

**VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**  
**January 20, 2014**

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, January 20, 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 presented the agenda for approval.

**It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

**PAN CAPE BRETON FOOD NETWORK**

Courtesy of Council was extended to Jim Mustard, Deputy Warden, Municipality of the County of Inverness, who was in attendance to make a presentation of the Pan Cape Breton Food Network (copy attached).

Council provided introductions and the areas they serve for Mr. Mustard's information.

Mr. Mustard began by providing Council with statistics on Inverness County field crops and livestock numbers in 1918. He also provided the Community Counts population change report for the period 2001 to 2011.

Dwayne MacDonald, Councillor, Inverness County, entered the meeting at this time.

Mr. MacDonald indicated that they are proposing a 2 year pilot project matching up supply and demand with a defined number of producers and consumers, assembling the

infrastructure to procure and deliver these goods and services within a format capable of expansion.

They wish to hire a network coordinator to develop the pilot of the emerging Pan Cape Breton local food economy, linking food producers and consumers at all levels. An advisory board representing all 5 municipalities, producers, consumers, Destination Cape Breton and the Department of Agriculture will be established.

Mr. Mustard explained the integrated food network and the four basic pillars – production, distribution, consumption and education.

Mr. MacDonald outlined the objectives and the measureable outcomes.

To date Inverness County hosted a workshop in October, 2012, and established a Food Security Committee in December, 2012. Inverness County also hosted a Pan Cape Breton Food Forum in Baddeck in October, 2013, and has had informal discussion with all municipal leaders and others.

An outline of the potential partners for this initiative was provided, as well as what is in this for participating municipalities.

Mr. Mustard advised that they are requesting a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the five municipalities on Cape Breton for the creation of a Pan Cape Breton Food Network. He outlined the purpose, scope, objectives, resources, contract period and measurable outcomes contained in the proposed MOU.

Mr. Mustard indicated that support is what they are seeking for this venture. No financial assistance is requested at this time. They hope to approach ECBC for funding for this initiative.

Warden Morrison indicated that he and Councillors Grant and MacInnis attended the Food Forum in Baddeck in October past.

Councillor MacNeil indicated it is a great initiative and indicated that years ago there were a number of farmers in his district, but at present there is only one.

Councillor Grant congratulated Inverness County on taking the lead on this initiative and felt a website and inventory of farmland would be beneficial.

Councillor MacInnis indicated that educating the public is an important component of this initiative. It is necessary to change the mindset of the consumers in the selection of their food. He outlined that fish has to be shipped off island for processing and he felt this Pan Cape Breton Food Network could provide the link to make the market grow and necessary facilities be established.

He questioned on the community gardens established in Inverness County and was advised that residents from 3 to 73 have participated in this venture and it has proven to be a very worthwhile venture.

Councillor Buchanan advised that his father is a fisherman and a vendor at the Cape North Farmers Market and people come from far distances to get their fresh fish from him.

Councillor Budge indicated that he felt this was a very worthwhile venture and fully supports what they are trying to accomplish.

Councillor Dauphinee commented on the statistics provided with regard to farming in Inverness County in 1918. He indicated that more and more people are looking for local product in their food purchases.

Deputy Warden Patterson brought up the issue of food labelling and advertising and questioned on who is responsible for the quality of the food that ends up on the consumer's plate.

He was advised that the Department of Agriculture determine what and how food can be brought to farmers markets and beyond that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency has jurisdiction with regard to food.

Warden Morrison thanked the gentlemen for their presentation and felt this initiative has great potential.

**It was moved by Councillor Grant, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that Victoria County Municipal Council support in principle the creation of the Pan Cape Breton Food Network. Motion carried.**

### **PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, SPORT & RECREATION REGIONAL SERVICES**

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Larry Maxwell, Regional Representative, Cape Breton Region, Department of Health and Wellness.

Mr. Maxwell indicated that he works in the Physical Activity, Sport & Recreation (PASR) Regional Services division of the Department of Health and Wellness.

Mr. Maxwell then presented his presentation "Supporting the Strength of Communities" (copy attached). The mission of PASR is to lead government and collaborate with our communities to improve the health and quality of life of Nova Scotians through active living.

Mr. Maxwell outlined the functions of PASR and provided an update on the funding programs available which include:

- Planning Assistance

- Regional Development Grants
- Community Recreation Capital Grant
- Recreation Facility Development Program
- Sport Hosting

He outlined the criteria followed in the various funding programs and provided examples of the projects approved under each of the funding programs.

Mr. Maxwell outlined some of the projects undertaken in Victoria County under these programs in the past.

Discussion took place and Council expressed their thanks for the information provided and the work being done by Mr. Maxwell and Vince Forrestall in the promotion of active living.

Warden Morrison extended a thank you to Mr. Maxwell for his presentation and he was excused at this time.

### **RECESS**

Warden Morrison announced that Council would recess for ten minutes.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Warden Morrison acknowledged Vince Forrestall for his role in saving the life of the young man who fell through the ice at Uisge Ban Falls.

Warden Morrison also offered congratulations to Jim Morrow who retired from his employment with the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board after 37 years as a school bus driver. His last day of work was January 10, 2014, and Council wished him well on his retirement.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JANUARY 6, 2014**

The minutes of the January 6, 2014, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

**It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor Budge, that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of January 6, 2014, be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

### **RCMP**

Councillor Grant questioned if any information was received from the RCMP on the breakdown of the cost of policing in the Meat Cove area of Inverness County. The CAO indicated that no information has been received.

**It was moved by Councillor Grant, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that a letter be forwarded to S/Sgt. Craig Yorke, RCMP, formally requesting the policing statistics and costs for RCMP coverage for the Meat Cove area. Motion carried.**

### **Tax Sale Searches**

An update on the number of completed tax sale searches since this matter was brought to Council a few months ago was questioned.

The CAO indicated that a tax sale has been scheduled for March 18, 2014, and he will provide the tax sale search information to Council.

### **DISTRICT CONCERNS**

#### **District #5**

Deputy Warden Patterson brought up the sanding of the dirt roads in his district. Other Council members indicated that the same applies in their districts.

Residents are being stranded in both leaving and getting to their homes. The 24 hour policy after storm policy is not acceptable.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that he emailed Darren Blundon, Area Manager, DOTIR, who is responsible for District #1 and he indicated that they are doing what they can with the resources they have available.

DOTIR are doing their own sanding and there are no private contracts in place. It was felt that the Minister should be contacted to express concern on the current snow removal and sanding practices. Residents should also be advised to contact their MLA, Pam Eyking.

**It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that a letter be forwarded to the Hon. Geoff MacLellan, Minister of TIR, with copies to the Deputy Minister of TIR, Area Managers Steve MacDonald and Darren Blundon, and MLA Pam Eyking, outlining concern with regard to the current snow removal and sanding policies and indicating that these practices are no longer acceptable and new standards should be instituted immediately. Motion carried.**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **EMO**

Sandy Hudson advised that a mechanic was brought in to look at the generator on site at the Baddeck Solid Waste Facility. After a three hour period, the motor is operational and electrical workers will check to see that the generator panel is up to standard. Once this testing has been completed, the Gaelic College will be contacted and a site will be investigated for the location of the generator and further discussion will be held on the EMO Centre.

**NSPI**

Deputy Warden Patterson indicated that as of 2:00 p.m. today, the street lights ordered for his district on October 25, 2013, have not been installed.

**2014 MUNICIPAL ELECTORAL BOUNDARY REVIEW**

Sandy Hudson advised that every six years, a mandatory review of the Municipal Electoral Boundaries is required. 2014 is a review year.

The review must be submitted to the UARB by the end of the year and they make the final decision.

During the last review, the CAO did public consultations in each of the municipal districts and he questioned if Council wished to follow the same procedure as last time. He is now in the process of obtaining necessary information for the review.

**It was moved by Councillor Buchanan, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that the CAO undertake the Municipal Electoral Boundary Review with public consultations to be held in each of the municipal districts. Motion carried.**

Sandy Hudson advised that he hoped to have the consultations done by the end of June, 2014, with the submission filed with the UARB in the fall of 2014.

**DISTRICT CONCERNS**

**District #6**

Councillor Dauphinee brought up the matter of the Englishtown Ferry. The ferry is now out of service and the condition of the road on the detour route is unacceptable. It is deterring tourism in the northern area and is an inconvenience to residents living on the northern side of the ferry.

**It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that a letter expressing concern on the operation of the Englishtown Ferry and the condition of the alternate route roadway be forwarded to the Hon. Geoff MacLellan, Minister of DOTIR and request that John Majchrowicz, Supervisor of Ferry Operations, be requested to meet with Council. Motion carried.**

Councillor Dauphinee also brought up the status of the Keltic Lodge operations for the upcoming year.

**It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Deputy Warden Patterson, that a letter be forwarded to the Hon. Michel Samson, Minister of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism, questioning on the government's plan for the operation of the Keltic Lodge in the 2014 season. Motion carried.**

**District #7**

Councillor Budge brought up the matter of the proposed monument to be located at Green Cove. He felt Council should offer their support for this initiative. The National Park will be holding public consultations in the area.

**It was moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that a letter of support be provided for the Never Forgotten National Memorial Foundation for their proposal to erect a monument in recognition of veterans at Green Cove, Victoria County, and this support be provided for the public consultations to be hosted by Parks Canada. Motion carried.**

**It was moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Natural Resources requesting that the sports fishing season be the same in all areas of Victoria County. Motion carried.**

**District #8**

Councillor Buchanan requested that a follow up be requested on the meeting held with Darlene MacInnis, Department of Community Services, concerning services for mentally and physically challenged individuals in the northern area of the County.

**District #4**

Councillor MacInnis again brought up the matter of the Englishtown Ferry and the fact that the reason it is now out of service is a crack in the hull. It appears that the appropriate checks and balances were not in place when this ferry was being built.

The unavailability and unreliability of the ferry operation at Englishtown is a detriment to the whole Island. He reiterated the request to have John Majchrowicz, Director of Ferry Operations, come to Council.

**It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that John Majchrowicz, Director of Ferry Operations, be requested to come to Council and if necessary a special meeting to discuss the impact of the ferry operations be held on his availability. Motion carried.**

**District #2**

The Crowdis Mountain Snowmobile Club recently purchased a groomer and has applied to ECBC and Health and Wellness for assistance with the cost of the purchase. Councillor Grant indicated that they will be coming to Council requesting funding also.

The Crowdis Mountain Snowmobile Club is to be advised to make application for funding through the Community Grants Application Program. The deadline for applications for this program is April 1, 2014.

Councillor Grant brought up the issue of tax exemption for community halls and reviewing the existing list of tax exempt properties contained in the Municipal Tax Exemption By-Law. Discussion took place.

The taxation of community halls is to be referred to the budget process and a review will be undertaken of all properties on the tax exemption list.

**District #1**

Councillor MacNeil brought up the recent water leak on the Little Narrows Water System on the new section of line. The repair was completed in a timely matter, however; he felt that the whole operation of the Little Narrows Water System should be undertaken in the spring.

Ron McIntyre and Robert Dauphinee will be requested to do a test of all the lines on the Little Narrows Water System when weather permits in the spring.

Councillor MacNeil advised that there are 3 street lights out of service on the Barra Strait Bridge. Lynk Electric is to be contacted to undertake the necessary repairs to the bridge lighting.

**District #3**

Warden Morrison indicated that there will be a meeting held on Wednesday, January 22, 2014, at 1:00 p.m. at the Whycocomagh Fire Hall, for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by the Wardens of Inverness/Richmond and Victoria and the Mayor of CBRM pertaining to the REN and how it will move forward.

**WIND TURBINE DEVELOPMENT**

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to John Bain, Director, Eastern District Planning Commission, who was in attendance regarding the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-Law Concerning the Regulation of Wind Turbine Development and the associated Wind Turbine Licensing By-Law.



Warden Morrison questioned if tonight's meeting could serve as the first reading of the by-law. Mr. Bain indicated that he felt it could.

The comments received at the public meetings on the wind turbine documents have been incorporated into the documents and Mr. Bain conducted a review of the documents with Council outlining the changes. Discussion took place and some additional minor changes will be incorporated into the documents.

**It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor Grant, to approve the first reading of the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-Law Concerning the Regulation of Wind Turbine Development. Motion carried.**

**It was moved by Councillor Buchanan, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, to approve the first reading of the Wind Turbine Licensing By-Law. Motion carried.**

John Bain will advertise the second and final reading of these documents in the Victoria Standard and the public hearing on the by-laws will be held on February 24, 2014.

Councillor Grant extended a thank you to John Bain for the cooperation received with regard to the development of these documents.

Councillor Grant was also extended to thank you as Chair of the Alternate Energy Committee on the work he has done on this matter to ensure this issue was dealt with in a timely manner.

Sandy Hudson advised that David Swan, an expert with regard to wind development, will be in attendance at a meeting to be held at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, January 27, 2014, at the Court House, Baddeck.

### **CELL SERVICE**

A meeting with regard to cell phone service in the Bay St. Lawrence and Middle River areas will be held at the Bell Aliant offices in Sydney, on January 31, 2014. Representatives from Bell Aliant, ECBC and Pam Eyking, MLA, will be in attendance.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council will be held on Monday, February 10, 2014, at the Court House, Baddeck, at 5:00 p.m. Presentations on the agenda include the Baddeck Public Library and Celtic Colours.

### **ADJOURN**

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

**Bruce Morrison, Warden**

**Sandy Hudson, CAO**

