

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
July 16, 2012

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, July 16, 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 MacCuspic, that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.

GENIVAR

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Nick Pryce and Jeffrey Haggett, Genivar, who were in attendance to present the final document for the Victoria County Alternative Energy Strategy.

Mr. Pryce indicated that they presented the draft report in January and conducted Open Houses in five locations throughout the County and the information obtained at these sessions has been included in the final report.

Jeffrey Haggett congratulated Victoria County on having two approved COMFIT applications in the Municipality. He then presented Council with an update on the outcomes of the public engagement sessions indicating the public feedback and scoring on opportunities for Victoria County and municipal planning strategies and by-laws.

Mr. Pryce provided Council with input on the draft Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-Law pertaining to Wind Turbine Development.

Councillor MacNeil questioned on setbacks and in particular the Health Canada survey on health issues regarding wind turbines. Mr. Pryce indicated he was skeptical with regard to the comments contained in the report.

Councillor MacCuspic questioned on the noise level of the wind turbines and Mr. Pryce indicated he has stood under a lot of turbines and he was totally surprised that they are not noisy.

Councillor MacInnis indicated that from where he lives, he can see the twin stacks at the Lingan Power Generating Station and he sees the pollution they emit daily. He indicated that in his opinion, alternative energy would be welcome.

Councillor Dauphinee questioned on the visual appearance of wind turbines and wind turbine farms. Mr. Pryce indicated that they are noticeable and tourists appear to like same.

Deputy Warden Patterson indicated that the public are addicted to energy and decisions are required on what is appropriate for the future. Mr. Pryce indicated that last week he was in Amherst and visited the 15 wind turbine farm there. He stated that he parked 150 meters away and there was no sound.

Discussion took place and Mr. Pryce indicated that a good site to visit to obtain more information is Ted Talks.

Warden Morrison thanked the gentlemen for the presentation of the completed Alternative Energy Strategy Study and advised that this is a separate issue from the MPS and By-Law on Wind Turbine Development in the County.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that Genivar's Alternative Energy Strategy Study document for the Municipality of the County of Victoria be accepted. Motion carried.

RECESS

Warden Morrison advised that Council would recess for five minutes.

SEAFORTH ENERGY

Courtesy of Council was extended to Bruce Thompson, Seaforth Energy, who was in attendance to make a presentation entitled "Energize the Local Economy with the Small Wind Energy NS Community Feed In Tariff with an AOC 15/50 wind Turbine" (copy attached).

Mr. Thompson advised that Seaforth Energy is a Nova Scotia (Dartmouth) based wind turbine manufacturer with a 15 year track record of manufacturing, distributing and installing the AOC 15/50 kW wind turbine around the world.

The AOC 15/50 kW wind turbine is the largest of the small wind technology, with a total height of 38m. One AOC 15/50 kW wind turbine is capable of producing electricity to power 10 to 20 average homes. The turbine freely rotates to align with wind direction and is available for installation wherever there is 3 Phase Power. There is ample grid supply for the AOC 15/50 in all jurisdictions.

Mr. Thompson indicated that 5 50 kW projects will deliver \$5 million plus in new money over 20 years to the region. Seaforth Energy have the largest installed base of active turbines in their size class in the world. He outlined the technical specifications of the wind turbines.

The AOC 15/50 has a cut in wind speed of 10.2 mph; a shutdown wind speed of 50 mph; and a peak survival wind speed of 133 mph. The AOC 15/50 has been subjected to significant third party testing and is recognized as the world's most proven 50 kW wind turbine.

Mr. Thomspon outlined the COMFIT considerations, project cost structure and financial alternatives. For municipalities, the Municipal Finance Corporation offers financial support through Service Nova Scotia and providing financing for small wind COMFIT projects for municipalities under special directive.

Mr. Thompson provided information on online monitoring and how to get involved with COMFIT. He provided Council with his contact information and indicated that he can be contacted at any time for further information.

Deputy Warden Patterson indicated that he toured Seaforth Energy's plant recently and it was very interesting to see leading edge technology in the middle of Dartmouth and he congratulated the company on their leadership in this field.

