

**VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**  
**May 27, 2013**

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Ski Lodge, Ski Cape Smokey, Ingonish Ferry, on Monday, May 27, 2013, 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 moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Councillor Grant, that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

**FAMILY HOME DAY CARE PRESENTATION**

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Bea Buckland, Early Childhood Development Specialist, Department of Community Services.

Ms. Buckland then introduced Joanna Latulippe-Rochon, Executive Director, Cape Breton's Family Place Resource Centre, and Mary Delaney, Early Childhood Consultant, Department of Community Services.

Ms. Buckland advised that they were in attendance to make a presentation on Family Home Day Care (copy attached).

Ms. Buckland presented background information on Family Home Day Care. This form of child care was introduced in 2007 and is provided in the care provider's home. Research done by the Canadian Child Care Federation estimates there are 170,000 family home child caregivers

in Canada, with only 15,000 being regulated. She outlined the primary purposes of regulated family home day care.

Ms. Buckland indicated that Family Home Day Care (FHDC) is day care provided by a child care provider in their own home that is managed by an agency licensed by the Department of Community Services. This type of day care was established to provide parents access to approved day care services in a home setting where care is monitored and to allow parents who are eligible for government subsidies for fees, greater access to regulated child care. The benefits of Family Home Day Care for families were outlined.

Any business or organization that is registered with the Registry of Joint Stock Companies can apply to become a family home day care agency. Council was advised that Cape Breton's Family Place Resource is submitting a proposal to obtain a FHDC agency license.

FHDCs are managed and monitored by the agencies that are licensed by the Department of Community Services. An applicant that receives a license to operate FHDC agency may apply for funding and be subject to the evaluation process as outlined in the terms and conditions.

The steps to obtain a FHDC agency license were outlined. FHDC providers are self-employed. The agency will be able to provide information and direct them to resources that can help them learn and benefit from being a self-employed care provider of a FHDC agency. The benefits for child care providers of a FHDC agency were outlined.

Mr. Latulippe-Rochon outlined the role and responsibilities of an agency. Agencies must abide by the *Day Care Act* Regulations and Standards. The agency provides support to care providers and FHDC homes under its management and ensures that care providers and family homes meet and continue to meet the requirements for approval. The agency ensures that agency staff have current first aid and CPR training and annually assesses care providers and FHDC homes under its management.

Ms. Delaney explained the role of the Family Home Consultant. The Family Home Consultants are required to have a two-year early childhood education diploma and at least 2 years' experience working in early learning and child care. They must abide by the *Day Care Act* Regulations and Standards. The primary responsibilities of the Family Home Consultant were explained.

The role of the care providers was outlined. Care providers must ensure their program is in compliance with the *Day Care Act* Regulations and Standards and may do so with the assistance of the Family Home Consultant. The primary duties of the care providers were outlined.

Council was advised that there are 37 registered child care centres in Cape Breton. The only licensed child care facility in Victoria County is the part day pre-school program in Baddeck – Baddeck Nursery School.

Ms. Latulippe-Rochon advised that Cape Breton's Family Place Resource has been in existence since 1994 and they see the need for day care in Victoria County and they want to provide the kind of services that make sense and are more tailored to the community. This agency has 28 staff all across Cape Breton.

Discussion took place and the ladies answered various questions from Council.

Council questioned on what support could be provided to the Cape Breton Family Place Resource in their application to become the licensing agency for FHDCs. Ms. Latulippe-Rochon advised that a letter of support indicating the need for day care facilities in the County and Council's support for the application would be beneficial.

**It was moved by Councillor Grant, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that a letter of support be provided for the Cape Breton Family Place Resource Centre's application to become the licensing agency for Family Home Day Care. Motion carried.**

Warden Morrison extended a vote of thanks on behalf of Council for the presentation and information provided regarding the Family Home Day Care program.

### **CRIME PREVENTION NORTH OF SMOKEY PRESENTATION**

Courtesy of Council was extended to Janet Bickerton, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Cape Breton District Health Authority, who was in attendance with regard to crime prevention in the North of Smokey area.

Ms. Bickerton introduced members of the team working on initiatives with regard to crime in the northern area of the Municipality – North of Smokey Safer Communities Committee. They included:

- Joanna Latulippe-Rochon, Executive Director, Cape Breton Family Place Resource Centre
- Jim Wilkie, North of Smokey Resident and Committee member
- Cheryl MacDonald, North of Smokey Resident and Employee of the Cape Breton Family Place Resource
- Bea Buckland, Early Childhood Development Specialist, Department of Community Services
- Darlene MacInnis, Child and Youth Specialist, Department of Community Services

Ms. Bickerton provided Council with background information on the efforts to date to address ongoing crime concerns in the North of Smokey area.

Ms. Bickerton indicated that in September, 2012, a two-day workshop was facilitated to begin the process of developing a crime prevention plan for the area. At that meeting it was felt that it was important to reach out to the communities and a mail out was sent out in February, 2013, to all households in the North of Smokey area.

After an arson incident in the Meat Cove area, a scheduled meeting was cancelled and at the next meeting the climate was very disturbing and this hastened the efforts to get a plan in place.

Ms. Bickerton indicated that a meeting was held on March 28, 2013, and statistics were obtained from Community Counts and the results were startling. Total crime, violent crime, and youth crime rates in the area were the highest in the province by a significant amount.

Dr. Margaret Dechman, CBU, further analyzed these statistics and her findings suggest that the youth crime rate per 100 in Victoria is 13.2, compared to 7.6 for HRM. The provincial average is 8.9. These statistics show that the level of exposure of youth to crime in this area is troublingly high. The RCMP have been requested and will provide further local data.

Council were provided with a copy of the document “Communities Supporting Communities – A Crime Prevention Plan for Communities North of Smokey”.

Citizens need to feel safe and protected and the action items include:

- Increasing policing in the North Highlands area
- Tackling the situation of having the dubious honour of the highest crime rates in the Province
- Revitalize the Police Advisory Committee

Joanna Latullipe-Rochon indicated that Cape Breton’s Family Place Resource Centre has been working for many years trying to support and work together to build healthier communities. Children who witness violence are affected in a huge way and it is normalizing this behaviour to them when it is not normal. She indicated that it is hard to address the long term when immediate issues are not being addressed. A balanced approach has to take place to address both the immediate and long term.

Jim Wilkie advised that members of the community became concerned about the crime rates in the area a few years ago and at that time there were 70 arsons in the area from Effie’s Brook to Meat Cove. To date no one has been convicted of any of these crimes. A major concern in the area is the difficulty in obtaining insurance coverage. A conservative figure for the loss incurred from the arsons would be approximately \$5 million. These homes are not being replaced. Mr. Wilkie indicated he does not know what the answer is, but something has to change.

Cheryl MacDonald indicated that as a parent of four boys she is concerned. There is nothing for the children to do and when they attempt to get access to the schools to use for various activities, they are denied. In her job with Cape Breton's Family Place Resource, she deals with ages from infants to Grade 6 and she indicated that you see the ripple effect in behaviours.

Ms. MacDonald indicated that she was disappointed that more citizens did not attend the community meetings held with regard to the crime rates, but at the same time she did understand why they did not. The fear in the area is constant.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that the numbers provided are shocking and he agreed that accessing the schools for after hour activities is necessary. This has been addressed with the CBVRSB but to date a reply to the request has not been received.

Councillor Grant also expressed shock with the statistics on crime provided. He mentioned the request for an additional RCMP member that was brought to the Budget Committee and whether this would be the best place for funding to go.

Mr. Wilkie felt that a police dog would be beneficial in assisting with the criminal activity. A dog would be more able to track and find the perpetrators.

Councillor MacInnis commended the Committee members on the work done to date. He indicated that a great deal of the RCMP's time is taken up attending Court sessions. There should be something in place that would not tie up the police resources for this time.

Deputy Warden Patterson brought up the issue of access to schools being important in communities also. He expressed his shock at the statistics provided. Victoria County prides itself on being tourist friendly, when in fact the statistics prove it is not resident friendly in the North Highlands area.

Councillor Dauphinee indicated that now that the awareness is there, something needs to be done to turn the situation around. He congratulated on the efforts undertaken and work achieved to date. He too expressed concern that the youth have nothing to keep them busy and felt school access is important.

Councillor Budge advised that he is aware of most of the problems in this area of the County, but does not feel fear living in the area where he resides. The total population north of Smokey is less than 3000 people and he felt police resources could be best used on crime instead of the 262 traffic warrants issued. He felt there would be other ways to assist, rather than put money into an additional RCMP member.

Councillor Buchanan indicated as Councillor for the area, he is well aware of the criminal activity and also mentioned access to the schools as being imperative.

Warden Morrison indicated that the steps taken to date by the Municipality, including this presentation to Council. The March 28, 2013, meeting with municipal representatives was discussed. The Department of Justice and Inverness County have been requested to partner with the Municipality on initiatives to address the crime in the North Highland Region and the Municipality is awaiting their reply. Victoria County has made a commitment towards this initiative.

The request for an additional RCMP officer has been addressed in conjunction with Inverness County and the Municipality is awaiting their answer to this request. The type of officer this would be was discussed.

Warden Morrison advised that Vince Forrestall, Physical Activity Strategy Coordinator, is working on a plan to obtain access to schools.

Expressions of interest will be requested for membership on the Police Advisory Board and this committee will become active, with or without the provincial appointee.

Deputy Warden Patterson indicated that the Age-Friendly Communities Committee is looking at the position of a Seniors Safety Officer. This position could also be beneficial in assisting in the northern area.

Staff Sgt. Craig Yorke will be coming to Council in June or July and these issues can be addressed with him at that time. Janet Bickerton advised that the RCMP have been very supportive since the onset of the crime prevention initiative. It was mentioned that the RCMP may have an increase in staff complement for the summer months in the North of Smokey area.

Warden Morrison advised that the Municipality will continue to move forward and address the issues under their jurisdiction and will keep the North of Smokey Safer Communities Committee updated.

Warden Morrison then extended a thank you to the representatives for their attendance and the information provided.

### **RECESS**

Warden Morrison advised that Council would recess for 10 minutes.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MAY 13, 2013**

The minutes of the May 13, 2013, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

**It was moved by Councillor Grant, seconded by Deputy Warden Patterson, that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of May 13, 2013, be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**Clear Bag Waste Collection**

Deputy Warden Patterson advised that he had a discussion with a resident concerning the clear bag collection and the privacy factor was mentioned as being an issue. This type of collection is not a punitive thing and is meant to ease people in. An education program will be put in place prior to any institution of this program.

**Green Gyms**

Discussion took place on the green gyms. The company where the initial round of equipment was purchased is no longer in business. Information will be obtained on other companies that can supply such equipment.

**DISTRICT CONCERNS**

**District #1**

Councillor MacNeil indicated he received an email from Darren Blunden concerning the highway priorities in District #1. He indicated he did not necessarily agree with Mr. Blunden and he would be contacting him in this regard.

Councillor MacNeil advised that he continues to receive complaints on the condition of the gravel roads in his district on a daily basis. Some of the materials used by contractors in the past have been inadequate and he felt the quality of the aggregate used in future must be of a higher standard.

**District #2**

Councillor Grant provided an update on the potential of wind turbine development in the Rear Wreck Cove area. There is 3 phase power and transmission and distribution lines in the area. The area is far removed from residences.

The Department of Natural Resources have been contacted with regard to acquiring land and the Parks and Protected Areas have been asked to exclude property in this area from the protected status. Councillor Grant advised that in speaking with Dave Williams, DNR, he has advised that the property will not be kept out of the protected status designation, but there will be

a caviat included for the development of wind energy. There are also potential sites in the area not in the Parks and Protected area.

Councillor Grant advised that he and Warden Morrison talked by phone with Yvon LeFort concerning the COMFIT Program and he also indicated that he, Councillor MacInnis and Kenton Morrison toured the Wreck Cove Power Project with Bernie LeBlanc, NSPI.

Councillor Grant advised that the Middle River Community Hall will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on June 8, 2013.

**It was moved by Councillor Grant, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that an certificate of congratulations be presented to the Middle River Community Hall on their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Motion carried.**

**District #4**

Councillor MacInnis advised that he and Councillor MacNeil attended the NSPI meeting at the Inverary Resort last week. There were three representatives from CBRM and 11 NSPI employees in attendance.

The remnants of the salt silo at Wreck Cove are an eyesore. The request to DOTIR to remove same has not been acknowledged.

**It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that a letter be forwarded to the DOTIR indicating that if the salt silo remnants are not removed, the Municipality will remove and dispose of the materials and bill the DOTIR for the costs incurred. Motion carried.**

The status of the Gaelic College sign was questioned and it was indicated that the logo was recently finalized and the signage is being developed.

**District #8**

Councillor Buchanan questioned on the DOTIR's plans for sanding during the winter season.

**It was moved by Councillor Buchanan, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that a letter be forwarded to DOTIR questioning on their plans for road sanding for the upcoming winter season. Motion carried.**

**District #7**



Councillor Budge indicated that Stephen MacDonald, DOTIR, has not yet met with the Councillors from the northern area.

Warden Morrison indicated he would contact Mr. MacDonald tomorrow regarding this meeting.

**District #6**

Councillor Dauphinee indicated that he was advised that reclaimed asphalt material was brought to the northern area of the County today for road shouldering. The condition of the shoulders during the Cabot Trail Relay was discussed.

**It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that the Ministers of DOTIR and Tourism be requested to come to Victoria County to meet with Council. Motion carried.**

Councillor Dauphinee brought up the matter of an incident that occurred this past weekend where there were no EHS personnel in the area. A meeting has been scheduled with EHS representatives on Wednesday, June 5, 2013, at 5:00 p.m. to discuss concerns with regard to EHS in Ingonish.

Councillor Dauphinee gave notice of motion that he may be bringing forward a motion at the next meeting with regard to funding for Ski Cape Smokey.

**District #5**

Deputy Warden Patterson advised that Chris Prentice, IBI Group, who are conducting the Transit Feasibility for the Municipality will be in Victoria County on June 13 and 14, 2013.

Warden Morrison and Deputy Warden Patterson attended a Transportation Nova Scotia recently and Deputy Warden Morrison provided Council with an update.

Deputy Warden Patterson advised of funding available through the “Nova Scotia Moves” Program.

A session of Municipal Law will be held in Halifax on June 7, 2013, and Deputy Warden Patterson indicated he may attend. Sandy Hudson will be attending and Councillor Budge also expressed an interest in attending.

A seminar on Council/Staff Relations will be held in Halifax on June 21, 2013. Deputy Warden Patterson and Councillors MacNeil and Budge expressed an interest in attending.

**District #3**

Deputy Warden Patterson assumed the Chair.

Warden Morrison indicated that during the registration for the Cabot Trail Relay the second thing mentioned at the Captain's meeting was the condition of the shoulders of the road on the Cabot Trail.

He also mentioned that the Cabot Trail Relay must pay \$3,000.00 for EHS services during the relay, when marathons in Halifax are provided coverage at no charge.

Warden Morrison provided an update on where the funding would be accessed for the Kidston Island Lighthouse Project. \$25,000.00 is being requested from the Municipality. The Village is providing \$5,000.00, It is anticipated that ECBC will provide \$70,000.00 and the Province \$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00.

**It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Grant, that the Municipality provide \$25,000.00 for the Kidston Island Lighthouse Project contingent on funding being received from the other partners. Motion carried with Councillor Budge casting a dissenting vote.**

Warden Morrison requested that an advertisement be placed in *The Victoria Standard* for a member for the Police Advisory Board for the southern area of the County.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that the Economic Development Committee of which he is Chair will be requiring representatives from the public.

**It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that expressions of interest be advertised for public representation on the Economic Development Committee. Motion carried.**

### **BUDGET COMMITTEE**

The Budget Committee minutes of May 14, 2013, were presented for approval.

The RCMP request for additional officer was discussed. Sandy Hudson advised that he contacted Joe O'Connor, CAO of Inverness County, concerning sharing an officer between the two municipalities.

Sandy Hudson advised that on talking with Staff Sgt. Craig Yorke, he did not think the management structure would allow members to straddle two districts but he was prepared to investigate this further up the line.

The fact the Victoria County District services a part of Inverness County already (the Meat Cove area) was discussed.

**It was moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that the CAO contact Inverness County concerning funding for services provided in the Meat Cove area. Motion carried.**

**It was moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Deputy Warden Patterson, that the Budget Committee minutes be approved and the tax rates for 2013-2014 be \$1.20 residential and \$2.10 commercial. Motion carried.**

### **PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STRATEGY**

In January, 2013, the Draft Physical Activity Strategy was presented to Council. This document was submitted to the Province and was approved with a few minor changes.

**It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that the Victoria County Physical Activity Strategy be approved in principle and the official launch of the strategy take place at Ski Cape Smokey this fall. Motion carried.**

### **VICTORIA COUNTY WATER RATE STUDY**

Sandy Hudson presented the Water Rate Study for the Victoria County Water Utility. Discussion took place on the average bill under the proposed new rate structure. It was felt further clarification was required on the rates.

Sandy Hudson also presented a copy of the Water Account Management Policy concerning the policy with regard to collection of past due accounts. He requested Council review this policy and if approved, it be included as part of the Water Rate Study for submission to the UARB.

### **TAX OFFICE**

The Municipality received approval for one student for the Tax Office under the Canada Summer Employment Program. This is a 10 week position and it is non-transferrable.

Student employment in the operations in the northern area of the County was discussed. It was felt a student should be placed at the Cape North Transfer Station for a 10 week period.

Sandy Hudson also advised he would like to have a term position in the Tax Office. The person hired would be for a longer period into October to get them through the busy time.

**It was moved by Councillor Grant, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that two student positions be approved – Tax Office and Cape North Transfer Station – for 10 week terms and a term position also be approved for the Tax Office. Motion carried.**

**GUARANTEE RESOLUTION – VILLAGE OF BADDECK**

Sandy Hudson presented a guarantee resolution for the Village of Baddeck for a public works truck in the amount of \$23,635.00.

**It was moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, to approve a guarantee resolution in the amount of \$23,635.00 for the Village of Baddeck's purchase of a public works truck. Motion carried.**

**CANADIAN BORDER SERVICES**

Warden Morrison indicated that he received a letter for a local business person regarding the fees being considered by the Canadian Border Services for non-residents who leave their boats in Canada. This will have an impact on local marinas.

**It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that a letter be forwarded to Canadian Border Services concerning the proposed import tax on boats owned by non-residents. Motion carried.**

**GREEN GYMS**

Two sets of outdoor fitness equipment will be ordered when a reputable supplier is found.

**BREAST FEEDING POLICY**

A draft Breastfeeding Policy was presented for consideration.

**It was moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that the Breastfeeding Policy for the Municipality be approved. Motion carried.**

**IN CAMERA**

**It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that Council move In Camera. Motion carried.**

**It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Budge, to return to the regular session of Victoria County Municipal Council. Motion carried.**

**ADJOURN**

**There being no further business, on motion of Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor Budge, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.**

**Bruce Morrison, Warden**

**Sandy Hudson, CAO**