

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
December 9, 2013

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, December 9, 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 MacInnis, that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION

Warden Morrison indicated that it was Council's pleasure to recognize exemplary citizens of Victoria County. This evening will be the first such ceremony at Council and he welcomed the recipients and those in attendance with them.

The first citizen recognized was Bert Doucette. Mr. Doucette was presented with his Certificate of Recognition from Councillors Dauphinee and Budge. Mr. Doucette has voluntarily cleaned up his community for the past thirty-two years. Councillor Dauphinee expressed thanks on behalf of District #6 for Mr. Doucette's efforts to keep the Ingonish Beach area free of debris and indicated that District #6's loss is District #7's gain, as Mr. Doucette has relocated to this district. Councillor Budge indicated that District #7 is glad to have him and to keep up the good work.

Mr. Doucette expressed his appreciation for the acknowledgement received and advised that he has been picking up litter for the past 32 years. He loves keeping his community clean and travels a different route every day collecting the litter. It is a full-time job.

In attendance with Mr. Doucette were his wife, Marion; his mother-in-law, Ida Jackson; friend, Lexie MacNeil; and sister-in-law, Sandra Usifer.

The next presentation was to Buddy MacDonald. Mr. MacDonald was presented with his Certificate of Recognition from Councillor MacInnis and Deputy Warden Patterson. Councillor MacInnis indicated that he has known Mr. MacDonald since childhood and he has done a great deal to promote Cape Breton and Victoria County on his travels all over the world. Deputy Warden Patterson indicated that on behalf Buddy's adopted district, District #5, he wished to congratulate him on his musical achievements and mentioned some of the songs Mr. MacDonald has written. In his travels all over the world, Mr. MacDonald, never fails to mention and be proud of where he comes from.

Mr. MacDonald indicated receiving this recognition is very cool and he appreciated the acknowledgement as being an ambassador. He runs into a lot of people on his travels and is always eager to tell where he is from. He has been travelling with his music along time and loves every minute. He introduced his wife, Wilda, who was in attendance with him.

Warden Morrison indicated that it was his pleasure to acknowledge one of the most recognizable citizens of Baddeck – Jim Bradley. Mr. Bradley has made a career of collecting recyclables on the roadsides in the Village and on the highways outside the Village. More remarkable is the fact this Mr. Bradley suffered a life-altering stroke in 2002. He is indeed an icon in the community. Mr. Bradley is not active in just one or two organizations – he has fundraised for the Baddeck Lions' Club, L'Arche, Baddeck Library, IWK, Baddeck Academy Grade 9 Class Trip, Alderwood Bus Fund, and countless others. His big bike team, Jim's Army, recently was the 2nd highest fundraiser in rural Nova Scotia for the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Mr. Bradley indicated that he raised \$4,200.00 by recycling this year. He recently provided \$1,500.00 to the Baddeck Lions Club and he has \$500.00 to give prior to Christmas to the Christmas Wish and the Food Bank. He does his recyclable sorting in behind MacRae's garage in Baddeck and has about \$1,200 to \$1,500 collected for the coming year. He indicated he receives assistance from area residents who drop off recyclables in his name at the Enviro-Depot and assist him in other ways when needed.

All those in attendance then stood and applauded the Certificate recipients.

CAPE BRETON UNIVERSITY PRESENTATION

Courtesy of Council was extended to Dr. David Wheeler, President, and Gordon McInnis, Vice-President, Cape Breton University.

Dr. Wheeler then provided Council with a presentation on Cape Breton University (CBU) entitled “Cape Breton Island’s University” (copy attached).

CBU is a \$44m business serving 15% of Nova Scotia’s population. The university has 3200 students and offer the 2nd lowest tuition rates in Nova Scotia. They have the highest final year “ excellent” student satisfaction in Nova Scotia and are 5th in Canada for student-faculty interaction. CBU is 13th in Canada for active and collaborative learning and has the best record on aboriginal education in Atlantic Canada. Its reputation is similar to other universities in Nova Scotia.