Councillor Dauphinee questioned on how close you would have to be to 3 Phase Power for this technology and Mr. Thompson responded.

Councillor Buchanan questioned on why they became involved in the 50 kW technology and Mr. Thompson outlined how it evolved.

Councillor MacInnis questioned on the life expectancy of the technology and he was advised that there is a 30 year design life.

Councillor MacCuspic questioned on the need for 3 Phase Power and he was advised that these turbines can only be installed where there is 3 Phase Power.

Councillor MacNeil questioned whether they had any sites located on Cape Breton Island and Mr. Thompson advised that there is a 15/50 kW located at Eskasoni which is presently being refurbished. It has been located there for the past 10 years. It is located on an area next to the Band Council office and one house and there have never been any noise complaints or other complaints registered.

Alica Lake questioned whether the location of the wind turbines has any effect on property values and Mr. Thompson responded there there is little or no effect on property values. The turbines are located in suitable areas.

Warden Morrison extended a vote of thanks to Mr. Thompson for his presentation and he was excused at this time.

BY-LAW TO AUTHORIZE THE VOTING BY TELEPHONE/INTERNET FOR THE 2012 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

A Public Hearing was held prior to Council on the “By-Law to Authorize the Voting by Telephone/Internet for the 2012 Municipal Elections”. No public were in attendance and no written submissions were received.

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, to approve the second (final) reading of the “By-Law to Authorize the Voting by Telephone/Internet for the 2012 Municipal Elections”. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JUNE 25, 2012

The minutes of the June 25, 2012, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of June 25, 2012, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

NOTICE OF MOTION

At the previous meeting a Notice of Motion was made that a decision on BABTA’s financial request would be made at this meeting. Also the request from the Bay St. Lawrence Community Centre is to be considered.

Additional financial information was received from BABTA concerning their request. Councillor MacCuspic indicated that he visited the Baddeck VIC and outlined the setup of the facility to Council.

BABTA are asking for \$20,000.00. From the financial information received it appears that their total shortfall is \$14,000.00 - \$7,000.00 from both the previous year and the current year.

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that \$14,000.00 be approved for BABTA. Motion carried.

BABTA is to be advised that there are no guarantees that annual funding will be available from the Municipality.

The Bay St. Lawrence Community Centre request for \$20,000.00 was reviewed. There was a question raised on outstanding monies owed to Revenue Canada, as well as other outstanding invoices.

This matter is to be tabled until the July 30, 2012, Council meeting. Councillor Buchanan will obtain clarification on the monies owed by the Bay St. Lawrence Community Centre and report his findings at the July 30, 2012, meeting.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #1

Councillor MacNeil advised that he met with Charlie MacDonald, Executive Director of Maintenance and Operations, Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, concerning the boundary change affecting the Iona Peninsula. They will be monitoring the change to see whether it will work, but there was no timeline provided.

Councillor MacNeil also advised that he has corresponded with Darren Blunden, Area Manager in the Port Hawkesbury Office, who now looks after the Iona Peninsula and was advised that there has been no money allocated from this jurisdiction for work in this area this year. Scheduled meetings with Darren Blunden have been cancelled and Councillor MacNeil indicated that it is hoped that in the near future a meeting will be arranged with Darren Blunden, Robert Digout and Stephen MacDonald from DOT&IR concerning District #1.

District #2

Councillor MacCuspig brought up the matter of lack of maintenance and repairs to the bridge at Uisge Ban Falls.

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspig, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that a letter be forwarded to Merrill Bustin, Department of Natural Resources, requesting they carry out regular maintenance and address the bridge issue at Uisge Ban Falls as soon as possible. Motion carried.

Councillor MacCuspic updated Council on the fracking presentation held recently at the Baddeck Community Centre which was sponsored by Pitu'paq.

Councillor MacCuspic indicated that he received some concern with regard to the lack of visibility from the Community Garden. The new sign and tall grass impede visibility onto Grant Street.

Councillor MacCuspic brought up the matter of the civic address signs which are now to be handled by the Eastern District Planning Commission. Sandy Hudson advised that this will be a discussion item at a meeting with John Bain, Director, Eastern District Planning Commission.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis brought up a concern with regard to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans decision to discontinue the issuing of lobster tags. This will open the gates to illegal fishery.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor Donovan, to forward a letter to the Honourable Keith Ashfield, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, requesting that the Department continue to issue lobster tags. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that a letter of congratulations be forwarded to the organizers of the Englishtown Mussel Festival for their successful event. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that a letter be forwarded to Rebecca Blakeney congratulating her on her selection as Miss Teen Maritimes. Motion carried.

District #8

Councillor Buchanan questioned on when the expressions of interest would be issued for the second round of green gyms.

Sandy Hudson advised that the first four green gyms ordered have not been received as yet. They were supposed to be delivered in May but since that time a number of delay notices have been received from the manufacturer. A \$20,000.00 down payment was made on this equipment and funding has been received from ECBC. This will be a matter for the Solicitor if the equipment is not received shortly.

Councillor Buchanan advised that the 21st Annual Crabfest and Fishing Derby will be held in Bay St. Lawrence on Sunday, July 22, 2012.

District #7

Councillor Donovan questioned on the County signage that is to be located at the County lines at Big Interval and Middle River. This matter is presently being investigated with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal signage personnel.

Councillor Donovan questioned on the funding for the demolition of the former Legion property in Neil's Harbour. \$7,000.00 was approved and the building is being demolished today. A copy of an invoice is to be forwarded to the Municipality for payment.

Councillor Donovan requested the use of the County flag for the Linger By The Sea Festival.

District #6

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that a letter of appreciation be forwarded to Gordie Sampson for hosting his songwriter's circle in Ingonish this year. Motion carried.

Councillor Dauphinee brought up the matter of the Park Warden's house that was recently acquired by the Municipality. It will be used for medical personnel who come in to work in the area. The house is unfurnished with the exception of a fridge and stove.

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that Sandy Hudson be authorized to acquire furnishings as required for the house. Motion carried.

Councillor Dauphinee indicated that application was made by Ski Cape Smokey for funding for a seniors exercise program through the Department of Seniors. He has provided \$500 from his district budget for this project and requires a letter of support from the Municipality.

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that a letter of support be provided for Ski Cape Smokey. Motion carried.

District #5

Deputy Warden Patterson indicated that the actual amount of the District #5 grant for the Big Bras d'Or Ferry Wharf Restoration Society amounted to \$5,721.25.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that \$5721.25 be approved from the District #5 budget for the Big Bras d'Or Ferry Wharf Restoration Society. Motion carried.

District #3

Deputy Warden Patterson assumed the Chair.

It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that a letter of congratulations be forwarded to Norman Bernard on his re-election as Chief of Wagmatcook. Motion carried.

It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that a letter be forwarded to Stephen MacDonald, DOT&IR, requesting that they address the high grass issue on the former Pop Shoppe property on Old Margaree Road. Motion carried.

Warden Morrison returned to the Chair.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Economic Development

Warden Morrison and CAO Hudson attended a two day session on the RDA's at the Inverary Resort last week. A presentation was made on blending the two RDA's in Cape Breton and Victoria County have the option to join an RDA. A presentation is to be made to Victoria County Municipal Council on August 13, 2012. Blaine Gillis, SHRDA, and Eileen Oldford, CBCEDA, will be in attendance.

Pineau Report

Councillor Dauphinee indicated that there were a number of action items to be undertaken in the Stacey Pineau report. The first is direct deposit for payroll.

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that direct deposit for payroll be implemented effective January 1, 2013. Motion carried.

The second item to be dealt with at this time is the recognition of staff for years of service.

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that a staff recognition program be initiated to recognize staff for years of service beginning at 15 years of service and every 5 years thereafter. Motion carried.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council will be held at the North Shore & District Volunteer Fire Department Hall in Indian Brook on Monday, July 30, 2012, at 5:00 p.m.

Councillor MacInnis requested that Council meet at the Little River Wharf at 1:30 p.m. prior to Council for an excursion on his boat.

CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence was previously circulated to Council.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor Donovan, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO