

**VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**  
**March 26, 2012**

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, March 26, 2012, beginning at 5:00 pm 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 #7 – David Donovan  
District #8 – Johnny Buchanan

Also present were:

Sandy Hudson, CAO  
Josephine MacNeil, Recording Secretary

Absent was:

District #6 – Larry Dauphinee

**CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Warden Morrison called the meeting to order and presented the meeting agenda for approval with two changes to be added. Helene Robichaud, Cape Breton Highlands National Park was not available for her presentation, and an In Camera Session to be added at the end of the meeting.

***It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that the agenda be approved with the changes presented. Motion carried.***

**GAELIC COUNCIL OF NOVA SCOTIA**

Courtesy of Council was extended to Caroline Cameron who was in attendance to make a presentation on behalf of the Gaelic Council of Nova Scotia to request support.

They are requesting any amount up to \$1000.00. They have been 25 years in service trying to promote more interest in the Gaelic Language. Their emphasis is on Gaelic Language and promoting awareness around the province of the language. It is

unique linguistically and culturally. There is more of an economic impact in the smaller communities and gaelic is an asset. She explained about the Gaelic College and changes

that are not to cut out current programs but to expand more on the Gaelic Language and Culture as part of the program.

There are in the process of putting up an online survey on the web. They are trying to get communities to speak in gaelic not just in the homes. The immersion in-home learning environments have been doing really well. It needs to expand to the community as a whole creating a forum to gather and share their information to strengthen the language.

There is a forum scheduled for May 26 at St. Andrews to include the mapping plan and include more seminars. They hope to hire a student in the first part of year and develop a work plan in the second part of the year.

Councillor MacNeil commented that three weeks prior students from around the island attended a session for children during March Break. Approximately 110 children attended and 30 helpers. The last day the gaelic drama after 3 days of classes preformed a play. It received the greatest standing ovation. The Children were more involved in language and more meaningful to them.

Councillor MacCuspic thanked Ms. Cameron for her presentation it was very interesting and growing in popularity in the communities.

Councillor MacInnis asked if they knew the percent of people who were gaelic speaking. Ms. Cameron replied that they were aware of about 100. A lot of people still don't admit they do. There are about 400 adult students taking language classes in the county and over 1000 with school students. It was prominent on the North Shore years ago. Now people are from away so we need full community involvement. It will be 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary next year and are developing a lot of rapport with the Gaelic College.

Councillor Buchanan commented that they have classes in the school once a week where someone from the community or a parent comes in to teach. This is the first year that it is being introduced to Cabot. Ms. Cameron replied that wasn't part of their program that would be community oriented. Eight schools do have programs. She mentioned there are funds available for the Department of Education for long term programs. She would send the information to council.

Councillor Donovan commented on the interesting presentation and would like to see Gaelic in the schools for the youth especially while they are in elementary.

Ms. Cameron explained that April 30 is the deadline for schools to apply for fund for Gaelic Programs and she will forward the information to council on where to apply, deadline and application if they want to pursue some funding.

Deputy Warden Patterson explained that he is on the Board of Directors at the Gaelic College and they are having a meeting in a few weeks. They are developing a policy on where they are going after 74 years. The new individuals are doing a good job and he sees it heading in a new direction with gaelic being revitalized in the area now.

Warden Morrison commented that while at a local service station there were a couple of gentlemen speaking gaelic. Mr. Morrison offered to link the online survey to the County web site.

Councillor MacNeil mentioned how fortunate we are as well to have the Highland Village as good guidance with the Gaelic Language and Culture in our area.

*It was moved by Councillor Buchanan, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that the amount of \$1000 be approved for the request by the Gaelic Council of NS for funding. Motion carried.*

#### **CAPE BRETON ECOUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

Courtesy of Council was extended to Eileen Oldford and Joanne Buchanan. A handout of their project proposal was handed out to council. At this time Ms. Oldford extended her thanks to council as well as Sandy Hudson for his good guidance. They have had an MOU with the Municipality in the past.

Building up the population is a challenge and they are looking for a MOU with the Municipality of Victoria in the Project Proposal Population Model. This model is a 5 pronged approach. They are the RDA for Cape Breton County. The five markets integrated approach includes, retirees, ex-patriots, international students, immigrants, and local youth sustain growth in population. The tools used to develop this approach are programs developed such as Retirement CB, NS Nominees, and New Comers to stabilize and increase our population. We need to build on our powerful assets by promoting economic development, entrepreneurs, physical activities, innovation, Growing NS, etc as part of the framework for our strategy.

The five prongs feed of each other. Of the Retirees 45-65, 500 returned to the island approx. 236 built homes, 168 purchased homes, and the remaining rented homes. Sixteen of those became entrepreneurs creating various jobs of about 34.

Ex-patriots are between the age of 30-44. There are approximately 565 Newcomers since 2005 research shows approximately 25 new businesses created from these and about 120 jobs.

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International students and immigrants in April or early May we put them in touch with a professional who shares information about the market in their profession. They in turn give the student or immigrant three more professional contacts and they build a network and are required to do follow up with the contacts.

Local youth retention they are setting up an Industry Youth Connection Fair with the hopes students will attract students who want to stay here to work.

The Façade Program created 74 businesses which show us the outcomes of these implementations of programs. The first year in the 5 prong approach does not show a high percent of increase but after year 5 they expect to retain 70% of the 1200 people they attract. The total budget for 5 prong approach is \$2, 783,000. The proposed partners are ECBC, Province of NS, Immigration, Economic and Rural Development, CBCDA, Cape Breton Municipality and Victoria County.

They expect 80 out of the 1200 to stay in Victoria County. The request is for \$30,000 per year for 5 years with yearly updates; identify local promotional material, and independent economic analysis at the end of the project. They would like the opportunity to take the lead to grow our region and theirs.

Deputy Warden Patterson commented that the proposal was interesting and great work as we were homeless for a while with economic development in our County. He questioned on the Retirement Village like Miramichi and it was explained that individuals are not looking for that type of environment. They want to have a single home on the peripheral where they can plant a garden if they chose to.

She explained that the ex-patriot/youth were looking for loft-living façade style where they would be living downtown, in lofts in businesses where there is night life. This may then in turn change your six month operational business to a yearly operation.

Councillor Donovan had most of his questions answered during the presentation. The International Students seem to be shown a market that is available to them he was glad to see that they were doing something for the local youth as well. The difference in budget for local compared to international students is it isn't as expensive to promote and the Office of Immigration is part of the process with International Students.

Councillor Buchanan wondered what percent of the 565 New Comers have found jobs here. Research shows that 98 percent are employed or found businesses to operate. Professional and entrepreneurial individuals are the targeted individuals. They are focused on high-end immigrants who have the commitment to stay here.

Warden Patterson wondered if they were researching jobs before they came here and very little research is done prior to them coming.

Councillor MacInnis wondered if the Private Sector was privy to the information. They are very professional about the information they give out. It depends on what information the individuals want to give out to the developers.

Victoria County is the third entity contacted at this time and they still have a few presentations to do. International students want to experience different living arrangements they don't want to be on campus, which is why they are looking at loft-living.

Councillor MacCuspig thanked Ms. Oldford for coming wondered who you would contact if you had a business adventure? Would you make connection with the entrepreneur? They are careful not put out in right perspective there is a process going on for those interested in selling business. There is a managed process to deal with it.

Councillor MacNeil thanked Ms. Oldford for her presentation and wondered if the ex-patriot was a very project specific. Like the tar ponds, remediation, they all seem to be drying up. They see more and more projects being developed here. By using coal and promotion of Sydney as a port which are more for New Comers than Ex-Patriots. The market can be matched to individual sector.

Warden Morrison thanked Eileen Oldford and Joanne Buchanan for such a positive presentation and what the formal request was they were asking Victoria County for. They are requesting \$30,000 a year for 5 years.

*It was moved by Councillor MacCuspig, seconded by Deputy Warden Patterson, that CBCEDA's request for \$30,000 a year for 5 years be referred to budget discussions. Motion carried.*

**BREAK**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MARCH 12, 2012**

The minutes of the March 12, 2012, session of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspig, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of March 12, 2012, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**GENIVAR SCHEDULE**

Sandy has received a schedule,

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Thursday, April 12 in Ingonish an Open House from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.,

Friday, April 13 in Cape North from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm.,

Saturday, April 14, in Boularderie between 10:30 am – 12:00 noon,

Middle River between 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm,

Iona between 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm.

The schedule was acceptable so Sandy will send out an advertisement in local standard and website on dates, times, and locations of the open houses. The standard is published on April 2, 2012 so the ad will go in as well as our own website. Sandy will email council the information.

**AMBROSE WHITE**

Correspondence was received on the Middle River School Closure and the old Iona School.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that a letter be sent to the School Board to expedite the removal of the barn and clean up the grounds at the Old Iona School and to demolish/remove the school building. Motion carried.

**WATER CONTRACT**

Sandy has a meeting scheduled next Monday on the Water Utility Contract.

**NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

It as requested that Jessica Farrell, representative for Strait Transit be invited to a session of Council to do a presentation.

**District #1**

There is an issue with roaming dogs in the area. Letters were sent and he hasn't seen and difference yet.

**District #2**

Councillor MacCuspig informed that he had attended a workshop in Cheticamp in the morning on erosion and it was very interesting. One thing he learned was that in,

managing erosion many people put rocks along a property to prevent erosion but it just moves along to the next piece of shoreline. He will get more information and link it to the Victoria County Website.

*It was moved by Councillor MacCuspic, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that we link the information on Erosion to the Victoria County Website. Motion carried.*

Also there was a problem with roads in Hunters Mountain in the morning with slush. DOT told them they were just waiting for salt to come from Ashfield. There was an accident on Yankee Line that morning. He will get more information on it. The Operators were laid off on Saturday.

#### **District #4**

There are two sections of road one on the North River end and one on the North Shore end of the Cabot Trail that are scheduled to be done and Councillor MacInnis is requesting a letter be sent to Minister Estabrooks, to have them done at same time. Economically they should be done at same time. It will be another four years before it is completed.

*It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that a letter be sent to Minister Estabrooks, Minister of Highways, requesting the two sections of road on the Cabot Trail to be done in 2012, the one in North River and the one from Barrachois Bridge to the North Shore. Also a letter be sent to request a meeting be set up with Minister Estabrooks and Steve MacDonald on the road conditions in Victoria County. Motion carried.*

Councillor MacInnis asked Deputy Warden Patterson if he was attending the Seminar on Public Private Partnerships on the topic of the Englishtown Ferry would he find out if there are private monies to put abutments at the Englishtown Crossing and put a bridge there. It is only a 300 foot span and you have to wait an average of twenty minutes each way. Would there possibly be an interest in the potential of putting a bridge across there. There is no harm in asking the question.

Councillor MacInnis wondered if the Municipality owned a tent that could be used for various festivals. The Municipality does not own a tent and never did. Did anyone hear anything on the park in Plaister closing, it has been there for years and rumour is there is going to be an announcement in April.

#### **District #8**

Again the problem is roads Councillor Buchanan had a copy of letters and signatures he wanted sent to Minister Estabrooks and Steve MacDonald, DOT, and

Department of Natural Resources, the road needs repairs and was at one time a listed road.

Councillor Buchanan had a request from Bay St Lawrence Community Centre in the amount of \$30,000.

*It was moved by Councillor Buchanan, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that the request for funding in the amount of \$30,000 from the Bay St. Lawrence Community Centre be referred to budget talks. Motion carried.*

#### **District #7**

Councillor Donovan asked where we were on the Septic Issue. Sandy advised that there was no proposal back from Island Vacuum. If he doesn't receive anything back by the first of April he will contact them again.

*It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that the request for funding for the Linger By the Sea Festival by the Neil's Harbour/New Haven Development Organization be referred to budget talks. Motion carried.*

#### **District #6**

Councillor Donovan questioned on behalf of Councillor Dauphinee on the Linemen from North being sent to Sydney so frequently, and when there is an outage north they have to wait for them to come back. They are working sixteen hour days. The outage in Dingwall they had to wait for the linemen from north to come back from Sydney, and the outage in White Point they had to get them from Cheticamp/Baddeck.

*It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that a letter be sent to the CEO of Nova Scotia Power to request the Linemen from North be left alone. Motion carried.*

#### **District #5**

Deputy Warden Patterson commented that he heard through the grapevine that we no longer have Ken Paruch at NS Power and that his position has not been replaced yet.

*It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacInnis that the Municipality investigates why there was no one in this position now and who is the contact. Motion carried.*

*It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that Jessica Farrell, Strait Transit be invited to a Victoria County Municipal Council Session. Motion carried.*



It was questioned whether we had a noise by-law and discussion pointed out that it came up before a few times and it was turned down. If it is just a case of noise coming from a neighbor next door then it would fall under disturbing the peace, and you can call the police.

Discussion again on roads, they are crumbling away as you drive on them. Repairing them is a waste of money. The Minister of Highways should be asked to come down and show him the roads. They are a safety issue now. Three months after they are repaired they are worse than ever. It was decided it was a priority now for the Minister to come down and see our roads and to have a plan as patching is not working.

### **District #3**

Warden Morrison had a request to add to the road list of issues. He wanted the grader be sent to Beinn Bhreagh Road there is a section over there that is quite bad.

Another request was from Madeleine Harvey, representing the committee on the Kites to Flight project happening this summer. They applied to ECBC and local investors for funding for the project. The total cost is \$50,000. It is a multiday event on dimension of kites. There will be well known enthusiasts and demonstrations, local events, etc. It is a unique place for it and hope to attract tourists, local and international, to launch an annual Kite Festival. They are requesting sponsor ship from the Municipality in the amount of \$5000. It will be held on July 1<sup>st</sup> weekend.

*It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that the request for \$5000 be sponsored for the Kites to Flight project dependent on the approval of funding from ECBC. Motion carried.*

Councillor MacInnis wondered where the replica of the Silver Dart was and it is housed nearby until the Hydrofoil Hall is reconfigured at the Bell Museum to suspend it from the ceiling.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Sandy had a message today from Scotia Windfields on the wind turbine in Bucklaw. There will be an information session on Wednesday of this week at noon at the Maritime Inn in Port Hawkesbury. Once we know the information we will set up an information session for Council in May. It is an open invitation to anyone who wishes to attend the session in Port Hawkesbury.

A letter was received on the acquisition of the property in Ingonish the federal government want an answer before the end of the week. Discussion arose on the cost to the Municipality if they allow the four fishermen to the use of the ramp located on the property as part of the conditions of the acquisition of the land. The municipality would

have to maintain the ramps. There is already a ramp available to the fishermen but they continue to use this one. Are we prepared to maintain it if we have to? We have to maintain it and allow the use for five years from the date of conveyance of the land. If it is not maintained we can't use it.

*It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that a letter be sent back that we are still interested in the acquisition of the property but not prepared to accept the acquisition on those terms. Motion carried.*

### **NS POWER**

Stacy Pineau commented that she spoke with NS Power and the Line Crews were working on Capital Projects that is why they were taken to Sydney for jobs. These projects will be going on over the next few weeks. They have a meeting scheduled tomorrow on it and they will continue to talk with Councillor Dauphinee on the matter. There is capital work allotted for Ingonish and that is coming up as well. It is give and take in the different areas.

On Ken Paruch there is not a direct replacement as of yet for him but there are a few people doing various duties to cover the position, not just one direct person in place at the moment. One contact is Paul MacKay.

Council commented to Stacey that it is not just give and take that we had 16 Line men and now we have three.

### **ADJOURN/IN-CAMERA**

*It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that the meeting be adjourned and council go to in In Camera session. Motion carried.*

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO