

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
July 30, 2012

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the North Shore & District Volunteer Fire Department Hall, Indian Brook, on Monday, July 30, 2012, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

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 extended a vote of thanks to Councillor Merrill MacInnis for the boat cruise held prior to Council.

The agenda was presented for approval. Warden Morrison advised that Jessica Farrell, Strait Area Transit Commission, cancelled this afternoon and would not be in attendance.

It was moved by Councillor Buchanan, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that the agenda be approved with the noted change. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2012

Courtesy of Council was extended to Grant Burgess, C.A., Grant Thornton LLP Chartered Accountants, who presented the Draft Non-Consolidated Financial Statements for the Municipality of the County of Victoria for the year ended March 31, 2012.

Mr. Burgess then reviewed the draft financial statements in detail with Council. He reported that the Municipality ended the year with an operating surplus of \$27,093, based on a total budget of \$11,150,123.00.

Mr. Burgess indicated that overall the Municipality had a reasonably good year. He expressed some concern on the tax receivables which increased this year and indicated that work must be undertaken to get the receivables down. The provincial average for tax receivables is 9 to 10% and the Municipality stands at 17%.

A general discussion took place and Mr. Burgess answered various questions related to the draft financial statements.

Mr. Burgess reiterated that overall it was a good year and he recommended work be undertaken on collecting tax receivables. Sandy Hudson advised that he has asked Pauline Davis to provide him with a list of the top 10 accounts owing and he will contact them directly, first by phone, then by letter and failing any action being taken, then the matter will be referred to the Solicitor for action.

Warden Morrison extended a vote of thanks to Mr. Burgess for his report.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JULY 16, 2012

The minutes of the July 16, 2012, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of July 16, 2012, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Bay St. Lawrence Community Centre

Councillor Buchanan presented clarification on the Bay St. Lawrence Community Centre's request for funding. Sandy Hudson also met with Amy MacKinnon today on this matter.

It was moved by Councillor Buchanan, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that the Bay St. Lawrence Community Centre's financial request for \$20,000.00 be approved. Motion carried.

Furniture – Park Warden's House

Councillor Dauphinee questioned on the status of the furnishings for the Park House in Neil's Harbour.

Sandy Hudson advised that the Cape Breton District Health Authority will be looking at the house on Thursday and action will progress from there.

Neil's Harbour Legion Property

David Donovan presented the first bill for the disposal of the former Neil's Harbour Legion. The property has been turned over to the Neil's Harbour Development Association for community use. No plans have been made for the property as yet. Council previously approved \$7,000 for removal of this building.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #8

Councillor Buchanan questioned on the status of the installation of the street light on Fraser Road. An email was forwarded to Nova Scotia Power in this regard.

District #7

Councillor Donovan brought up a concern with regard to the discontinuance of security personnel at the Buchanan Memorial Hospital, Neil's Harbour, after 7:00 p.m.

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that a letter be forwarded to the Cape Breton District Health Authority expressing concern on the lack of security at Buchanan Memorial Hospital in the evening and overnight hours and request that they investigate this matter. Motion carried.

Dr. Diane Calvert-Simms, CEO of the Cape Breton District Health Authority, is to be invited to a future meeting of Council.

District #2

Councillor MacCuspic indicated that he would be relocating an existing street light and would provide the details to the Municipal Office to place the relocation order.

District #6

Councillor Dauphinee brought forward a concern with regard to the ambulance located at the Ingonish Beach Volunteer Fire Department. He has been advised that this ambulance is not staffed locally and is staffed out of Sydney.

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that Sandy Hudson investigate and obtain clarification on the status of the ambulance located at Ingonish Beach. Motion carried.

Councillor Dauphinee advised that x-ray work has been completed on the ski lift at Ski Cape Smokey and the reports have come back good.

District #5

Deputy Warden Patterson advised that he would also be relocating an existing street light and would provide the details to the Municipal Office.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis questioned on the status of the Cabot Trail Working Association. Some signs located in his district by the Working Association are in need of paint.

Councillor Donovan indicated that it has been some time since the Working Association has met and he will make contact to find out the status of same.

Councillor MacInnis questioned on whether there has been any consultation with Nona MacDermid. Sandy Hudson advised that he met with her and she is in the process of conducting Business Development seminars in conjunction with CBU that will take place in August/September. She will complete her contract duties in October.

District #1

Councillor MacNeil advised that he met with Darren Blunden and Steve MacDonald, Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, at the Little Narrows Highway Garage. It was a good meeting and there are a lot of issues to be addressed.

Councillor MacNeil requested that a meeting be arranged with the Minister and Deputy Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal during the UNSM Conference in Halifax if possible. Contact is to be made with Keith Bain, MLA, to assist in arranging this meeting.

Councillor MacNeil questioned on the availability of “No Smoking” signs and he was advised they are available at the Municipal Office.

Councillor MacNeil will be forwarding information to relocate an existing street light to another location in his district.

Councillor MacNeil brought up the matter of locating a street light at the tennis court property in Little Narrows. A pole is required and he questioned on the best way to proceed in this regard. It was suggested he contact Nova Scotia Power’s community liaison representative requesting that they provide the necessary pole as a community service.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that the draft non-consolidated financial statements for the Municipality of the County of Victoria for the year ended March 31, 2012, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

District #3

Deputy Warden Patterson assumed the Chair.

It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that the CAO initiate tax receivables collection by contacting the top 10 accounts owing, first verbally, then by letter and failing that, they be referred to the Solicitor for action. Motion carried.

It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacCuspig, that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal requesting that roadside mowing be undertaken in the Village of Baddeck, particularly in the area of Harvey Drive. Motion carried.

Warden Morrison returned to the Chair.

NEW BUSINESS

It was felt that Robert Dauphinee, Director of Public Works, should be requested to attend Council to update on the water utilities and waste management.

Sandy Hudson advised that he will be coming to Council in September to report on his findings with regard to septic disposal and these issues could be included at that time.

CONTINUING CARE MONTH

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspig, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that the month of September be proclaimed "Continuing Care Month" in the Municipality of the County of Victoria. Motion carried.

HAULAGE OF WINTER SALT

Councillor MacCuspig advised that the Victoria County Truckers Association recently lost the tender to haul salt to Victoria County. The tender was awarded to a Pictou County based group who were the low tender.

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspig, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal expressing dissatisfaction with the process and selection of the hauling of salt to Victoria County. Motion carried.

THANK YOU

Warden Morrison extended a thank you to the public in attendance and to Councillor MacInnis for the hospitality provided.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, the meeting adjourned.

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO

