

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
August 13, 2012

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, August 13, 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 #8 – Johnny Buchanan

Also present were:

Sandy Hudson, CAO
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

Absent was:

District #7 – David Donovan

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Warden Morrison called the meeting to order and presented the agenda for approval.

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspig, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITIES PRESENTATION

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Eileen Oldford, Chief Executive Officer, CBCEDA; Blaine Gillis, Chief Executive Officer, SHRDA; and Cecil Clarke, Senior Executive Advisor for Economic Development Opportunities, CBCEDA.

Ms. Oldford advised that on May 22, 2012, ACOA announced it would cease to provide core funding to regional economic development authorities in Atlantic Canada as of next year. As a result, the Strait-Highlands Regional Development Agency (SHRDA) and the Cape Breton County Economic Development Authority (CBCEDA) joined forces to begin transition planning. Ms. Oldford then began their presentation on Transition Planning (copy attached).

Ms. Oldford updated Council on the transition planning that has taken place. SHRDA and CBCEDA have been collaborating on the development of a plan which will reflect on a new Island-wide Regional Development Organization for the Island. She outlined the guiding principles for the transition planning.

Mr. Gillis provided the transition plan considerations which included:

- Mandate and Mission
- Governance
- Partnerships
- Organization
- Human Resources
- Physical Space
- Financial Go-Forward

Ms. Oldford presented the tentative time line for the implementation of the transition plan considerations.

Discussion took place on Victoria County becoming a part of the proposed Island-wide Regional Development Organization. Ms. Oldford outlined some additional points for consideration when developing the resolution for the transitional organization which included:

- Participation is based on the existing funding formula for core funding and will be adjusted as municipal units join.
- Any additional funding from a municipal unit will be separate from core funding and will be for targeted and partnered projects or initiative.
- Reporting, accountability, management and governance models will be consistent with those of the current RDA Act, regulations and policies of the Province of Nova Scotia and will comply with municipal or federal requirements where required.
- Agreement to join the new agency will be in principle and subject to multi-year funding confirmation from the Province and ECBC.

Mr. Clarke indicated that there are presently 13 regional development authorities in the province and all are looking at how to navigate forward. Establishing the whole of Cape Breton Island as one economic development zone is key and he indicated that there is opportunity for Victoria County to be a part of this new organization. He also outlined his decision for leaving his contract position with CBCEDA.

Councillor MacNeil questioned on why there were two RDA's in Cape Breton and both Ms. Oldford and Mr. Gillis outlined how both organizations were established in the 1990's.

Councillor MacCuspic questioned on how this new organization would mesh with the Population Model and Ms. Oldford outlined that it would match it completely and is a natural

fit. Mr. Gillis indicated that he is the Chair of the Newcomers for the Province and reiterated Ms. Oldford's comments.

Councillor MacCuspic also suggested that he felt, should Victoria County join, that there should be two members from Victoria County on the Transition Board.

Councillor MacInnis questioned on the funding and Ms. Oldford indicated that it is the intent to maintain the funding amounts presently in effect. Both Ms. Oldford and Mr. Gillis outlined their present core funding amounts received from the province.

Discussion took place on the funding leveraged as a result of the core funding. It was indicated that change is good and the timing is perfect for Victoria County.

Councillor Dauphinee questioned whether Mulgrave was a member of the SHRDA and he was advised they are not.

Discussion took place on staffing for the new organization and whether there would be any job loss as a result. This will be reviewed during the transition period and according to the mandate of the organization.

Council was advised that in a two year period 78 newcomers have gone into business, resulting in 235 jobs.

Deputy Warden Patterson indicated that this is a great opportunity and what is good for one part of Cape Breton is good for the entire island. He questioned on the funding arrangements.

Ms. Oldford indicated that it is important for municipalities to prioritize what they want in the beginning and projects that are initiated should be on the radar.

Keith Bain, MLA, advised that he was in attendance to observe and had no comments.

Sandy Hudson questioned whether there would any debt brought over from the existing boards. He was advised that there would be no liabilities coming with the new organization.

Warden Morrison questioned on the process for appointing business and community representatives on the Board and he was advised that it is too early to speak on this issue at present. She outlined the present makeup on the CBCEDA Board, as did Mr. Gillis outline the current makeup on the SHRDA. Ms. Oldford indicated that there are specific criteria for such appointments.

Discussion took place on the CEO position within the new organization and Ms. Oldford indicated that this would be decided within the confines of the structure going forward.

Warden Morrison extended a vote of thanks for the presentation and presented Ms. Oldford, Mr. Gillis and Mr. Clarke each with a County golf shirt.

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspic, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that the Municipality support in principle a Cape Breton Island wide economic development council. Motion carried.

RECESS

Warden Morrison advised that Council would recess for 10 minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JULY 30, 2012

The minutes of the July 30, 2012, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of July 30, 2012, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Department of Fisheries and Oceans

Whether the letter concerning the lobster tag issue was sent to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans was questioned and Mr. Hudson advised that it was sent.

Tax Arrears

Sandy Hudson advised that he has sent out 10 letters to date regarding tax arrears. An arrangement to pay the arrears has been made with one account, some have been returned with the incorrect address and he is still waiting to hear from others. This will be an ongoing process and more letters will be forwarded on a regular basis.

Green Gyms

Solicitor MacDowell has contacted Green Gym Fitness Equipment concerning the status of Victoria County's order for the 4 sets of equipment. The manufacturer has replied that the equipment will be delivered by the end of August.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #6

Councillor Dauphinee advised that the Stanley Thompson statue unveiling will take place on September 16, 2012. A request has been made to declare September 16, 2012, “Stanley Thompson Day” in the Municipality.

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that September 16, 2012, be proclaimed “Stanley Thompson Day” in the Municipality of the County of Victoria. Motion carried.

Councillor Dauphinee advised that along with the plaque unveiling, there will be a special round of golf in the morning, and an afternoon reception following the unveiling.

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that the cost for any Council member wishing to golf and attend the celebrations be covered. Motion carried.

Those interested in golfing are to let Councillor Dauphinee know as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made.

Councillor Dauphinee questioned on the installation of water meters at the fire halls. Sandy Hudson advised that they are being installed to provide more accurate information of the water used. The halls will not receive bills.

Councillor Dauphinee expressed concern that the Ingonish Beach Fire Department hall is also utilized by the EMC's and they regularly wash vehicles there. He has asked Joe Doucette, Fire Chief, to advise that this discontinue.

Councillor Dauphinee brought up the matter again of the condition of the parking area at the Ingonish Beach Post Office. A letter was forwarded to Canada Post, but to date nothing has been done. He requested that he be provided with the contact information so he can check on this matter.

Councillor Dauphinee indicated that he attended the St. Paul Lighthouse designation ceremony.

Councillor Dauphinee questioned on the status of the Victoria County website upgrades and Sandy Hudson advised that he is working on this matter.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis brought up the matter of the small scale wind turbines. He questioned on what areas of the County are eligible for this development as they can only be erected in areas where there is 3 phase power.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor MacCuspig, that a letter be forwarded to Nova Scotia Power questioning on what areas of the Municipality have access to 3 phase power. Motion carried.

Councillor MacInnis questioned whether the trailers housing the Silver Dart replica have been checked to see that the current humidity is not affecting the condition of the replica.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that a letter be forwarded to the Chair of the Silver Dart Committee questioning on the status of the Silver Dart replica. Motion carried.

Councillor MacInnis brought up the matter of the unsightly premises at Wreck Cove that is to be removed.

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor MacCuspig, that the 30 day order to remedy condition be forwarded to the owner of the unsightly premises in Wreck Cove. Motion carried.

District #2

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspig, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal advising that the red warning light at Exit #7 is not working and again asking them to investigate the signage at Exit #10, (sign indicating left turning vehicles use centre lane and after this area, then place a keep right except to pass sign). Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspig, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that \$1,527.60 be approved for the Middle River Community Hall taxes from the District #2 budget. Motion carried.

Clarification was received for the funding request for the helipad at the Department of Natural Resources Depot. EHS staff has raised \$6,100 towards the cost of this project and the Municipality is being requested to provide \$14,777.00, the remainder of the project costs.

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspig, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that \$14,777.00 be approved for the helipad project. Motion carried.

District #1

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor MacCuspig, that \$1,500.00 be approved from the District #1 budget for the Washabuck Community Centre for top up for student grants. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that letters be forwarded to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal and the Department of Natural Resources concerning the problems as a result of beaver dams on the Red Point Road, MacKinnon's Harbour and St. Columba Roads in District #1, as well as in other areas of the County. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that a letter of congratulations be forwarded to the Washabuck Community Centre for the success of their recent festival. Motion carried.

District #8

Councillor Buchanan questioned on civic address signs and he was advised that the Building Inspector will be making the signs at the same cost of \$20.00.

Councillor Buchanan questioned on the water testing done in the Bay St. Lawrence area and Sandy Hudson advised that no results have been received as yet.

District #3

Deputy Warden Patterson assumed the Chair.

It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that a letter be forwarded to Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal requesting a meeting to discuss the location of additional "share the road" signs throughout the Municipality. Motion carried.

It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal requesting that they consider an alternate location for the Junction 105 sign in the area of Campbell Street. Motion carried.

Warden Morrison returned to the Chair.

DISTRICT BUDGET FUNDS

Sandy Hudson advised that a motion was passed in November, 2008, that in an election year, Councillors are to only spend $\frac{3}{4}$ of their district budget funds, so that $\frac{1}{4}$ would remain for the successful Councillor for the remainder of the fiscal year.

UNSM RESOLUTIONS

Sandy Hudson highlighted two resolutions that will come before the UNSM in September that Council should consider supporting – one from the Town of Amherst on the Atlantic Procurement Agreement and one from the District of Lunenburg that municipalities no longer be required to take over ownership of surplus school properties.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL

The turn at Roy Kerr's in Goose Cove will be realigned to the water side and Councillor MacInnis indicated that the County owned old wharf property in this area. He questioned whether any discussions were held between DOT&IR and the Municipality in this regard. The area must be filled in to accommodate the extension of the turn.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that a letter be forwarded to Stephen MacDonald, DOT&IR, concerning the relocation of the turn at Goose Cove. Motion carried.

TAX BILLS

Sandy Hudson advised that there are a significant number of tax bills being returned because of the incorrect or insufficient addresses. He indicated that he would be keeping Sara Nicholson on for a period of time to review the returned items and attempt to find correct addresses, so the tax bills can be forwarded correctly and taxes on these properties can be collected. Sara will also be working on the Municipal Election.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION

The packages for election candidates are now ready for pickup. Nomination day is September 11, 2012, and appointments can be made the week prior beginning on September 4, 2012.

Electors on the voting list will receive a letter and PIN number to allow them to vote electronically at the advance polling period. A notice will be placed in the media advising that those residents not receiving a PIN number are to contact the Returning Office to have their name included on the list and a PIN number will be generated.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Deputy Warden Patterson, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO

