

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
May 28, 2012

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, May 28, 2012, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Warden Bruce Morrison in the Chair.

Present were:

District #1 – Paul MacNeil
District #2 – Keith MacCuspig
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
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

Absent was:

District #8 – Johnny Buchanan (Work Related Absence)

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 MacCuspig, that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.

SCOTIAN WINDFIELDS PRESENTATION

Courtesy of Council was extended to Dan Roscoe, P.Eng., Chief Operating Officer, Scotian Windfields Inc., who was in attendance to make a presentation on the Bucklaw Community Wind Turbine Project (copy attached).

Mr. Roscoe provided an introduction on Scotian Windfields Inc. They are a developer of renewable energy projects including:

- Utility Scale Wind
- Embedded wind generation
- Small wind

- Solar Thermal
- Carbon Consulting

Mr. Roscoe advised that there are eight (8) community owned windfield companies in the Province and each have invested in Scotian Windfields to develop renewable energy projects.

The Isle Wind Field Inc. is the Cape Breton owned company and their role is to raise investment and promote renewable energy. They are in the process of starting a CEDIF (Community Economic Development Investment Fund) offering to raise local investment and have raised preliminary funds and invested in Scotian Windfields Inc. Isle Wind Field Inc. covers all of Cape Breton and they are currently looking for potential investors and to expand their Board of Directors.

Mr. Roscoe advised that all COMFIT (Community Feed In Tariff) projects are being development with a joint venture with WEB. WEB is a community owned developer from Austria, with over 3000 investors and 250 MW in operation.

Mr. Roscoe outlined the direct community involvement and management structure. He also outlined the context of the COMFIT Program. The price is set in advance by the UARB based on cost of production. Eligible organizations include municipalities, CEDIFs, First Nations, Co-ops, not for profits and universities. The projects include wind, co-gen, tidal and hydro.

All COMFIT projects require an environmental checklist, community support, First Nations review, communications review, culture and heritage review and a building/development permit.

Mr. Roscoe outlined the typical project for Scotian Windfields COMFIT. He then reviewed the proposed Bucklaw Community Wind Turbine project outlining the proposed turbine, benefits, community dividend, timeline and community support.

Mr. Roscoe advised that the location in Bucklaw is on the MacRitchie property. He indicated that the strictest setbacks in place in the province are 1000 meters from homes and this project will exceed these setback requirements with the nearest home being 1200 meters away.

Approval was received in the spring for this project and 2012 will comprise of wind testing and a thorough process of engagement with the Municipality and public meetings and consultation. It is anticipated that construction and installation will be done in the summer of 2013.

Scotian Windfields Inc. is seeking a letter of support from the Municipality, which is a Department of Energy requirement. They will also be looking for community support for public consultation and local CEDIFs.

Mr. Roscoe indicated that at any time further information can be obtained by contacting Gay Harley, Community Relations with Scotian Windfields Inc. and he provided the contact information.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that the Fundy Tidal COMFIT project approved for the Barra Strait required a letter of support from the Municipality to accompany their application and he questioned on the difference with this project. Mr. Roscoe indicated that a letter of support from the Municipality is a requirement and he was here tonight seeking this support.

A question was raised on the decibel reading of a single wind turbine and Mr. Roscoe explained how noise is measured and indicated that a typical turbine as is to be located in Bucklaw would be around 40 decibels and this is very quiet.

Councillor MacCuspic questioned on the Bucklaw project and the fact there has been little public consultation or input in this project. Tonight is the first public meeting and Mr. Roscoe indicated there will be others. A public meeting will be held at the Bras d'Or Yacht Club at 7:00 p.m. this evening.

The number of wind turbines located throughout the province was questioned and Mr. Roscoe indicated that there are approximately 200 province-wide now and these include small and large scale turbines.

The question was raised as to who is the lead on the Bucklaw project and Mr. Roscoe indicated that Scotian Windfields mandate is to help develop projects. They are handling the location and the technical design work. Isle Wind Field Inc. is in the process of starting a CEDIF offering to raise local investment.

Mr. Roscoe indicated that it was a property owner from Bucklaw that came to them about this development.

The communications plan for the project was questioned. Other than an article in the *Victoria Standard*, there were no letters or notices forwarded to the local community. Mr. Roscoe indicated that to this point, communication has been mostly by word of mouth and tonight is essentially the start of the process. The communication plan will begin tonight with this meeting and the public meeting to follow. Up to date information will be placed on their website and the environmental impact statement will also be available on the website.

The setback of 1200 meters was discussed and the question was raised as to whether a setback of 1500 meters would be better accepted by the community. Mr. Roscoe advised that in Nova Scotia there are setbacks from 300 meters to 1000 meters, and none as yet that meet the 1200 meter setback. Most setbacks fall in the 500 to 600 meter range.

A question was raised as to who determine the setback requirements and it was indicated that the Municipality can establish the setback requirements through a by-law.

The question was raised as to whether any of the equipment required for a turbine could be produced locally and it was indicated that the Trenton Power Plant has been converted to produce towers. Mr. Roscoe also advised that he felt major components could be manufactured locally.

The project cost was questioned and it was indicated that the cost would be \$5 million dollars.

Discussion took place on the benefits to Victoria County, the CEDIF and how much has to be raised locally and the debt that can be carried for this project. The partnerships and investors that are foreseen were discussed.

Warden Morrison indicated that as Council had further business to deal with, this would conclude the presentation and question period and any further information could be obtained from Mr. Roscoe outside this meeting or at the public meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Bras d'Or Yacht Club.

Warden Morrison advised that Council would give consideration to the request for support and advise at a later time.

Mr. Roscoe was extended a vote of thanks for his presentation and was excused at this time.

RECESS

Warden Morrison announced that Council would recess for ten (10) minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MAY 14, 2012

The Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of May 14, 2012, were presented to approval.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that the May 14, 2012, minutes of Victoria County Municipal Council be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Wind Turbine By-Law

Deputy Warden Patterson questioned on whether John Bain had been contacted with regard to the draft Wind Turbine By-Law. In light of the presentation just received, it was felt this draft by-law should be reviewed in the near future. Sandy Hudson advised that he will also forward a copy of the draft to Genivar for their review and comment.

Summer Student Positions

An advertisement for the two summer student positions will be in the *Victoria Standard* tomorrow. The positions are an Enviro-Depot Recycling Attendant for the Neil's Harbour Enviro-Depot and a Child/Student Special Events Coordinator for the Physical Active Living Strategy.

Paving Plant

It was indicated that there are some concerns with regard to the location of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal's paving plant in Dingwall.

Island Vacuum

Sandy Hudson advised that the Department of Environment are still reviewing the closure plan submitted by Island Vacuum.

Stacey Pineau Report

Sandy Hudson read a draft letter to be forwarded to all staff regarding Stacey Pineau's report. The letter will be signed by the Warden, CAO and President of CUPE Local 2694 and a copy of the draft report will be forwarded to all staff.

Direct Deposit for Payroll

Council was advised that direct deposit for payroll is still being investigated.

NSP

Nova Scotia Power is holding meetings throughout the Province to see how to better serve their customers. They have invited Council to a meeting at the Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre on June 13, 2012, at 6:30 p.m.

The question was raised as to whether a meeting could be held in the Baddeck area making it easier for Council to attend. This is to be investigated with NSP and if not possible, then the second option would be to attend a meet in CBRM. If neither of these options are possible, those who can attend will travel to Port Hawkesbury.

2012-2013 BUDGET

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspic, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that the May 22, 2012, Budget Committee minutes be approved and the 2012-2013 budget be approved with tax rates of \$1.20 residential and \$2.15 commercial. Motion carried.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that the interest rate on taxes be 10% per annum and the interest date be set for September 1, 2012. Motion carried.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #1

Councillor MacNeil advised that it is official that the Iona Peninsula is now under the jurisdiction of the Port Hawkesbury DOT&IR Office. He felt the whole situation was handled poorly.

Councillor MacNeil has been in contact with Stephen MacDonald with regard to concerns in his area, as he is unaware who to contact. Mr. MacDonald has helped him with the issues and a meeting will hopefully be arranged in the next week with the Area Manager from Port Hawkesbury.

Keith Bain, MLA, indicated that he met with Minister Estabrooks concerning this issue and was told the changes were a result of “compulsory arbitration” and if there was a problem with the change the Union could grieve it. He passed these comments onto the Baddeck office to inform the Union membership.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that Stephen MacDonald advised that the work promised for District #1 will be done this year.

A letter was forwarded to Minister Estabrooks expressing Council’s concern and requesting a meeting with him. Keith Bain indicated he would follow up with the Minister also in this regard. If the Minister is unable to come to the area to meet, a small delegation will travel to Halifax to meet with him to outline the concerns.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis questioned when Jessica Farrell, Strait Area Transit, would be coming to Council. Ms. Farrell provided information which was forwarded to Council, but it was indicated they would still like her to appear before Council. An appropriate date for her presentation to Council will be arranged.

Councillor MacInnis brought up the matter of the Community Garden and concern with regard to the cost of same. Sandy Hudson advised that some of the materials have been donated and the garden should come in well under budget.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Deputy Warden Patterson, that a letter be forwarded to Joella Foulds congratulating her on her appointment to the “Order of Canada”. Motion carried.

Councillor MacInnis requested that the August, 2012, meeting of Council be held in Indian Brook. If Council is held in August, they will meet in Indian Brook. If not, a September meeting of Council will be held in Indian Brook.

District #7

Councillor Donovan indicated that a Safer Communities Meeting was held recently in Northern Victoria and the question was raised on the status of the Police Advisory Board.

Sandy Hudson advised that the appointment of the provincial representative to this Board has not been made as yet.

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that a letter be forwarded to Minister Estabrooks, DOT&IR, requesting that consideration be given to paving the entire White Point/New Haven Road, better known as the “Coastal Loop”, as this road is a popular destination for the tourists, it has had no major work done since it was paved in the 1970’s, and with the location of the asphalt plant in the area, it may be the only chance to bring the road up to acceptable standards for future years. A copy of this letter is to be forwarded to Keith Bain, MLA; Stephen MacDonald and Gerard Jessome. Motion carried.

The matter of streetlight allotment for 2012-2013 was discussed.

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Deputy Warden Patterson, that two streetlights be approved for each municipal district for 2012-2013. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Deputy Warden Patterson, that a streetlight be approved for installation on Seymour Lane, once the pole has been erected. Motion carried.

District #6

Councillor Dauphinee questioned on the second round of Green Gyms. Sandy Hudson advised that the first four sets of equipment are to be delivered this month and once it is ensured

that the equipment if appropriate, an Expression of Interest will be issued for the remaining four districts.

Councillor Dauphinee brought up the matter of extending the Ingonish Water System to include the area towards Ski Cape Smokey and Cape Smokey Estates. He questioned on the possibility of conducting a feasibility study on the costs.

The Municipality have an established infrastructure priority list and there were other projects with higher priority on the list.

The possibility of applying for PCAP funding for a feasibility study was discussed.

The infrastructure priority list is to be brought to Council for review.

District #5

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that \$1,104.06 be approved from the District #5 budget for the Ross Ferry Volunteer Fire Department for student grant top-up. Motion carried.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that two street lights be approved for installation at civic addresses on Steele's Cross Road and New Harris Road. Motion carried.

District #3

Deputy Warden Patterson assumed the Chair.

Warden Morrison brought up the matter of the changes to the EI Program and the major effects this will have on the seasonal employees in our County. A letter was forwarded to the Honourable Lisa Raitt, Minister of Labour, in this regard following the last Council meeting.

Warden Morrison returned to the Chair.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO