

**VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**  
**October 1, 2012**

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, October 1, 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  
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 Dauphinee, that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 24, 2012**

The minutes of the September 24, 2012, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

**It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacCuspig, that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of September 24, 2012, be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

The use of reclaimed asphalt was questioned. Sandy Hudson advised that this material can only be used in warm weather, so this matter will be investigated further in the spring.

The shoulder of the road in Jamesville has not been repaired as of today.

Councillor Buchanan questioned on the status of the Corbett Road sign. This matter is still being investigated.

**DISTRICT CONCERNS**

**District #2**

Councillor MacCuspic brought up the Nova Scotia Business Inc. meeting to be held on Wednesday, October 3, 2012, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in Membertou.

**It was moved by Councillor MacCuspic, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that any Council member interested in attending this session be permitted to do so. Motion carried.**

**District #4**

Councillor MacInnis indicated that he has been asked to sit on an Agriculture Steering Committee and he questioned whether Council approval was necessary.

He was advised that he was previously appointed by Council to the Inverness-Victoria Federation of Agriculture, so no further approval was required.

Councillor MacInnis questioned on the unsightly premises matter in Wreck Cove and was advised that Sean Donovan, Administrator of Dangerous and Unightly Premises, EDPC, will be talking to the owner to have the trailer removed.

The Baddeck Christmas Parade will be held on December 1, 2012.

**District #7**

Councillor Donovan presented an invoice for removal of a seal carcass from his district.

**It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that a letter be forwarded to Honourable Stevan Blaney, Minister of Veterans Affairs, expressing Council's displeasure on the closure of the Veterans Affairs Office in Sydney. Motion carried.**

Councillor Donovan brought up the matter of the changes to EI that decreases the amount of money you can earn when on EI. The previous EI system clawed back EI claimants who worked part-time once their pay exceeded 40% of their benefits, or \$75 per week, whichever was greater. The new program reduced the claw back on the new earnings to 50%, kicking in with the first dollar earned, not at 40%. This is a detriment to both the worker and small business.

**It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that a letter be forwarded to Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, expressing Council's opposition to the changes in the EI system. Motion carried.**

**District #5**

Deputy Warden Patterson brought up the matter of the CAP assessment and the fact that when a property is sold, the CAP is removed. The purchasers of a property get a sense of what the taxes were prior to the purchase. With the CAP removed, the new owner's taxes are then higher. The responsibility of real estate personnel in this regard was discussed.

**It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that a letter of congratulations be forwarded to William Matheson on being selected Miss Ross Ferry. Motion carried.**

**District #3**

Deputy Warden Patterson assumed the Chair.

Warden Morrison brought up the matter of the discontinuance of counter service at Revenue Canada in Sydney.

**It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that a letter be forwarded to Honourable Gail Shea, Minister of National Revenue, requesting that counter service be maintained at the Revenue Canada Sydney office. Motion carried.**

Discussion took place on the RFP regarding the Highland Links Golf Course and Keltic Lodge. The deadline for submission of proposals is November 14, 2012. Council feel both Highland Links and the Keltic are important assets and support the continued successful operation of both facilities. We will await the outcome of the RFP.

**District #7**

**It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that \$2,500.00 be approved from the District #7 budget to assist in the cost of the installation of the green gym. Motion carried.**

**District #1**

Councillor MacNeil indicated that a number of people have mentioned the installation of "No Littering" and "Keep Dog Under Care and Control" signs, especially on our beaches. The responsibility of this signage was discussed and will be investigated.

The possibility of adding “Litter Free County” on our Victoria County signs was discussed.

**District #8**

Councillor Buchanan questioned whether it was safe to assume that another round of green gyms will be purchased for the four remaining districts. A call for Expression of Interest will be put out to organizations in Districts 2, 3, 5 and 6.

Signs should be erected at the green gyms indicating the equipment was supplied by the Municipality.

**ROAD NAME CHANGE APPROVAL**

Approval was received from the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal and the Eastern District Planning Commission to rename the unnamed road at Ingonish, “Loretta Lane”.

**It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that Council approve the naming of unnamed road at Ingonish to “Loretta Lane”. Motion carried.**

**VICTORIA COUNTY WATER UTILITY**

The letters regarding the setting of water rates were forwarded to all customers of the Victoria County Water Utility on Friday.

Discussion took place on whether it was possible to by-pass water meters making the readings inaccurate for billing. This matter will be discussed with Robert Dauphinee.

**CAPE BRETON PARTNERSHIP**

The Cape Breton Partnership’s AGM will be held on October 4, 2012, at the Inverary Resort, Baddeck. Warden Morrison will be in attendance for the opening remarks and has another meeting scheduled in the afternoon. He requested as many Council members as available to attend. Council members interested in attending are to contact Warden Morrison.

**MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS**

A question was raised as to who will be working the polls in the various polling stations on Election Day. Joan MacInnes is in the process of obtaining workers for Election Day.

The advance poll voting procedures were reviewed with Council. Advance poll voting may be done by phone or via Internet during the period commencing Tuesday, October 9, 2012, at 8:00 p.m. concluding on Tuesday, October 16, 2012, at 8:00 p.m. Voting can take place 24 hours per day during this period. Everyone on the voters' list will receive letters in the mail with a PIN number for use in the advance poll electronic voting period. Updates will be provided every day on the people who have voted using their PIN number.

Discussion took place. Sandy Hudson advised that there is an auditor training session on the electronic voting tomorrow.

Regular polls will be set up in all areas on Election Day, October 20, 2012, from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. In areas where there is no Council election, there will be a school board election.

Some Council members requested they be provided with inside agent forms for Election Day.

Warden Morrison extended a vote of thanks to Council, the CAO and municipal staff for the cooperation received during this term of Council. He thanked Councillor MacCuspig for his 8 years of service and offered best wishes to Council members with their campaigning. He extended his thanks to Council for their support in electing him as Warden for the past four years.

Deputy Warden Patterson also extended a thank you to Council, the CAO and staff. In his last 9 years as Municipal Councillor and 4 years as Deputy Warden, much has been accomplished. He extended congratulations to Councillor MacCuspig on his retirement from Council and best of luck to those Council members re-offering in the upcoming election.

Councillor MacCuspig indicated that the last 8 years have been very enjoyable and he is regretfully not running in this election. He thanked Council for their support and indicated he would be keeping up by reading the minutes.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council will be held on Monday, November 5, 2012, at 5:00 p.m. The only items on the agenda would be the results of the October 20, 2012, election, swearing in of Council and the appointment of a Warden and Deputy Warden.

### **ADJOURN**

**There being no further business, on motion of Councillor Buchanan, the meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.**

**Bruce Morrison, Warden**

**Sandy Hudson, CAO**