

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
January 6, 2014

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, January 6, 2014, 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 wished all in attendance a Happy New Year.

The agenda was presented for approval. Warden Morrison indicated that the RCMP presentation would be first on the agenda and representatives from Canada Post will be in attendance at 6:00 p.m.

It was moved by Councillor Buchanan, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that the agenda be approved as presented.

LEANNE MACLELLAN, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Warden Morrison indicated that he was pleased to introduce Victoria County's new Director of Finance, Leanne MacLellan.

Ms. MacLellan extended a thank you to Council on her first day of work for the Municipality. She provided background information on her work history with Grant Thornton and her auditing work with various municipal units while employed in both Antigonish and Wetaskwin, Alberta. She has worked with Diamond on the auditing side and is somewhat familiar with the system.

Her father was the former Director of Finance for the Municipality of the County of Inverness and her sister is the current Director of Finance for the Town of Port Hawkesbury.

Warden Morrison advised that Council is pleased she accepted the position and opened the floor to Council. All Council welcomed Ms. MacLellan, expressed excitement with the credentials she brings, and looked forward to working with her in her new capacity.

RCMP PRESENTATION

Courtesy of Council was extended to S/Sgt. Craig Yorke, Victoria County District Commander, RCMP.

S/Sgt. Yorke presented the Victoria County Annual Policing Report for the period January 1, 2013, to December 31, 2013 (copy attached).

Crime stats were provided for the Baddeck, Ingonish and Wagmatcook Detachments for 2013. An overview of policing for the year was provided. S/Sgt. Yorke also outlined some noteworthy investigations that resulted in charges.

S/Sgt. Yorke outlined the annual performance plan priorities for 2013 which included contributing to safer highways through education and enforcement; a focus on impaired driving and distractive driving. He also outlined the reduction in crime by targeting repeat offenders and warrant reduction.

The RCMP resources in the Baddeck and Ingonish Beach detachments were outlined. Each detachment has a Corporal and three constable investigators. S.Sgt. Yorke is the Commander for the Victoria District.

S/Sgt. Yorke brought forward the need and desire for a community policing officer in Victoria County. The roles and responsibilities of such a position were outlined.

Councillor MacNeil brought up the matter of a couple of marijuana related incidents in his district and whether anything resulted from the incidents. S/Sgt. Yorke indicated that an individual from outside the area was stopped twice and arrested twice and is under order not to come to the area.

Councillor Grant questioned on the community policing officer position and whether there were other funding options to be considered for this position. He also questioned if statistics of criminal activity were kept for the Meat Cove area as he felt Inverness County should be responsible for the costs associated with policing in Meat Cove.

S/Sgt. Yorke indicated that he would provide this information to Council.

Councillor MacInnis inquired on what constituted a 911 call for service and on roadside checks. He also brought up the corporal position in the Ingonish Detachment and was advised that a newly appointed corporal has been posted to this position and will be coming to the area in early March. This member will be posted to the area for a minimum of 3 years.

Councillor Buchanan questioned on the drug charges statistics – a total of 13 for the Victoria District. S/Sgt. Yorke indicated that this number is a good number as there is a lot of work to be done in bringing forward drug charges. He indicated that Cst. Curtis Kuchta has worked in the past on commercial crime and is a great asset in working on such cases.

A question was also raised on search warrants and S/Sgt. Yorke indicated that they have never been turned down when applying for search warrants.

Councillor Budge questioned on Coroners Act statistics. S/Sgt. Yorke indicated that any sudden death has to be investigated under this Act.

Councillor Dauphinee indicated that his concern was mainly the attempted murder/assaults in his district and S/Sgt Yorke provided an update.

Deputy Warden Patterson indicated his district is fairly quiet and the snow this year may be why break and enters are down.

Warden Morrison brought up the community policing officer request. The approximate cost for this officer would be \$140,000.00 to \$160,000.00. Councillor Budge indicated that for the population of Victoria County, we have a large number of RCMP members covering the area. S/Sgt Yorke advised that the geography of the County requires this coverage.