Dr. Wheeler provided statistics on the student experience at CBU and the enrolment distribution for the period 2009 to 2014 (ytd), further breaking down the enrolment from the four counties on Cape Breton Island.

Dr. Wheeler presented two enrolment options to 2022 – one which by doing nothing would lead to a university of 2500 students and a net negative impact on Cape Breton economy of \$15m. The second enrolment option to 2002 is to increase the student population to 4000 with a positive impact on Cape Breton economy of \$90m plus. He outlined the steps to be undertaken to get to the second enrolment option.

It is hoped that in 2022, by working on this option, CBU will be a \$90m business serving 15% of the Nova Scotia population. It will be a cleantech commercialization powerhouse with 4000 students (40% CB Island and 45% international) and offer one of the lowest tuition rates in Nova Scotia. CBU will strive to have the highest final year student satisfaction rate in Canada and the best record on aboriginal education in Canada in 2022. It is hoped that CBU will be the most entrepreneurial and sustainable university in Canada.

Dr. Wheeler also made mention of the success of CBU’s sports team – especially the soccer and basketball teams.

Councillor MacNeil thanked Dr. Wheeler for the presentation and indicated that as a student at St. FX University in the 1980’s he saw firsthand the skills students from the then College of Cape Breton had coming to St. FX after their two year program. He indicated that he has a daughter graduating this year and she is considering her options and CBU is one option.

Dr. Wheeler indicated that there are a number of considerations with regard to education and whether it is better to go to a local university and save money to go to graduate school. Economics play an important part in decision making and he indicated that for quality and happiness of students, he felt CBU is second to none.

Councillor Grant indicated that he attended a one day conference in Inverness recently on bio-mass and there was a representative in attendance from the Vershuren Centre with regard to

their renewable energy interests. He indicated that Victoria County are interested in renewable energy and he exchanged emails with the representative indicating we would be in touch.

Dr. Wheeler indicated that the COMFIT Program was designed when he worked at Dalhousie University. He indicated that getting involved with renewable energy is time consuming and an expert knowledgeable in the subject matter is necessary.

Councillor MacInnis questioned if CBU has capacity at present to grow from 3200 students to 4000.

Dr. Wheeler indicated that this could be achieved if the enrolment increased.

Attracting international students was discussed. CBU go to different countries promoting the school. There are a number of Asian and Middle Eastern students at present and there is a recruitment effort presently taking place in Kenya. They are aspiring to attract 50 to 60 Kenyans. Dr. Wheeler indicated that CBU and Saint Mary's are about equal in international student recruitment.

Councillor Dauphinee questioned if there were any statistics on the number of international students who remain in the area upon graduation. Dr. Wheeler indicated that 25% is the standard number, but he feels it is greater than this percentage.

Deputy Warden Patterson questioned on their sports scholarships and whether there was any consideration given to additional sports team, i.e. football, hockey. Mr. McInnis indicated that back in 2000 the scholarship allotment for recruiting to their sports teams was \$125,000 to \$150,000. It is now over \$1 million dollars.

Warden Morrison mentioned the interesting work that is being done at CBU's Vershuren Centre in the cleantech initiative. He felt that CBU should be getting this message out as the work being done there is a great story. He questioned whether a tour or presentation could be provided of the facility and whether the Municipality could be of assistance to promote the work being done there.

Warden Morrison extended a vote of thanks to Mr. McInnis and Dr. Wheeler for the presentation and the gentlemen were excused at this time.

RECESS

Warden Morrison advised that Council would recess for 10 minutes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Solid Waste Committee

The initial meeting of the Solid Waste Committee was held earlier today and Councillor Budge updated Council on the meeting. A meeting is to be arranged with the Department of Environment and a further update will be provided after this meeting. When the minutes of the meeting are completed, they will be forwarded to all Councillors.

Age-Friendly Communities Committee

Deputy Warden Patterson indicated he received a copy of the latest Age-Friendly Communities Committee and he would forward the minutes on to Councillors.

Alternate Energy Committee

Councillor Grant questioned whether the comments received at the Open Houses on the Wind Turbine By-Law had been received from John Bain, Eastern District Planning Commission.

Sandy Hudson advised that the comments were received and emailed to Council.

Economic Development Committee

A meeting of the Economic Development Committee will be held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Wednesday, December 11, 2013, at 3:00 p.m.

POLICY REVIEW

EMO By-Law

The CAO circulated a draft EMO By-Law for Council's review. He requested Council to review the draft and a meeting will be arranged with Lyle Donovan, EMC, to further review the document with him.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

The CAO distributed a year to date budget update for Council's review and information.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received from the North Shore Gaelic Heritage Centre concerning their outstanding property taxes. They requested Council give consideration to writing off their tax arrears in the amount of \$7,479.00.

Discussion took place on this request.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor Budge, that the request from the North Shore Gaelic Heritage Centre be deferred to the 2014/15 budget. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NOVEMBER 18, 2013

The minutes of the November 18, 2013, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of November 18, 2013, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Former Rankin School Property

Councillor MacNeil questioned on the status of the former Rankin Memorial School unsightly premises.

The CAO advised that Sean Donovan completed an inspection of the property, but he has heard nothing further from Mr. Donovan or Paul Oldford, CBVRSB.

Community Halls

The CAO distributed information concerning community hall taxation statistics for the entire County.

Christmas Parade

Warden Morrison indicated that the Baddeck Christmas Parade was a success and he thanked the kilted Council members who participated in the parade.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #6

Councillor Dauphinee brought up a concern with regard to the condition of the look off at the top of Smokey.

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal

requesting that they give consideration to remediating the look off at the top of Smokey. Motion carried.

Councillor Dauphinee brought up concern with regard to snow removal in the North Shore area. It has been inadequate to date and this matter is to be addressed with the Deputy Minister of TIR when he meets with Council on December 16, 2013.

District #7

Councillor Budge indicated that DOTIR completed work in the area of the Post Office in Neil's Harbour and after a recent rainfall, the area is in worse condition than ever. This matter will be addressed with Deputy Minister LeFleche also.

Councillor Budge advised that Lyle Goldberg's father recently passed away. A card of sympathy was forwarded to Mr. Goldberg on behalf of the Municipality.

District #8

Councillor Buchanan indicated that a new loader is supposed to be received in Cape North in February, 2014. He questioned on what will happen with the side roads North of Smokey in the meantime until the new loader is in place. This will be discussed with the Deputy Minister and DOTIR staff at the meeting on December 16, 2013.

Councillor Buchanan advised that he was told recently that when an RCMP member is off work sick for 3 days the Municipality should be credited for this absence. This is to be investigated.

Councillor Buchanan also requested that Kim Devoe be contacted with regard to a presentation to Council on the Youth Council. Warden Morrison indicated that CBRM devote one Council session every year to youth and this would be worthwhile for Victoria County also.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis advised Council of the recent passing of former Councillor A. J. Carmichael, St. Ann's. His father, Hector Carmichael, also served on Victoria County Municipal Council.

Councillor MacInnis brought up the Feed Nova Scotia "Light Up Life" campaign. Warden Morrison advised he would be bringing this matter up later in the meeting.

An update was provided on the Marine Animal Response Society that responded to the recent whale rescue at Jersey Cove.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor Grant, that a \$500.00 donation be made to the Marine Animal Response Society. Motion carried.

Councillor MacInnis brought up the matter of the addition of frames to insert tag lines on the Victoria County signage. The Victoria County Home Support Society will be having their 25th anniversary and would like to advertise this on the signage.

Sandy Hudson advised that he sent an email to Stephen MacDonald, DOTIR and he referred this matter to the Department of Tourism to make application through them. The email received from Mr. MacDonald will be forwarded to Council.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that July 18, 2014, be proclaimed “Nelson Mandela Day” in the Municipality of the County of Victoria. Motion carried.

Councillor MacInnis requested clarification on the increase in fire department insurance. The CAO will obtain this information.

TRANS CANADA TRAIL PRESENTATION

Courtesy of Council was extended to Blaise MacEachern who was in attendance to make a presentation on behalf of the Nova Scotia Trails Trans Canada Trail Committee (copy attached).

The Nova Scotia Trails Trans Canada Trail Committee is the champion for the Trans Canada Trail in Nova Scotia. They provide concept and capacity planning for communities and regional development partners. The Committee ensures accountability and transparency with the Trail and full Trail connection by 2017.

The vision of Nova Scotia Trails is that all Nova Scotians and visitors have access to and value diverse and well-managed recreational trails for the pursuit of HEART: (H) health; (E) education, environment, economics, and energy; (A) arts and culture and AT; (R) recreation and (T) transportation and tourism.

The Nova Scotia Trans Canada Trail Committee is responsible for supporting the initiatives of the NS Trails and Trans Canada Trail Foundation and specifically supporting Trans Canada Trail development and construction in Nova Scotia and nationally, to ensure a connected Trail from coast to coast by 2017.

Mr. MacEachern indicated that Vanda Jackson is the Executive Director of Nova Scotia Trails. He indicated that he is the Trans Canada Trail Committee Chair and concept planning is done by Cobequid Trail Consulting – Garnet McLaughlin.

Mr. MacEachern provided national statistics with regard to the Trans Canada Trail, as well as statistics with regard to Nova Scotia.

An outline of the role of Nova Scotia rural municipalities in achieving completion of the Trans Canada Trail was provided. Mr. MacEachern indicated that “Gap Champs” are needed to complete the Trans Canada Trail in Nova Scotia by 2017.

Mr. MacEachern indicated that they are requesting the Municipality formally support the connection of the Trans Canada Trail in the Municipality of the County of Victoria and formally support in principle to endorse the Trans Canada Trail land and water route 2016 connection options.

Discussion took place on the possible water and land routes.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Grant, that the Municipality formally support the connection of the Trans Canada Trail in the Municipality and formally support in principle to endorse the Trans Canada Trail land and water route 2016 connection options. Motion carried.

Mr. MacEachern thanked Council for their support and Warden Morrison extended a vote of thanks to Blaise MacEachern for his presentation.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #2

It was moved by Councillor Grant, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Natural Resources requesting that the Uisge Ban Falls signage be re-installed for the winter months, as a number of people wish to access the falls in winter. Motion carried.

District #1

Councillor MacNeil indicated that plowing to date, especially in the Washabuck area, is unacceptable. This road was not plowed for a 32 hour period after a recent snowfall. The DOTIR are also plowing the dirt roads in this area now, and he questioned on what can be expected in the winter months. This is to be included in the letter to the DOTIR and will be addressed with Darren Blunden and the Deputy Minister at the meeting on December 16, 2013.

Rankin School of the Narrows students recently won the Junior Achievement Nova Scotia “Pitch It!” competition in Halifax. The student company called TeaWorks pitched the notion of bringing back the gauze tea bag to fill a market void for handmade, locally produced tea.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that the Rankin School of the Narrows “TeaWorks” team be invited to come to Council. Motion carried.

District #3

Deputy Warden Morrison assumed the Chair.

Warden Morrison indicated that Feed Nova Scotia’s “Light Up Life” campaign is currently underway and he suggested that each Council member donate \$125.00 from their district budgets for presentation of \$1,000.00 to Feed Nova Scotia.

It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that \$125.00 be provided from each of the district budgets for the Feed Nova Scotia “Light Up Life” campaign. Motion carried.

It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Natural Resources requesting they appoint their representative to the Baddeck Harbour Authority Board. Motion carried.

Warden Morrison indicated that the Director of Public Works and CAO were instructed at the Solid Waste Committee meeting to look at the current tipping fees charged and bring back recommendations.

Warden Morrison encouraged Council members to provide their year-end and hopes for the New Year report to the *Victoria Standard* for publication.

Warden Morrison advised that the meeting with Pam Eyking, MLA, Victoria-The Lakes; Paul LeFleche, Deputy Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal and local DOTIR staff will be held at the Telegraph House, Baddeck, on Monday, December 16, 2013. Council are requested to be there by 12:30 p.m. The meeting is scheduled for 1:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Councillor Buchanan, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO