

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
January 9, 2012

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, January 9, 2012, 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 Buchanan, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that the agenda be approved as presented.

APPLICATION FOR AMENDMENT – ELLIOT FRASER

A public hearing was held prior to Council on the application by Elliot Fraser to amend the Baddeck Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-Law to rezone a portion of a property on Shore Road presently owned by Cape Breton Resorts from commercial to residential in order to permit the use of a cabin as a single-detached dwelling. The applicant's client, Charlotte Lindgren, is looking to sever a cabin that is a part of the Inverary Resort for sale as a single-detached dwelling.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that the application for amendment to the Baddeck Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-Law to re-designate and rezone a portion of a property on Shore Road presently owned by Cape Breton Resorts to permit a single detached residential dwelling be approved. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 12, 2012

The minutes of the December 12, 2011, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of December 12, 2011, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Letter – Lower Muskrat Falls Power Project

The letter concerning the landing site for the Lower Muskrat Falls Power Project was forwarded to Premier Darrell Dexter.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that a copy of this letter be forwarded to Rob Bennett, President, Nova Scotia Power Inc. Motion carried.

Genivar – Draft Alternative Energy Strategy Study Report

Sandy Hudson advised that a draft of the Alternative Energy Strategy Study has been received from Genivar and has been forwarded by email to Council for their information.

Inverness-Victoria Federation of Agriculture

Councillor MacInnis questioned on the funding for the Inverness-Victoria Federation of Agriculture and was advised that \$1,000.00 was provided from both the 2010-11 and 2011-12 budgets, for a total of \$2,000.00.

Island Vacuum

Glenda MacAskill, Island Vacuum, was in attendance at Council. Island Vacuum has sent their close out plans for the septic site at Dingwall to the Department of Environment. Their permit for operation of the site expired on December 31, 2011.

Discussion took place on the septic pumping service and how the closure would affect residents North of Smokey. The site has not been used since September, 2011, and a price increase was initiated in the fall to allow for the additional trucking required.

Whether alternate sites were being investigated was questioned and Ms. MacAskill indicated that nothing is being considered at present, but they would be willing to work with the Municipality in this regard.

The de-watering technology that was piloted in 2005 was discussed and it was indicated that it is difficult to dewater and there are not a lot of these trucks in use. Council was advised that Richmond County has purchased, or is in the process of purchasing, this equipment.

Ideally, Ms. MacAskill indicated, they would like to take the septic waste to the sewage treatment plant for disposal. The possibility of upgrading the current site in the spring was discussed.

Warden Morrison questioned whether there were tracts of municipal land that could be used for a septic disposal site and property could be sold to Island Vacuums for this purpose.

Council felt that septic tank pumping is a necessary service for the Municipality and the issue needs to be addressed. Sandy Hudson is to meet with Island Vacuum on this matter to have the issue addressed.

NEW BUSINESS

ECBC FUNDING

Application was made to ECBC for assistance with funding outdoor green gyms for each district of the Municipality. Approval was received from ECBC for \$20,000.00 which must be matched by the Municipality. The \$40,000.00 total will purchase 4 green gyms.

How Council wished to proceed was discussed. It was felt that the most appropriate way would be to issue an Expression of Interest for organizations interested in obtaining, housing and maintaining this green gym equipment.

Council felt that no more than one gym could be installed per district and that during the course of a two year period, each district of the Municipality would obtain a green gym.

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that the Municipality issue an Expression of Interest for community organizations in the County interested in establishing outdoor green gym equipment in their district, with the four successful applicants being chosen by Municipal Council. Motion carried.

It was indicated that organizations must be registered societies and provide proof of insurance when submitting their Expression of Interest.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #1

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that \$1,300.00 be approved from the District #1 budget for the Iona Volunteer Fire Department. Motion carried.

Councillor MacNeil, on behalf of the Murphy family in his district, wished to express appreciation to the staff of the Baddeck Enviro-Depot, who found and returned a cheque that was lost by the Murphy family during the holiday season.

District #2

Councillor MacCuspig questioned on the status of the renovations at Baddeck Academy.

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspig, seconded by Deputy Warden Patterson, that a letter be sent to the Cape Breton-Victoria District School Board requesting a status update and timelines on the Baddeck Academy upgrade project. Motion carried.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis indicated that in his 60 years living in his district, the conditions of the road on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day were the worst he has ever seen. The condition of the road was deplorable and this is an ongoing dilemma that must be addressed. The need for a salt structure in this area is evident, as there is little or no salt being spread on the roads in the North Shore and area.

Warden Morrison indicated that for the first time since he came to Council, he is also receiving complaints about the condition of this section of roadway.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor MacCuspig, that a letter be forwarded to the Honourable Bill Estabrooks, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, expressing Council's grave concern on the deplorable condition of roads in the North Shore and area and request that a salt facility be reinstated for this area. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that a letter of congratulations be forwarded to Cabot Shores on being named one of the top three hotels to stay in Nova Scotia by USA Travel Today. Motion carried.

District #8

Councillor Buchanan indicated that he received an invoice in his door from Jeffrey Gwynn for opening South Harbour Channel and he questioned where this invoice should go. The invoice was for \$600 plus tax.

Department of Natural Resources issued a permit to open the channel. It is not the Municipality's responsibility to open this channel.

It was felt that all parties involved should meet on this issue before it has to be opened again and come to consensus as to who is responsible for having this work completed and bears the cost for same.

Sandy Hudson indicated that as Lyle Donovan was involved in this matter, the bill can be forwarded to the Municipality and work will commence on a meeting of all parties involved.

District #7

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that an order be sent to Nova Scotia Power to have a street light installed at Civic Address 678 New Haven Road, Neil's Harbour. Motion carried.

Councillor Donovan indicated that some time ago he requested that a letter be forwarded to Canada Post concerning lighting for the parking lot area at the Ingonish Post Office. Sandy Hudson will follow up on this matter with Canada Post.

Councillor Donovan brought up the concern with regard to the cutbacks at Service Canada with regard to EI services. It is almost impossible to get through to make an inquiry, etc. on an EI claim.

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that a letter be forwarded to the Minister Responsible for Service Canada, with copies to Peter MacKay and Mark Eyking, expressing concern on the cutbacks to Service Canada in relation to EI services. Motion carried.

Councillor Donovan indicated that that another meeting will be held in the northern area of the Municipality concerning Safer Communities. Representatives from Addiction Services, RCMP, Department of Justice and Health, key citizens and the local

Council members attend these meetings. He requested that the Municipality pay for the supper and hall rental fees for the upcoming meeting and was advised to submit the bill to Sandy Hudson for payment.

Councillor Donovan advised that the rink project is not completely finished as yet, but it was heartening to see 60 to 80 people on the ice the other night and he thanked the Municipality for their contribution to this project. An official opening will be held at a later date.

District #6

Councillor Dauphinee requested that the condition of the lock boxes in Ingonish Centre and the condition of the parking lot and walkway at the Ingonish Beach Post Office be included in the letter to Canada Post.

In October, a letter was forwarded to the Cape Breton-Victoria District School Board concerning the busing issue at Ingonish Ferry. To date a reply has not been received and Sandy Hudson is to follow up on this matter.

Councillor Dauphinee requested that the Council receive an update on the marketing levy and the funds generated in the Municipality in 2011 for same. Sandy Hudson indicated that in the vicinity of \$140,000.00 was generated in Victoria County and he would provide the overalls figures at the next meeting.

Councillor Dauphinee felt it would be beneficial to have ECBC come to Council to provide an overview of their programs and what projects they have been involved with in Victoria County since their last visit to Council. February 27, 2012, has been designated as a Council meeting devoted to development matters and Economic and Rural Development representatives, NEDAC representatives; and Nona MacDermid have been invited to attend. ECBC is to be extended an invitation to attend this meeting also.

District #5

Canada Post will be reviewing postal delivery with a view to eliminating mail boxes and setting up community boxes in various areas. Deputy Warden Patterson told Council to be aware of this as it may affect County residents.

Deputy Warden Patterson brought up the email received concerning the 2012 Minister's Awards for Leadership in Crime Prevention.

District #3

Deputy Warden Patterson assumed the Chair.

Warden Morrison advised that the Strait-Highlands Regional Development Agency has taken over the Cabot Trail Façade Program from the Cabot Trail Working Association. This program is geared to the rural areas around the trail. They do not consider Baddeck to be part of the Cabot Trail and therefore, Baddeck is ineligible under this program for signage, as are other areas.

It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that a letter be forwarded to Blaine Gillis, SHRDA, requesting that sections of Victoria County, such as Neil's Harbour and Baddeck, be eligible for the signage aspect of the Cabot Trail Façade Program. Motion carried.

Councillor MacInnis indicated that the Cabot Trail Working Association lost the funding for a paid employee. Keith MacDonald, Cape Breton Partnership, in a recent presentation, recommended the start up of the Cabot Trail Development Association which will encompass the whole trail.

Warden Morrison attended a meeting of the Municipal Action Committee concerning the NewPage issue and was advised at that time to keep an eye on the protected areas 12% designation. There are certain areas that are above this percentage and the restrictions that could result is something to be considered in moving forward.

Warden Morrison reassumed the Chair.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis brought up a recent incident where a moose was shot from the roadway adjacent to a residence.

He felt it would be beneficial for representatives from the Department of Natural Resources to appear before Council and it was agreed they be invited to attend a March session of Council.

NEXT COUNCIL

The next meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council will be held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, January 30, 2012, beginning at 5:00 p.m. Genivar will be presenting the Draft Alternative Energy Strategy Study at this meeting.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Councillor Buchanan, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO