meat Cove and it needs maintenance. Steve will be coming down in a week to meet with councilors north and discuss concerns as well with the development association.

Councillor MacInnis asked about the new plow and it will be in operation mid to late December with same operator as before in that area. Salt is an issue and wondered about keeping some at Wreck Cove. Steve will discuss with his director. The old silo is coming out of there. There are some sagging areas giving away on roads do they take this into consideration when surveying. It should be but give him the exact locations and he will check into it. Little River Bridge south abutments are another problem. He will raise that issue again. The problem with garbage pickup at the ferry since new ferry came in not collecting the garbage. The crew is too busy to change garbage cans. He will look into this.

Councillor MacCuspic wondered about the Big Baddeck Rd paving and there were problems with the contractor but he has agreed to go back to work and being again next week on this area. It is being marked out now and should be completed this season as late as it is. The Westside Middle River Rd could you make a note and put on same process to prioritize for local roads. The permit was done for the light at Beverly's Hill Rd. but he will check with Jackie on it to see if it was mailed out.

Councillor MacNeil thanked Steve for the work done to the John Neil George Rd. The Red Point East Rd changed to Jimmy Gillis Rd. There was a section that was still the Red Point East Rd. two residents want that changed back it wasn't part of the change. Keith Bain said this has been going on along time. The request went in it was for entire road so council will have to send in another request to change that section back. A petition will have to be sent in as well. Once the request comes in it will be done right away. The sign is still up as Red Point East. Keith has an email from the Deputy on it and will forward it.

There has been no maintenance on back roads if done it was the last few days. All the back roads need ditching and there is no gravel on the roads to grade. The Washabuck Rd is the worst road in the county there is more dirt on that road than pavement. The survey was done on this section for chip seal and pavement. Those roads don't score that high. Scoring was done in July – August. Councillor MacNeil wants this section put high priority. DOT will have to keep spending the \$20,000-30,000 each year to patch it if it isn't done. Steve will check to see where it is on the list. Letters from residents complaining wouldn't hurt. Another issue with the salt truck/plow, the last two years it is later than normal getting out. The school bus is doing its own plowing because roads not plowed/salted. Steve will check with the Operation Supervisor. Gypsum holes in Jamesville need to be fixed.

Warden Morrison welcomed both Keith Bain and Steve MacDonald. He questioned again on lights at hospital if you had a crosswalk lights. Steve would have to check into it. The sidewalk ends there. He would ask Bernie. He would emphasize that the sidewalk ends and the visibility is an issue. The work out at Bay Road has received a lot of positive comments. He would like to share the comments with the hospital on how decisions made.

Another issue was on Jones St. with the dead trees along the Aliant telephone lines. Aliant says it is a municipal issue. Steve will get Robert to have a look at Upper Jones St to check it out.

Steve was asked about the possibility of a flashing light at the turnoff to Little Narrows. He suggested the request may have been passed on to Inverness County and he would check with the Area Manager there to see if anything on that. It is out of his jurisdiction.

Keith Bain mentioned he has been working with Councillor Patterson on Highland Manor issues. A lot of issues already addressed. This is the first time they were asked to put forward an expansion plan. Inspection is an issue and the fire marshall has extended it until end of January.

Mr. Bain also mentioned the sealing on income for housing grants will probably increase from \$23,000 to \$26,000/27,000.

The question came up whether there was a policy for street lights. Some intersections need them where it is so dark. Baddeck Road to Baddeck Forks needs a street light. It is very dark and easy to go on up ramp from 105. In Neil's Harbour the intersection at the corner of the park no light. The west bound ext 10 to Baddeck Bay is another one.

Councillor MacInnis thanked Keith and Steve for coming and for the great job of brushcutting on Cabot Trail section of Trans Canada Trails. Councillor Donovan thanked as well for his availability, when he isn't available he will always get back to you. Keith Bain thought it was important to acknowledge Steve for his availability that when you call him with an issue it will get done.

Steve would like to say yes to everyone but asks for patience on a long term plan.

Break

Nona MacDermid/Economic Sustainability Officer

Nona thanked council for asking her to do a presentation. She presented a Business Needs Analysis Plan. This is the first real project plan they have had and Sandy worked on it with Nona. She put together a plan to identify our current state with what we have and what we need.

We start with a project description business needs analysis to establish a baseline. Set some objectives to get a clear picture of Victoria County's organizational profile, economic activity, programs and services availability, workforce-skill pools/skills gap, growth opportunities/barriers, and entrepreneurial mentoring.

Outcome Goals are to identify near term opportunities, prioritize investments with longer payoffs, strengthen entrepreneurial results, build and recruit mentorship matrix(youth).

Then thirdly we make a searchable, online business directory available with more robust data. Heather MacLean maintains the directory. When the directory was designed it didn't provide much information on the businesses. This is an opportunity to have available on the net frequent information to open it up more to the world.

Nona will work on building the framework of the plan in the timeframe of November 16 to December 3. In this she will establish terms of reference for the taskforce, invite 4-6 volunteers for the taskforce. They will have three taskforce meetings to come up with data outcome design, data collection design (what/how), and data storage and management (where/how/processes).

Project Plan Data Collection will then take place from December 6 to January 7. They will launch a communication plan, conduct a survey, follow-ups& encouragement, compile results, and data validation, cleansing, and storage. This is to make sure the data is readable and comprehensible.

The results will then be harvested between January and February of 2011. This is where she provides a progress update to council, do an analytical review, report findings back to the community, actions steps based on Phase 1, learning(via public forum), and activate an ongoing data management plan.

The key participants are the 4-6 various people on the taskforce made up of groups, businesses, NGO, Government service providers, and interested participants. The data gathering will be done by mail, telephone, email, online, classroom, and face to face. We send the one message by website, social media, facebook, twitter, newspapers, radios, development groups, forum participants, and district councilors.

A summary of council questions was whether the timeline during Christmas season for the survey was a good time. The survey should be designed to minimize the efforts pertain to individual user friendly. You would probably still have to do a paper one. Would it be beneficial to go to different communities to get message out, not her physically. It was decided that tomorrow was as good a time as any to start as there is no good time for everyone. We will just go with the momentum. It is a good start to see how it goes. Nona will send out a call for volunteers who have an interest in the communities and get a balance across the county of interest and knowledge. An email to the first 40 people who attended the first one sent out. Nona can choose by her responses back based on geographic areas and back grounds.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that council endorse Nona's presentation and action plan and for her to move forward with it. Motion carried.

Nona will come back in January report back to council in January and we will see then if there are any gaps in the plan. Nona is not to be bound by council meetings for reports if anything comes up in between we can call a special meeting.

Nona thanked Councillor Dauphinee for his tour of his area. He was the first councillor to show her their district and there were lots of things she would not have known with out his help. She will contact the others one by one to tour there areas and get to know the major development groups, organizations, fire halls etc.

Thanks were expressed to Nona for her presentation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NOVEMBER 1, 2010

The minutes of the November 1, 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 November 1, 2010, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING

Capital Grants Funding

The policy was passed on community grants capital assistance. The process is being set up. It will be put on the county website the deadline will be April 1st for applications to be in for budget talks.

Biomass

The biomass project was approved in the paper the next morning after the meeting.

District Concerns

District #5

Deputy Warden Patterson had a copy of the cookbook published by Lars Willum with a thank you to the Municipality. The pictures used in it were all from Victoria County.

He discussed the use of sobey's bags for newspapers, and it was decided that it was a problem as there were complaints about them not being properly tied and papers blowing everywhere.

District #6

Councillor Dauphinee had no concerns at this time.

District #7

Councillor Donovan had some good news to report that the coop fisheries in Neils' Harbour hope to start processing lobsters from the south shore. There is a call out for workers. This is a positive thing and they do provide accommodations for workers. Osbourne Burke is the contact. They are out hustling now for business trying to make it a year round operation.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis was at a meeting of the Federation of Agriculture on Saturday and there are a lot of good things happening with them especially with 4H. He found out the county doesn't support this in any way. Inverness County contributes. It was suggested that they be asked to come and make a presentation to council and ask for consideration for a contribution during budget talks. Our name is on the Federation and we don't contribute.

District #2

Councillor MacCuspig had a call from a couple of people about derelict vehicles. It was suggested he call Winston Smith.

Councillor MacCuspig questioned whether there was a name chosen for the street at Alderwood. A request has gone in for a sign for Alderwood Lane. It was sent in about two meetings prior to this one and they should be hearing back soon. They are also getting a new sign for Alderwood.

He is also waiting on the permit for ground breaking soil to erect a pole for a street light and Beverly's Hill. You need the permit before ordering the street light.

He has two requests for street lights, but he needs exact addresses and then he should let Heather know.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that council approve two street lights for District #2. Motion carried.

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It was mentioned that Patricia from New Page be asked to come to council to do a presentation on the Operation and the Biomass Project. Maybe we should have a community person as a watchdog who will do public presentations on what is going on with the Biomass project as it goes on. We will start with New Page in January or February for a presentation, Councillor MacCuspic with check on this.

District#1

Councillor MacNeil just wanted clarification on the road change at Red Point East. A petition had to be signed by the residents on the 3km of road to change back that section. The stop and end has to be identified.

Councillor MacNeil wondered if there should be a meeting on Broadband even though there is no committee there are projects out there. It was noted that Tom Wilson will be on the next council meeting for an update.

Councillor Donovan suggested that council donate money from their district budgets for a plaque for the fire hall in Robert MacLellans memory on one of the windows. Everyone agreed something should be done as it was done for John Graham MacInnes former councillor.

Warden Morrison advised council that they needed to get their pictures and biography's ready for next council. The information needs to be updated There is a form that needs to be filled out Tom Wilson will be asked to send this out again to councilors.

Warden Morrison asked about jackets for councilors he will pick up a catalogue at Colburnes tomorrow and Deputy Warden Patterson will pick up one in Bras d'Or.

Sandy advised that Joan and himself would be available on cells for the election updates on the by election North. He will get results back to councilors.

Correspondence

A letter was received from Age Friendly Communities and we were successful in receiving a grant in the amount of \$5000. The first week in December we will figure out what way we are going with it. Is it feasible to do whole county or a few communities with it.

A letter was received from the Minister of Tourism regarding the Keltic Lodge and a meeting is set for Friday, December 10 at 2 pm with the 3 councilors north and Sandy and the Warden.

Next Council Meeting

November 29 is the next council session and John Malcom, District Health Authority will be there and open to questions from public on Liberation Treatments. The Ross Report was sent out to council. Tom Wilson will be on for Broadband and the Swearing in of the new councillor in District 8.

The December meeting will be on December 13th with one presentation by the Gaelic Awareness Council.

Marketing Levy By Law

Once the By Law is adopted in a time frame an MOA will be added between the Municipality and Destination Cape Breton. The only provision in bylaw was for the collection.

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspic, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that the Marketing Levy By Law 1st Reading be accepted with amendment to Section 20. Motion carried.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that the Marketing Levy By Law Public Hearing date be set for November 29, 2010 at 4 pm. Motion carried.

The Baddeck Christmas Parade is December 4th with a Victorian Theme. Council will partake in period costume on the ton truck with Calvin Fitzgerald driving. It is at 3 pm.

Adjourn

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil that the meeting adjourn.