Warden Morrison indicated that Council would take the request for a community policing officer under advisement and discuss same at budget time. The lead time required to have a member in place to fill this position was discussed and S/Sgt Yorke indicated that once a decision is made it would be at least one year and in the meantime his members will continue their focus on youth.

Elmoune MacKinnon questioned on whether the additional member would result in more work being done. This member would work in the community, not just the schools and the focus would be on deterring youth crime.

Warden Morrison extended a thank you to S/Sgt. Yorke for his presentation to Council.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 9, 2013

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

Councillor Dauphinee brought up a correction on Page 6 of the minutes, that the seconder of the motion should be Councillor Budge and not Councillor Donovan.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of December 9, 2013, be approved with the noted correction. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Trans Canada Trail

Councillor Grant indicated that in discussion with Councillor MacNeil, they have an interest in changing the Trans Canada Trail proposal outlined by Blaise MacEachern at the last meeting for just water routes in Victoria County. They feel there is a possibility of developing a land route through Lewis Mountain, Iona and Little Narrows area. They do not want to delay the waterways proposal, but wish to look into a land trail also. This may be addressed in the Active Transportation Plan.

Councillor Grant and MacNeil were authorized to investigate the possible land trail and the CAO will advise the appropriate people that they are the contacts.

Look Off – Top of Smokey

Councillor Dauphinee questioned on whether the letter had been forwarded concerning the look off at the top of Smokey. The CAO indicated it had not, but will be in the near future.

CANADA POST PRESENTATION

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Juanita Gillis and James Bugbee, Canada Post Corporation.

The representatives were in attendance to discuss the delivery of Canada Post services in Victoria County.

Council provided introductions to the representatives, outlining the districts they served.

Mr. Bugbee requested that prior to their presentation; he would like Councillors to take a few minutes to outline their concerns to him and Ms. Gillis.

Deputy Warden Patterson expressed concern on the placement of a community mailbox in Ross Ferry. It is located in a dangerous area and the entry and exit points from this box are not adequate. He indicated it did not have DOTIR approval to be there.

Councillor Dauphinee expressed concern on the placement of a community mailbox in Ingonish Centre. A property owner has a legal right-of-way where the box has been placed and is not happy with the dealings with Canada Post in this matter.

Councillor MacInnis questioned on what initiated the process for Canada Post's rural mailbox review. Mr. Bugbee indicated there were four events and he would outline them during his presentation.

Councillor Grant expressed concern on the placement of a community mailbox in the Baddeck Bridge area. The box is placed downhill on a dirt road with no lighting. Councillor Grant indicated he is generally in favour of community mailboxes provided they are well placed in a safe location.

Councillor MacNeil indicated he received a few phone calls concerning moving rural mailboxes and his own personal mailbox had to be moved to a location he feels is in a worse location than the first location. The location of the community mailbox at Gills Point is also in a dangerous spot.

Mr. Bugbee then presented an overview of the rural mail box safety review (copy attached). Four things happened to initiate the review – Westray; Bill C-45; deaths of contracted workers delivering mail in New Brunswick and Quebec; and a work stoppage by employees who did not want to deliver to mailboxes that were unsafe.

In July 2007, the national safety review process was rolled out and all 843,000 rural mailboxes across Canada were to be assessed. To date, Canada Post has assessed over 700,000 rural mailboxes nationally and maintained 90% in service.

Mr. Bugbee outlined Canada Post's obligations and the steps taken to address road safety. The traffic safety assessment tool (TSAT) used in the review was drafted by expert panelists and he outlined what this tool measures.

The safety review communications process and results were outlined.

Mr. Bugbee indicated the when community mailboxes are installed there is a number of criteria to follow in locating same. Along with DOTIR criteria, Canada Post has their own criteria. Traffic volume, shoulder width, centre line marking, site distances, number of lanes, speed of traffic, legal restrictions and driver behaviour are all measured.

Mr. Bugbee and Ms. Gillis responded to the concerns addressed by Council. They provided Council with their contact information for future inquiries, etc.

jamesce.bugbee@canadapost.ca and phone 902-494-4001 Ext. 44249
juanitagillis@canadapost.ca and phone 902-494-4001 Ext. 44355

Discussion took place on hardship cases. Ms. Gillis indicated that they are looked at on a case to case basis. If an elderly person lives alone, doesn't drive, has no access to family nearby to assist them, then they may be looked at as a hardship case and if the mail delivery personnel agree, they may arrange delivery directly to the home once per week.

Further discussion took place and Warden Morrison thanked the representatives for their attendance. Council have been attempting to have Canada Post come to Council for the past seven months. Ms. Gillis advised that the request was never received by the right person as there would have been a response back in a timely fashion. She assured Council that she and Mr. Bugbee were prepared to accept requests and concerns of Council by communicating with the contact information provided.

Mr. Bugbee and Ms. Gillis were excused at this time.

RECESS

Warden Morrison advised that Council would recess for 10 minutes.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #1

Councillor MacNeil questioned on the former Rankin School property at Iona. Sean Donovan conducted an inspection of the property and a report will be received in the near future.

Councillor MacNeil brought up the plowing of dirt roads in his area. The 24 hour snow removal policy needs to be looked at as residents work and need to be able to get to work. The plows no longer go out until the snow stops and this causes lengthy delay in removal. He also indicated that the plowing on Route 223 on the other side of the Barra Strait Bridge is not adequate.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that a letter be forwarded to the Minister of DOTIR requesting that they review their current policy with regard to snow removal and request that all Route 223 be a priority for snow removal. Motion carried.

Councillor MacNeil questioned on the Victoria County Water Utility rate study. The information for the rate study is being updated prior to submission to the UARB.

District #2

Councillor Grant felt that a follow up should be done to see if there is any funding available to assist with the community policing position. When the information is received on

policing in Meat Cove area, a letter should be written to Inverness County asking for financial assistance for providing these services.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis questioned on when the meeting would be rescheduled with Paul LeFleche, Deputy Minister of DOTIR. It is hoped that the Minister will be visiting the Municipality in the near future and the Deputy Minister will be in attendance also at that time.

Councillor MacInnis requested that a dangerous and unsightly premises investigation be done on the property located at 2132 Highway 312 South.

District #8

Councillor Buchanan questioned on when Council would be meeting with Pam Eyking, MLA. It is anticipated this meeting will take place in February.

Councillor Buchanan brought up the email received concerning cell service cost partnerships and this will be discussed later in the meeting.

District #6

Councillor Dauphinee brought forward a thank you from the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 105 for the assistance received from the Municipality in their renovation project.

Councillor Dauphinee requested an order be placed for a street light to be located on the Cabot Trail directly across from Pit Road, Ingonish Harbour.

District #5

Deputy Warden Patterson brought up the matter of street lighting and the length of time it takes to have lights installed. Lights ordered in late October, 2013, have not been installed as yet. A light that was reported out on October 24, 2013, by a citizen has not been repaired as yet.

He indicated that the only way he receives results is by going through the NSPI Resolve Team with his issues.

A request is to be forwarded to Craig Blades, NSPI Resolve Team, to come to Council.

Deputy Warden Patterson indicated that the community of Ross Ferry and in particular the Ross Ferry Volunteer Fire Department, incurred a loss with the recent passing of Wesley MacInnis. Mr. MacInnis did a great deal for this community and he will be missed in the community.

District #3

Deputy Warden Patterson assumed the Chair.

Warden Morrison brought up the matter of a water leak in the area of MacLeod Street/Harvey Drive area. It has been going on 6 weeks since the line broke and it has not been repaired. Residents are getting stuck and damaging their vehicles in the resulting mess.

It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that a letter be forwarded to the Village of Baddeck requesting clarity on the responsibility for the water line in the MacLeod Street/Harvey Drive and up to Alexander Drive. Motion carried.

Warden Morrison returned to the Chair.

NEW BUSINESS

FENCES AND DETENTION OF STRAY LIVESTOCK ACT

Correspondence was received from the Honourable Keith Coldwell, Minister of Agriculture, concerning designation under the *Fences and Detention of Stray Livestock Act*. The Municipality of the County of Victoria is not currently designated and it was felt that we do not wish to be designated.

It was moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that the Municipality of the County of Victoria decline designation under the *Fences and Detention of Stray Livestock Act*. Motion carried.

MUNICIPAL CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

CBCL recently completed a Municipal Climate Change Action Plan for Inverness, Victoria and the Town of Port Hawkesbury. This plan is a required to obtain gas tax funding.

The MCCAP plan was submitted to the province by the deadline of December 31, 2013, but approval in principle is required. The document was forwarded to Council electronically and the CAO summarized the contents pertaining to Victoria County.

It was moved by Councillor Grant, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that the Municipal Climate Change Action Plan (MCCAP) be approved in principle. Motion carried.

CELL SERVICE

Pam Eyking, MLA, is prepared to go to the government caucus with regard to assisting with upgrading cell service to Bay St. Lawrence and Middle River areas. The cost of the equipment to improve the cell service was discussed. The fact that Bell Aliant would be the one profiting from this investment was discussed.

It was felt that Kevin Hashem, Bell Aliant, should be invited to Council to provide details of the project.

It was moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that the Municipality enter negotiations with regard to upgrading cell service to Bay St. Lawrence and Middle River areas and refer the funding request to budget considerations for discussion. Motion carried.

FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES (FCM)

Richmond County have extra rooms available for the FCM Conference in Niagara Falls from May 30-June 2, 2014.

Council members are to indicate their interest in attending this conference by Friday, January 10, 2014, and the rooms will be booked and registration completed accordingly.

EMO

The draft EMO By-Law was submitted to Council for review at the last meeting.

Sandy Hudson advised that he would like to begin discussion with Rodney MacDonald on the Gaelic College being the EMO command centre for Victoria County. It has all the amenities with kitchen, bedroom and meeting room space. Victoria County has a generator which could be examined to see if could be modified to be set up at the Gaelic College if there is agreement for it being Victoria County's command centre in the event of an emergency.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that the CAO be authorized to begin discussions with Rodney MacDonald, Gaelic College, to see if this facility could be utilized as Victoria County's EMO Command Centre. Motion carried.

CUPE NEGOTIATIONS

Sandy Hudson advised that CUPE Local 2694's current contract expires on March 31, 2014. It is anticipated that negotiations will begin within the next 3 to 6 weeks.

He questioned on how Council wish to approach the upcoming negotiations. Warden Morrison, Deputy Warden Patterson and Councillor Dauphinee will sit on the Negotiations

Committee with the CAO. The Directors of Public Works and Finance will serve as resource people for the Committee.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from the North Shore War Memorial Committee thanking Councillor Merrill MacInnis for the \$300.00 donation from his district budget.
2. Approval was received from both the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal and the Eastern District Planning Commission to change the name of Taylor Road in Iona to Mercer's Lane.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that Council approve the road name change from Taylor Road to Mercer's Lane in Iona. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councillor Grant advised that the Alternate Energy Committee met prior to Council to review the Wind Turbine By-Law and the feedback received from the Open Houses. He indicated that there are some minor changes proposed to the by-law which will be incorporated into the final edit of the document.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council will be held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, January 20, 2014, at 5:00 p.m. Jim Mustard, Local Food Economy, and Larry Maxwell, Physical Active Living, will be presenting at this meeting.

100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BEGINNING OF WORLD WAR I

Councillor MacInnis indicated that 2014 marks the 100th anniversary of the beginning of World War I and he questioned on whether there should be some form of recognition of same. The local Legions are to be contacted to see if they have any plans in this regard.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO