

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
December 10, 2012

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, December 10, 2012, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Warden Bruce Morrison in the Chair.

Present were:

District #1 – Paul MacNeil
District #2 – Athol Grant
District #3 – Bruce Morrison, Warden
District #4 – Merrill MacInnis
District #5 – Fraser Patterson, Deputy Warden
District #6 – Larry Dauphinee
District #7 – Wayne Budge
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 indicated that Keith MacDonald who was to appear regarding the RDA Review Report has cancelled due to the weather.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Deputy Warden Patterson, that the agenda be approved with the noted deletion. Motion carried.

VICTORIA COUNTY PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STRATEGY

Courtesy of Council was extended to Vince Forrestall, Victoria County Physical Activity Strategy Coordinator, who was in attendance to present the draft strategy.

Mr. Forrestall indicated that he is confident the strategy is a strong strategy that will make a difference for Victoria County residents. He then proceeded to present a power point presentation on the draft Physical Activity Strategy (copy attached).

In concluding his presentation he provided introductions of some key players in the development of the strategy who were in attendance:

Eileen Woodford, Director of Rural Health – Chair of the Senior Management Committee

Elliot Frosst – Co-Chair of the Implementation Team

Elaine Allison, Wagmatcook Health Centre – Committee Member

Councillor MacNeil made an observation that in the last year and one-half active living programs have increased in his area, with the location of the green gym and other new programs.

Councillor Grant expressed an interest in a social marketing plan and Mr. Forrestall indicated that he hopes to make the website more active and up to date. Councillor Grant also made mention of a more focused approach on the use and development of walking/snowmobile trails in our communities.

Councillor MacInnis questioned if there was ever any thought to having ambassadors or healthy lifestyles champions, such as an older, physically active individuals, to promote the strategy. Mr. Forrestall made mention of the HEAL Cape Breton Program through the Cape Breton District Health Authority where healthy lifestyle champions are promoted.

Councillor Buchanan questioned whether there were any programs being initiated in the schools to promote healthy eating and lifestyles. It was felt that children are the target group for life long healthy lifestyles.

Councillor Buchanan also questioned on the 10% measurement used in the measuring success chart from current to 2017. Mr. Forrestall indicated that this figure was used as it is a provincial standard and felt to be attainable.

Councillor Budge questioned whether there were plans for more green gyms in the County. Council initiated this program, with the view to purchasing four sets this year and an additional four next year so that this equipment will be in each district of the Municipality. ECBC also provided funding for this project. Councillor Budge indicated that there are a number of communities in his district alone that could use this equipment.

Councillor Dauphinee indicated that a key to this strategy is that it covers the entire County and this is necessary to get the residents to buy in. He made mention of the status of the mountain biking initiative in Middle River and indicated that he would like to see one of the goals to be a mountain biking program for all of Cape Breton.

Deputy Warden Patterson indicated that he is very impressed with the list of initiatives and felt it would be beneficial to have healthy eating workshops throughout the County, Volunteers within the communities are vital to these initiatives succeeding.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that this strategy would be an asset in economic development also.

Warden Morrison complimented the Committee on the draft Physical Activity Strategy and indicated that he was impressed with the goals and the successes to date. The residents report was discussed and Mr. Forrestall was questioned as to whether this would be sent to the County residents and he indicated when the strategy is ready to be launched this report will go out with the invitation to attend the launch.

Eileen Woodford, Chair of the Senior Management Committee, indicated that in being involved in this project since its onset, she has seen and felt the energy across the county and the participation rates in active living have increased. The timing is right for this strategy.

Vince Forrestall thanked Sandy Hudson and Council for their support since the beginning. The draft document must be submitted to the Province for review.

Warden Morrison thanked Mr. Forrestall for his presentation and indicated that he looked forward to the official launch of the Victoria County Physical Activity Strategy.

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that the draft Victoria County Physical Activity Strategy be accepted and forwarded to the Province for review and approval. Motion carried.

RECESS

Warden Morrison announced that Council would recess for five minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NOVEMBER 19, 2012

The minutes of the November 19, 2012, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of November 19, 2012, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Water Bills – Fire Departments

Deputy Warden Patterson questioned on the number of fire departments on municipal water supplies and what the cost would be per year for providing water to these departments. It was indicated that there are 3 departments and the costs per year will be investigated.

Municipal Property

A question was raised on the municipal properties which could be made available for development.

Councillor Grant indicated that he did preliminary research on this matter and there are not a whole lot of properties available. He indicated that it is also advisable to retain some of these properties for possible trading purposes with other levels of government.

A further investigation will be done on municipal properties and an inventory will be presented to Council in January.

Palliative Care Position

Councillor MacNeil questioned if the letter was forwarded regarding the palliative care position south of Smokey. He was advised it was sent.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #5

Deputy Warden Patterson indicated that his issues with regard to the relocation and installation of street lights in his district have been resolved in consultation with NSPI's Resolve Team.

District #6

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor Budge, that \$3,500.00 be approved from the District #6 budget for Ski Cape Smokey for repairs and maintenance. Motion carried.

District #7

Councillor Budge indicated that the floor at the Ingonish Volunteer Fire Department Hall is in need of repair. This facility is an EMO Comfort Station. A quote received for the necessary repairs, valid until December 20, 2012, is \$2,214.49.

It was moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that the cost of repairs for the Ingonish Volunteer Fire Department Comfort Station in the amount of \$2,214.49 be approved. Motion carried.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis presented a letter received from Andy Watt resigning as a member of the Victoria County Police Advisory Board.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, to accept Andy Watt's resignation from the Police Advisory Board. Motion carried.

Councillor MacInnis indicated that there is a good stand of wood on the former North Shore School property and he felt it would be a good idea to harvest this wood. There is an estimated 150 cords of wood on the property.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that a tender be issued for harvesting wood from the former North Shore School property. Motion carried.

District #2

Councillor Grant updated Council on a meeting he and Sandy Hudson had with Kevin Hashem, Regional Manager, Bell Aliant, concerning cell phone coverage in the Middle River area. Coverage in the Bay St. Lawrence area was also mentioned at this meeting.

Mr. Hashem indicated he would review the situation. The possibility of the Municipality assisting with the location of a tower as has been done in other municipalities was discussed.

Further discussion will be held when Mr. Hashem's reply is received.

District #1

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that a street light order be placed for the installation of a street light at 95 Lower Washabuck Road. Motion carried.

Councillor MacNeil brought up the matter of the proposed closure of Post Offices on Saturdays.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that a letter be forwarded to the Minister Responsible for Canada Post opposing the move to close rural post offices on Saturdays. A copy of this letter is to be sent to Tonya Dort and Kathy Edwards, Canada Post. Motion carried.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that he will be forwarding on a petition to Canada Post from the Iona area.

District #3

Deputy Warden Patterson assumed the Chair.

Warden Morrison indicated that he was informed this evening that the Wagmatcook Health Centre has received exemplary designation.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that a letter for congratulations be forwarded to the Wagmatcook Health Centre on their exemplary designation status. Motion carried.

It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that a street light order be placed for the location of a street light on the last pole before the Trans Canada guardrail at the top of Twining Street. Motion carried.

Warden Morrison brought up the possibility of each Councillor allotting \$125.00 from their district budgets for Feed Nova Scotia.

It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that each Council Member approve \$125.00 from their district budgets for Feed Nova Scotia. Motion carried.

Warden Morrison brought up the recent meeting in Sydney with Nova Scotia Power representatives. It was felt that a letter should be forwarded to Nova Scotia Power that in future, when such meetings are held, NSPI provide an agenda, a list of accomplishments and common themes for discussion. Street lights and a street light inventory are common to all municipalities and CBRM requested a street light inventory at this meeting. Victoria County has previously requested a street light inventory but NSPI are unable to provide an accurate inventory.

Warden Morrison returned to the Chair.

COMMITTEES

Warden Morrison brought up the matter of Council priorities for 2013. There are four issues that have been identified as priorities and it was felt that Council should form Committees to deal with these issues. Each Councillor would sit on two of the four committees.

The Committees to be formed will deal with the following:

- Alternate Energy
- Housing Strategy
- Regional Development Authority
- Solid Waste

Discussion took place and the following Committee membership was established.

Alternate Energy

**Deputy Warden Fraser Patterson
Councillor Paul MacNeil
Councillor Athol Grant
Warden Bruce Morrison**

Solid Waste

**Councillor Wayne Budge
Councillor Athol Grant
Councillor Merrill MacInnis
Councillor Johnny Buchanan**

Regional Development Authority

**Deputy Warden Fraser Patterson
Councillor Larry Dauphinee
Councillor Wayne Budge
Councillor Paul MacNeil**

Housing Strategy

**Councillor Johnny Buchanan
Councillor Larry Dauphinee
Councillor Merrill MacInnis
Warden Bruce Morrison**

The Councillors selected to these Committees are to take ownership of the Committees and select a Chairman and report back to Council. The CAO will not become involved in the Committee process until there is a correspondence or action issue. These Committees should begin to meet early in the New Year.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION MATERIALS

It was moved by Councillor Buchanan, seconded by Deputy Warden Patterson, that the ballots from the October 20, 2012, Municipal Election be destroyed. Motion carried.

QUIT CLAIM DEED

Sandy Hudson presented Council with background information on a request for a quit claim deed for the former Baddeck Bay School property. A quit claim deed is being requested by John MacKillop and the Solicitor has reviewed the matter and is prepared to draft the requested deed.

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor Budge, that a Quit Claim deed be issued to John MacKillop for the former Baddeck Bay School property. Motion carried.

UNSIGHTLY PREMISES ORDER

Sandy Hudson advised that on investigating the unsightly premises it is recommended that an “Order to Remedy Condition” be issued and that the order be a Demolition Order issued from Council to the owners of two mobile homes – Colin MacDonald, Twining Street, Baddeck, and Herbert Gregory, Cabot Trail, Ingonish Centre, instructing that the mobile home be demolished and all debris removed from the property within 30 day or the Municipality will complete the same and recover the costs through property taxes.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that an “Order to Remedy Condition” be issued to Colin MacDonald and Herbert Gregory as recommended. Motion carried.

Councillor MacInnis questioned on the status of the unsightly premises at Wreck Cove.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that a letter be forwarded to Sean Donovan, Unsightly Premises Administrator, requesting an update on the Wreck Cove unsightly premises. Motion carried.

PROCUREMENT POLICY

Sandy Hudson presented Council with a sample Procurement Policy for municipalities which he asked Council to review and provide comments for the next meeting. The Municipality is required to adopt a Procurement Policy.

COUNCILLORS CODE OF CONDUCT

The Councillors Code of Conduct was presented. The UNSM initiated a Code of Conduct in 2008 which Council at the time signed and Sandy Hudson advised that the same document is being presented for renewal in 2012.

Council members signed the Councillors Code of Conduct.

HIGHLAND MANOR

Councillor Budge presented a request from Highland Manor for assistance with a construction project for a new garage. \$8,000.00 is being requested from the Municipality.

It was moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that the Highland Manor request be referred to budget. Motion carried.

Councillor Dauphinee questioned if the CAO received copies of the minutes of the Highland Manor Board. Sandy Hudson advised that he has not received minutes for some time.

COMMUNITY COUNTS PRESENTATION

Warden Morrison indicated that he attended a Community Counts presentation in Sydney recently and felt it would be beneficial to have this presentation made to Council. This presentation will be scheduled in March, 2013.

MUNICIPAL SUMMIT

At the last meeting, a motion was passed that Victoria County that contact be made with all Cape Breton Island municipalities regarding a joint meeting to discuss common issues and concerns.

Preliminary work has been done and there is interest in this event from the other municipalities. The dates of January 17 and 18, 2013, have been designated for this event which will take place at the Gaelic College, St. Ann's. It is anticipated that 35 to 38 people will be in attendance and Warden Morrison outlined the proposed schedule of events.

Council members are urged to attend and a registration and questionnaire will be mailed out to Island municipalities in the near future. Rooms are available at the Gaelic College for overnight.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacInnes, that Victoria County host the summit for Cape Breton Island municipalities at the Gaelic College, St. Ann's, on January 17 and 18, 2013. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council will be held on Monday, January 7, 2013, at 5:00 p.m. Port Hawkesbury Paper and COMFIT presentations will be held at this meeting.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Councillor Buchanan, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO