

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
January 30, 2012

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, January 30, 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 MacInnis, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY STRATEGY STUDY UPDATE

Courtesy of Council was extended to Nick Pryce and Jeffry Haggett, Genivar, who were in attendance to review the draft of the Alternative Energy Strategy Study for the Municipality of the County of Victoria.

Jeffry Haggett then presented a power point presentation (copy attached) outlining the state of the industry; design considerations for wind, tidal, solar, run-of-river, and biomass technologies; stakeholder consultations; and concerns and benefits.

Nick Pryce spoke on the planning strategies and land use by-laws and the options, opportunities and constraints related to same.

The matter of the Lower Muskrat Falls project landing in Cape Breton was discussed and the question was raised as to what Victoria County could do to see the landing site be at Wreck Cove in Victoria County. Mr. Pryce advised that the Municipality could meet with the appropriate officials and promote and sell Wreck Cove as the landing site. Victoria County is definitely a stakeholder in this project.

The capacity of the existing lines in Victoria County was discussed and it was indicated that this is a concern with regard to any large scale development, but there is interest in the COMFIT Program in the Municipality.

Mr. Pryce discussed the production and selling of hydrogen and the fact that a co-generation – hydrogen and electricity – is being built in PEI.

The transmission lines in Victoria County are at capacity and would not be able to handle a large scale operation and the current pricing system discourages same. The market is in the HRM area and the growth rate there is predicted to increase by 2.5%.

The possibility of eliminating the current coal fire generating station to free up capacity on the existing lines in Cape Breton was discussed. Then new opportunities for power generation could be introduced.

Mr. Pryce indicated that the Churchill Falls Project will account for 10% of the 40% renewable electricity by 2020 under the Nova Scotia Renewable Electricity Plan. All the guidelines of the route from Port aux Basques, Newfoundland, are to be made public and it was indicated that these decisions are still being determined. A concern that the line is going through the crab fishing area was discussed.

The development of policy and regulations with regard to land use and planning was discussed. Mr. Pryce indicated that if Victoria County goes with a planning strategy and land use by-law with regard to renewable energy, then it is important to have someone write the strategy that knows what they are doing and the framework to do it .

Discussion took place on the bio-mass technology and the fact that during the course of the drafting of the strategy, there was definite interest in this technology from the industry sector. The public's views will be known when the consultation stage takes place.

The COMFIT program was discussed. A review of the program will take place in two years and will determine if it will be discontinued or expanded. Mr. Pryce indicated it could go either way depending on the climate at the time. There will be maximum of 5 projects for Victoria County in the two year period and when making an inquiry, it was indicated that there are no announcements or decisions with regard to Victoria County applications as yet.

Mr. Pryce advised when making application for the COMFIT Program, it is important to have a business plan prepared, community support, native involvement, required easements, etc., before making application.

Warden Morrison thanked the gentlemen for their presentation on the draft Alternative Energy Strategy Study and indicated that Council, if they desire, will be accepting the draft study, allowing Genivar to proceed with the public consultation process. Mr. Pryce indicated that they have ideas on how to proceed with regard to the public consultation, but would meet with Sandy Hudson to review and discuss this matter.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that the draft Alternative Energy Strategy Study for the Municipality be accepted. Motion carried.

RECESS

Warden Morrison advised that Council would recess for 5 minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JANUARY 9, 2012

The minutes of the January 9, 2012, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that the January 9, 2012, minutes of Victoria County Municipal Council be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Councillor Buchanan questioned whether the invoice submitted by Jeffrey Gwinn for the opening of South Harbour Channel was paid and he was advised it was received and paid.

Whether any contact was made with regard to the pros and cons of fracking was questioned and Sandy Hudson advised that Joe O'Connor, CAO of Inverness, will be providing him with names of contacts for the Department of Energy. A list of opponents to this issue will also be obtained.

Councillor Donovan indicated that he asked Jackie Organ, School Board Member, to mention Victoria County concerns that were forwarded to the School Board at a Board meeting and the reply received was that the School Board had responded to the concerns. This is not the case.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #1

Councillor MacNeil indicated that he has sent two emails in the last couple of weeks to the School Board and has received no response. He expressed concern on the status of the former Rankin Memorial School property. It is unsecure and starting to become unsightly.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, to request the Eastern District Planning Commission to proceed under the dangerous and unsightly premises with regard to the former Rankin Memorial School property in Iona. Motion carried.

Councillor MacNeil brought up the matter of the possibility of a Viewscapes program throughout Victoria County. This matter can be discussed with officials at the Council Session on February 27, 2012, which has been devoted to development issues at which Economic and Rural Development; NEDAC and ECBC will be in attendance.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that a letter be forwarded to ECBC requesting funding for a Viewscapes Project for Victoria County. Motion carried.

Councillor MacNeil expressed concern on the condition of the new pavement in the Ottawa Brook/Jamesville area. This work should still be under warranty and something should be done to correct the problems.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal concerning the condition of the new pavement in the Ottawa Brook/Jamesville area. Motion carried.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis brought up the matter of the trailers housing the Silver Dart Replica and that they are currently being stored in Inverness County. They are in a secure, climate controlled building at present and a decision should be made within the next month or so on transferring them to our Solid Waste Facility site in Baddeck. Warden Morrison indicated that the replica is to be permanently housed at the AG Bell Museum.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that letters of congratulations be forwarded to Chris MacInnes who was elected as Vice-

President (English) of the Liberal Party of Canada and to Joella Foulds who was appointed to the Order of Canada. Motion carried.

Councillor MacInnis brought up the matter of an unsightly premise in Wreck Cove and indicated that the owner is willing to remove the unsightly trailer from the property, but needs more time to do so. He would like an extension to July, 2012, to have the trailer removed. This request should be forwarded to the Eastern District Planning Commission.

Councillor MacInnis indicated that a resident requested that an existing street light be replaced with LED technology and he questioned whether this was possible at present. This matter will be investigated with Nova Scotia Power.

Councillor MacInnis questioned whether the Age-Friendly Communities Program has ever considered providing a sanding service for seniors. Deputy Warden Patterson indicated that it is an issue and will be brought to the next Age-Friendly meeting in February.

District #8

Councillor Buchanan questioned on the proper process for erecting signage for a road. The road, Corbett Road, is a provincial road and this is a provincial responsibility.

It was moved by Councillor Buchanan, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that a letter be forwarded to Stephen MacDonald, Area Manager, DOT&IR, requesting that a sign be erected at Corbett Road. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Buchanan, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that a letter be forwarded to Bell Mobility concerning the lack of cell phone service in the area North of Buck's turn at Aspy Bay. Motion carried.

District #7

Councillor Donovan advised that the official opening of the Comfort Station/Outdoor Rink at Neil's Harbour will be held on February 12, 2012.

District #6

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that a letter of congratulations be forwarded to Ken Donovan who was the recipient of the Tom Miller Human Rights Award. Motion carried.

Councillor Dauphinee requested that a street light be ordered for placement on a pole at 37838 Cabot Trail, Ingonish Beach.

Councillor Dauphinee indicated that he is getting calls regarding the civic address signs. Materials have been ordered by the Municipality for the signs and those wishing to obtain a sign are to contact the Municipal Office. The cost of the signs was discussed and is to be \$20.00.

The Smokey Recreational Society lease for premises to hold Court in Ingonish was discussed. Sandy Hudson is to check on what is being paid for the Court and a cheque is to be issued to the Smokey Recreational Society.

The status of the Baddeck Library lease was questioned. It has been signed, but not received back as yet.

District #5

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that \$1,000.00 be approved from the District #5 budget for the Ross Ferry Volunteer Fire Department. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Patterson advised that public consultations are now being held on the review of the Environment Act. A meeting will be held in Sydney and Deputy Warden Patterson expressed his interest in attending.

Dalhousie University is hosting a Bicycle Policy Workshop for urban and rural areas on February 2-4, 2012. This fits in well with our active living strategy and Deputy Warden Patterson advised that he may attend this workshop.

District #3

Deputy Warden Patterson took the Chair.

A review of the provincial electoral boundaries is being undertaken and Warden Morrison questioned whether the Municipality should make a presentation that the status quo for Victoria-The Lakes be maintained.

It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that the Municipality consider making a submission to the Electoral Boundaries Commission on Victoria-The Lakes. Motion carried.

Warden Morrison advised Council that he and Keith Bain, MLA, attended a meeting with John Lynn, ECBC, recently. He outlined the topics discussed and Mr. Lynn indicated his staff will be in attendance at Council on February 27, 2012.

Warden Morrison returned to the Chair.

District #1

Councillor MacNeil brought up a concern with regard to the insurance coverage for the I-FIT Gyms. The Expression of Interest states that the organizations applying are to carry insurance.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis brought up a concern with regard to the Englishtown Ferry and the number of times it is out of service. This is the busiest ferry in the province and a main link for residents in the northern area of the County. This matter will be addressed with Charlie MacDonald when a meeting is re-scheduled with him.

SLIPWAY – BEACH CROSSING ROAD

The federal government is now ready to release the slipway at the end of the Beach Crossing Road to the Municipality. The Municipality had previously expressed their interest in obtaining this property.

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that the Municipality accept ownership of the property on the Beach Crossing Road, Ingonish. Motion carried.

PARKS CANADA

Sandy Hudson advised that he met with Helene Robichaud, Cape Breton Highlands National Park, and they are prepared to sell the Park residence adjacent to the Buchanan Memorial Hospital to the Municipality for use as a residence to attract medical personnel to the northern area of the County. The property is to be added to the Cape Breton District Health Authority's lease and the Municipality will own the residence. The cost of the survey will be borne by the Municipality.

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that the Municipality purchase the Parks Canada property subject to the Cape Breton District Health Authority's agreement to lease the land. Motion carried.

ELECTRONIC VOTING

Information was circulated regarding electronic voting and Sandy Hudson questioned whether the Municipality has any interest in pursuing this matter. It was felt that more information should be obtained. Sandy Hudson will address this matter at a meeting in Port Hawkesbury on Friday with regard to the upcoming municipal and school board election.

MUNICIPAL CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

Municipalities are required to have a Municipal Climate Change Action Plan in place by 2014. This is a requirement for obtaining Gas Tax funding.

Sandy Hudson indicated that it is being proposed that the 9 municipal units that are part of the IT venture at present, get together and work on developing one Climate Change Action Plan for eastern Nova Scotia.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that an invitation be extended to the 9 municipal units presently cooperating on the IT venture to participate in the development of one Climate Change Action Plan for the 9 municipalities. Motion carried.

BUCKLAW WIND TURBINE PROJECT

Information was received that Scotia Windfields is working towards installing a wind turbine in Bucklaw. The exact location of the proposed wind turbine was questioned as to whether it was located in our County or Inverness County. This matter is to be investigated to determine which County the proposed turbine is to be located.

BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

Sandy Hudson advised that budget deliberations for the 2012/2013 municipal budget will be commencing and he questioned on how Council wished to proceed.

He was advised to come back with a budget indicating a 0% increase. From that point the Council will consider whether a budget decrease is warranted.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council will be held on February 13, 2012, with presentations by the Baddeck Academy Group and the Gaelic Council of Nova Scotia.

Council will also meet on February 27, 2012. This will be a session devoted to presentations with regard to development. ECBC, NEDAC, Economic and Rural Development and Nona MacDermid will be in attendance.

SOLID WASTE ISSUE

Council was updated on the incident at the Baddeck Municipal Solid Waste Facility where materials were dumped that were possibly c-difficile infected.

The building was cleaned and sterilized. The materials were removed and transferred to Guysborough with their and the Department of Environment approval. An apology was received from the Cape Breton Island Housing Authority who was responsible for dumping the material.

It was indicated that the Cape Breton Island Housing Authority will be billed for the cost of the cleanup.

The matter will be investigated to determine who gave the directive to dump the materials at our site and this matter will be dealt with in a forceful manner when this is known.

ADJOURN

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

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO