

**VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**  
**September 23, 2013**

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, September 23, 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 #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

Absent was:

District #4 – Merrill MacInnis (Out of Town)

**CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**It was Councillor Budge, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

**CAPE BRETON DISTRICT HEALTH AUTHORITY**

Courtesy of Council was extended to Dr. Dianne Calvert-Simms, CEO, Cape Breton District Health Authority, and Dr. Rex Dunn, VP of Medicine and Chief of Staff, Cape Breton District Health Authority.

Dr. Calvert-Simms thanked Council for the opportunity to appear before them and indicated that she is a resident of Boularderie East, Victoria County. She indicated that the CBHDA is committed to work with the community, to hear the voices and change the conversation. Copies of the “Population Health Report 2013 – Understanding Today for a Healthier Tomorrow” and the “Annual Report to the Community 2012-13 – Health Through Our Eyes: Focus on People”, were presented to Council.

A video entitled “Let’s Start a Conversation About Health – Cape Breton District Health Authority”, was presented. This video described the link between social and economic factors that influence health, known as detriments to health.

The CBDHA Strategic Framework 2012/2013 was presented with a view of making a healthier community together. The vision, mission, values, drivers, plan pillars, guiding principles, goals and priorities were all outlined.

With the successes achieved with the smoking strategy legislation, it was questioned whether a similar type of legislation could be initiated for salt content in foods. Consumers have the choice to buy or not to buy salt content items. How the municipality could help to influence public health policy was questioned.

The Population Health Report outlines how our sex, age, education and income influence obesity, physical inactivity, heavy drinking, and smoking in the CBDHA.

Rural communities do not have specialty services such as education, training, housing and health in their proximity and must travel to urban areas to access these services and this is difficult. The possibility of providing mobile clinics was discussed. The availability of Tele Health at the two hospitals in Victoria County was discussed and is a method for public education on health matters. A key to getting healthy is more opportunities in rural areas.

Councillor Grant questioned if there was one key low cost item that would be relatively simple to undertake. Dr. Calvert-Sims indicated that healthy eating and active living are two such items.

Dr. Calvert-Sims outlined the Community Health Team that has been given provincial direction to target youth on health issues. Kathy Bell is the Director of Community Health for the CBDHA.

Councillor Buchanan indicated that he sees, on a daily basis, the number of youth at the local school, Cabot High, who smoke. There has to be a way to get the word to these youth on the dangers of smoking.

Dr. Calvert-Simms updated on the recent restructuring of health administration. The CBDHA’s administration ratio at 4% is the lowest in the province.

Deputy Warden Patterson indicated that Victoria County has taken an active role with age-friendly and physical active living initiatives and there is good work being done here in Victoria County.

Dr. Calvert-Simms indicated that the CBDHA is more than willing to partner with the municipality on community issues that would be mutually beneficial to both. She indicated she would follow up on smoking initiatives for the local schools.

Councillor Dauphinee indicated that the location of security guards at Buchanan Memorial Hospital at night is good to see and long overdue.

The status of the vacant building purchased adjacent to the Victoria County Memorial Hospital was questioned. The role study has been done and how to expand and bring additional services is being investigated. The vacant building will be put into service before too long.

Further discussion was held with Dr. Calvert-Simms. She then turned the floor over to Dr. Rex Dunn.

Dr. Dunn expressed his pleasure on appearing before Council. He has a summer home on the Bras d'Or Lakes at West Bay and feels an affinity with the rural areas, such as those in Victoria County.

Dr. Dunn presented a report on recruitment requirements dated August 26, 2013. This report, along with identifying the number of family practice physicians required, also identified the requirements in all areas of specialty.

Dr. Dunn indicated that the government now has a Physician Resource Plan. This plan is very well done and outlined every specialty, the reasons the numbers are what they are and the requirements for the future. There is a range of ratio for physician to population. A physician advisor was hired to interpret all new requests for physician placement and now the supporting documentation is in place.

There are an increased number of doctors graduating from medical school and Dr. Dunn indicated that the ratio is off in that there are an increased number of specialists and not enough primary care doctors.

Dr. Dunn indicated that two doctors have come to Baddeck in the past couple of years filling one position and are on the alternate payment plan (APP), as opposed to the fee for service doctors. This gives Baddeck and area 3 full time equivalent positions and historically that has been enough for this area. He felt that adding additional would be a tough sell.

He indicated that five additional family practice physicians are needed throughout the CBDHA. He indicated that they are gently easing new doctors to work in a collaborative practice with nurse practitioners. He also indicated that 20% of family doctors in the District are on the APP plan.

Dr. Dunn indicated that new doctors want flexibility. They want a guaranteed income and to control where and how they practice. They do not want to put in the long hours of doctors in the past.

The role the Municipality could play into attracting and retaining medical personnel was discussed. Examples of what is done in other areas were discussed.

The situation in the northern area of the County was discussed. Dr. Dunn indicated that this area is a special case with special challenges. There are two long serving doctors in place who are reaching retirement age. Temporary assistance is in place and a long term solution is being investigated.

Dr. Dunn indicated that a significant number of doctors within the CBDHA are over 65 years of age.

The role of community health boards was discussed. These boards need to make sure they have conversations with the communities they cover and come to the District level to bring these issues forward for inclusion in the strategic plan.

The productivity levels of doctors and time allotted for performing surgical procedures was discussed. Dr. Dunn updated Council on these matters and a further discussion was held.

Warden Morrison indicated that he would like to see them return to Council in the next six months to provide an update and he thanked both Dr. Calvert-Simms and Dr. Dunn for their very informative presentation.

### **RECESS**

Warden Morrison advised that Council would recess for 10 minutes.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 9, 2013**

The minutes of the September 9, 2013, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

**It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of September 9, 2013, be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

#### **Notice of Motions**

A concern was raised by a resident with regard to the Council decision to continue to accept credit cards for payment of taxes. They felt they were not aware of this matter being on a Council agenda until after a decision was made.

Discussion took place on putting the unapproved minutes in draft form on the website. Discussion was also held on having notice of motions placed on the County website in advance to allow the public to be informed of what is being proposed.

Council meetings are open to the public and they can be informed by attending.

It was agreed that in future, sufficient notice of motion be provided to Council, to allow the notice of motion to be published on the County website for the residents information.

### **Solid Waste**

The issue with the collection driver taking a vacation day as he had no assistant was discussed. This matter has been addressed and resolved.

### **Little Narrows Water**

A plumber will be checking on the situation concerning a Little Narrows Water customer.

### **DISTRICT CONCERNS**

#### **District #1**

Councillor MacNeil brought up the matter of rural mailboxes and the Canada Post criteria with regard to location of mailboxes.

**It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that a letter be forwarded to Canada Post concerning their criteria with regard to the location of rural mailboxes and request that a representative come to Council in this regard. Motion carried.**

#### **District #2**

Councillor Grant requested that the Family Place Resource Centre be contacted with regard to the status of the Family Day Care Program.

Councillor Grant indicated that he was in the Annapolis Valley on the weekend and outlined the trial venture with regard to recyclable waste materials. Materials are removed from the solid waste site and sold to the public in a store that is manned by an employee. The store is

open 3 days per week and it is estimated that  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the employee's salary is covered by sales at this store. He felt this is maybe something that could be given consideration in Victoria County.

Councillor Grant will be hosting another community meeting in his district. It will be held on October 24, 2013 at the Baddeck Valley Community Hall, Baddeck Forks. Robert Dauphinee and representatives from the Department of Environment have been requested to attend. John Berk, School Board Member, will also be in attendance. A discussion will be held on potential trails within this district.

**District #8**

Councillor Buchanan questioned on whether an update was received from Kevin Hashem with regard to cell phone coverage.

Sandy Hudson advised that an update has not been received.

Whether any headway has been made on having a representative from Service Canada come to Council with regard to the Employment Insurance Program was questioned.

Sandy Hudson advised that every contact that has been made has been referred to another higher level, so there has been nothing definite forthcoming as yet.

A certificate is to be made up for presentation of Kilya MacNeil as requested.

Councillor Buchanan indicated that the water tank and pump house at the Dingwall Water System is becoming unsightly and something should be done in this regard. Public Works staff will be contacted in this regard.

**District #7**

Councillor Budge expressed concern with the length of time it is taking to have water and sewer at the Neil's Harbour Enviro-Depot.

Sandy Hudson advised that Strait Engineering is presently working on the location of a new building and will be drawing up a preliminary plan for a 6000 square foot building on municipally owned property. This will be brought to Council when the information is available.

**District #6**

Councillor Dauphinee indicated that he was approached by a local contractor with regard to sidewalk snow removal in Ingonish Beach.

**It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor Budge, to go to tender for snow removal on the Ingonish Beach sidewalks. Motion carried.**

Councillor Dauphinee brought up the proposed war memorial to be erected at Green Cove. The proposer of this memorial will be in the area in October and further information will be available at that time.

**District #5**

Deputy Warden Patterson indicated that the Transit Feasibility Draft Study has been received. It will be reviewed by the Age-Friendly Committee, stakeholders and Council. He indicated he would forward the draft document to Council for their information and review.

Deputy Warden Patterson presented Council with an update on the Age Friendly Conference he recently attended in Quebec City.

**District #3**

Deputy Warden Patterson assumed the Chair.

**It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that a letter be forwarded to Stephen MacDonald, Area Manager, DOTIR, requesting that either a cross walk or 4 way stop be installed in the area of Upper Twining/High Street, Baddeck. Motion carried.**

The Annual Investor Summit of the Cape Breton Partnership will be held at the Keltic Lodge on October 10, 2013. Any Councillors wishing to attend are to inform Heather MacLean so they can be registered. Diane Buchner, Dragon's Den, is the guest speaker for the event.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that in the past couple of weeks the Little Narrows Ferry has been put out of service without public notice. He requested that concern in this regard be expressed in the letter to be forwarded to the DOTIR.

Warden Morrison returned to the Chair.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Cape Breton Island Council Meeting**

Sandy Hudson advised that the Municipality of the County of Richmond will be hosting a meeting of Cape Breton Island Councils on October 28 and 29, 2013, at the Gaelic College, St. Ann's.

Council are requested to notify the Municipal Office if they wish to attend and if they require overnight accommodation.

**Wagmatcook First Nation**

A letter was received from Brian Arbuthnot, Director of Operations, Wagmatcook First Nation, questioning if Council has any objection to the transfer of lands being set aside as reserve lands in accordance with AANDC Additions to Reserve (ATR) Policy. The land is federal crown land.

**It was moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that the Municipality advise that they have no objection to the transfer of this land as reserve lands to Wagmatcook First Nation. Motion carried.**

The CAO advised of proposed dates the Wagmatcook Band Council would be available to meet with Council. The dates are in conflict with other commitments and the dates of October 11 or 18, 2013, are to be provided as possible dates to meet. The meeting will be held in Wagmatcook and Council will be advised if either of these dates are acceptable to the Wagmatcook Council.

**EMC Meeting**

The possibility of meeting with Lyle Donovan, EMC, on the same date as scheduled with Wagmatcook was discussed. This will be arranged and confirmed.

**Restorative Justice Week**

**It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that November 17-24, 2013, be proclaimed "Restorative Justice Week" in Victoria County. Motion carried.**

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING**

The next meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council will be held at the Bay St. Lawrence Community Centre, Bay St. Lawrence, on Monday, October 7, 2013, at 5:00 p.m. Presentations will be made by Rob MacDonald and Amy MacKinnon and Paul Wills, Municipal Advisor, will be in attendance.

**ADJOURN**

**There being no further business, on motion of Councillor Buchanan, seconded by Councillor Budge, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.**

**Bruce Morrison, Warden**

**Sandy Hudson, CAO**