

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
January 26, 2015

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, January 26, 2015, 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 Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.

NORTH VICTORIA SIX PORTS HARBOUR AUTHORITY

Courtesy of Council was extended to Kim Stockley, Operations Manager, and Osborne Burke, President, North Victoria Six Ports Harbour Authority.

Ms. Stockley indicated that the North Victoria Six Ports Harbour Authority is responsible for the day-to day operations and management of 6 commercial fishing harbours from Ingonish Ferry to Dingwall. They provide safe and accessible harbours and waterways to the commercial fishing industry and the general public and actively pursue various funding avenues and partners in order to implement the on-going maintenance and upgrades that are required on an annual basis. The staff work closely with Fisheries & Oceans – Small Craft Harbours on a daily/weekly basis to coordinate and implement many harbour related projects.

Ms. Stockley indicated that with the assistance of funding partners, including Victoria County, they have been able to carry out a significant amount of maintenance and upgrades to harbours in Ingonish Ferry, Ingonish, Neil's Harbour, New Haven, White Point and Dingwall.

Ms. Stockley advised that the Harbour Authority has secured and spent in excess of \$6 million dollars for projects and activities over the past five fiscal years.

In 2014, the North Victoria Six Ports Harbour Authority received a Regional Harbour Authority Achievement Award.

Ms. Stockley outlined the future plans of the Harbour Authority and presented a letter requesting that Victoria County provide support in the amount of \$20,000.00 per year over five years, for a total of \$100,000.00.

Mr. Burke indicated that in Canada, there are five Fisheries & Oceans Regions. 42% of the national budget comes to the Maritimes. All regions have limited dollars and must compete with other harbours within the region. Mr. Stockley requested Council members travelling to Ottawa bring their concerns to the attention of Minister Gail Shea. Warden Morrison requested that an email be forwarded to him with the concerns and they would address them when they are in Ottawa.

Discussion took place on the harbours within the North Victoria Six Ports Harbour Authority. The five harbours (six sites) were amalgamated in 2008 as a 3 year pilot project. At the end of the three years, all harbours wished to remain in the one authority. There are 107 fishermen working out of these six harbours.

Bay St. Lawrence is located in the Gulf Region and the North Victoria Six Ports Harbour Authority is in the Eastern Region. Big Bras d'Or and Little River are also in the Eastern Region.

The makeup for the 15 member Board of Directors of the North Victoria Six Ports Harbour Authority was outlined. There are 12 commercial fishers, 1 business, 1 recreation/tourism and 1 community representative.

Mr. Burke indicated that the product landed at these wharves last year averaged around \$10 to \$14 million. There are also benefits to the buyers and other service industries.

Harbour dredging in the various harbours was discussed. The costs to the individual fishermen at these harbours were discussed. Ms. Stockley indicated that it is \$300.00 per boat, \$250.00 for freezer space and \$250.00 for a gear shed.

Further discussion took place on various aspects of the North Victoria Six Ports Harbour Authority.

It was moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that North Victoria Six Ports Harbour Authority request for funding be referred to budget. Motion carried.

An official application is to be forwarded and financial statements for the past two years are to be provided.

Warden Morrison extended a thank you to Ms. Stockley and Mr. Burke for the positive presentation.

BELL ALIANT

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Kevin Hashem, Regional Manager, Bell Aliant.

Mr. Hashem indicated that he was in attendance to provide general information on high speed internet access in Victoria County. He indicated that the DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) access has a 5 km. circular coverage area from its origin. He mentioned the ultra DSL and regular DSL capabilities. He provided a map outlining the existing sites in Victoria County and the overlap in some areas. He indicated that it is designed that way and overlap is beneficial.

Mr. Hashem indicated that currently 80% of Victoria County residents have internet access and 78% are covered under the Bell Aliant DSL footprint. This is tops in Atlantic Canada, as in other similar rural demographics the coverage is 70%. This is in part to Victoria County's aggressive stance when the BRAND Project was initiated years ago. Victoria County led all other areas in terms of its investment in the program.

Bell Aliant has one new application area in Victoria County under the Connecting Canadians program and this is for the Greater Goose Cove area. The possible total resident count in this application is 140. There are no additional expansion plans for DSL in Victoria County other than this area.

The internet service in Victoria County varies from district to district and Council requested the opportunity to discuss the issues, either through compliments or complaints.

Councillor Dauphinee indicated that the service in the Ingonish area has been good lately. There is on occasion, congestion, and he questioned whether there were any plans to augment the network. Mr. Hashem indicated that last year additional port capacity was added in the Ingonish area.

The question on whether there was any chance of fibre op being available in the County in the future was raised and Mr. Hashem advised that there were no plans for fibre op in Victoria County.

Mr. Hashem advised that in late November/early December, Bell Aliant became part of Bell Canada. They went from a 6000 person organization to a 25,000 person organization and

they were forced to change what they were doing and now focus on growth and business decisions are based on return on investment.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that he has noticed that the internet speed in the Iona to Grand Narrows area and Wagmatcook is not as good as it used to be. Mr. Hashem indicated that in April, 2014, there was an expansion to the network service in Little Narrows.

Mr. Hashem updated on the individual internet service and that every person has their own port. There are two pieces of copper wire that go to a home and back to the server. Bell Aliant broadcast a bandwidth that is cut down by the number of users.

Mr. Hashem outlined a number of factors that could affect internet service (wireless phones, dampness, shorts in home, quality of router, etc.).

Councillor Buchanan questioned on the coverage in his district. There are 3 D-Slams in the district located in Meat Cove, Dingwall and Bay St. Lawrence.

Deputy Warden Patterson indicated that although at times there may be a degree of annoyance; for the most part he is pleased with how it works.

Warden Morrison expressed his annoyance with his service. He lives less than ¼ km from the Bell Aliant station and has problems with his service being dropped, unable to download video clips, etc. He has talked to people in his district with similar issues.

Mr. Hashem indicated that he encouraged residents to call and initiate a trouble ticket and a service technician can visit the home and investigate the inside and outside problems. He indicated he would talk to his staff with regard to service complaints. He encouraged Council to call 611 to report problems.

Warden Morrison indicated with the Naturally Connected tagline on the County logo, he would like to have the best possible internet connection in the County.

Councillor Grant brought up the accident last year in South Haven that knocked out all debit/credit machines and internet access in the 295 exchange. Work was supposed to be completed to prevent this from happening again.

Mr. Hashem indicated that there was a redesign of the network completed to provide an alternative path to Baddeck from Sydney. He indicated that the route is like a ring, and if something were to happen now and part of the ring is cut, the signal will be sent to the other side and will be automatically rerouted.

Councillor MacInnis questioned on the TMR tower and whether equipment will be installed on the tower for cell coverage. This is before ACOA at present and no reply has been received to date.

Kevin Hashem was extended a thank you for his attendance at tonight's meeting.

RECESS

Warden Morrison advised that Council would recess for 15 minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JANUARY 12, 2015

The minutes of the January 12, 2015, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of January 12, 2015, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Mobility Strategy Business Plan

Deputy Warden Patterson advised that the meeting on the Mobility Strategy Business Plan will be held on Monday, February 2, 2015, at 4:00 p.m. in the Court House, Baddeck.

MEAT COVE INVOICE

At the last Council meeting, Councillor Grant brought forward a notice of motion concerning invoicing Inverness County for services provided to the Meat Cove area by Victoria County. He explained how he came up with the figure for the invoice.

It was moved by Councillor Grant, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that a bill be forwarded to Inverness County in the amount of \$39,000.00 for services provided by Victoria County to the Meat Cove area in 2014-2015. Motion carried.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #1

Councillor MacNeil advised that he received a phone call from a resident that in future, when the power goes out, the Little Narrows Ferry and Englishtown Ferry will not be operating.

He contacted the Area Managers and the MLA's office in this regard and spoke with John Majchrowicz, Director of Marine Services, and he advised that he gave the directive based on safety complaints from staff members.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that a letter be forwarded to John Majchrowicz, Director of Marine Services, with a copy to the Minister of TIR, concerning the ferries not operating when there are power outages. Motion carried.

District #2

Councillor Grant indicated that the Crowdis Mountain Snowmobile Club will be hosting the "Ride for Dad" event for prostate cancer at the Inverary Resort on March 7-8, 2015. There will be an estimated 200 participants and Councillor Grant brought forward the costs of sponsorship of this event.

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that the Municipality provide sponsorship in the amount of \$1,000.00 for the "Ride for Dad" event sponsored by the Crowdis Mountain Snowmobile Club. Motion carried.

Councillor Grant questioned on the Council date that Brad MacKinley, CBRM, is to be invited to, so he can advise him. Mr. MacKinley is to be invited to the February 23, 2015, session of Council.

Councillor Grant indicated that the two doctor recruitment videos, featuring Dr. Genge and Dr. Chow, have been completed and he would like have similar videos completed for the northern area of the County. He has spoken to Dr. Murray in this regard. Each video costs about \$2,000.00 to produce.

Councillor Grant indicated that he has spoken to Tom Wilson and Sandy Hudson regarding the development of a lifestyle website, but this is a longer process. He would like the two completed videos added to the municipal website. This will be done.

Councillor Grant advised that a meeting of the Alternate Energy Committee is required and it was agreed that this meeting be held on Monday, February 23, 2015, at 3:00 p.m., prior to Council.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis requested that the status of the feasibility study for a bridge at Englishtown be investigated. The study was to have been completed by December, 2014.

Councillor MacInnis requested that a list of County owned properties be provided for review.

District #8

Councillor Buchanan questioned whether a date has been set for Kim Deveaux to attend Council with regard to youth councils.

The CAO will check on Ms. Deveaux's availability.

Councillor Buchanan questioned why Meat Cove is not a part of Victoria County. Council was advised that the County boundaries were established in 1852.

It was moved by Councillor Buchanan, seconded by Councillor Grant, that a street light order be placed for installation at 29485 Cabot Trail (North Victoria Community Centre). Motion carried.

District #5

Deputy Warden Patterson advised that during the recent rain storm, he was contacted by a resident that encountered two large puddles on the road at the eastern entrance of the Seal Island Bridge. This has not happened before and Steve MacDonald was contacted in this regard.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that a street light order be placed for installation at 55 Kelly's View Drive, Boularderie. Motion carried.

District #3

Warden Morrison advised that Jessica Wong has been invited as one of the 24 players to attend the Canadian National Women's Hockey Team training camp this week in Blainville, Quebec.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. A letter was received from Pitu'paq requesting Council consider an Anti-Fracking By-Law for Victoria County.

This correspondence is to be acknowledged.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that he felt this is something Council might look into in the future to be proactive.

2. An email was received from the Cape Breton Partnership concerning the development of a land asset database, as part of investment readiness, for the Municipality. The consulting team wish to meet with Council in the near future.

Meetings will be scheduled and Council will be advised.

REN6 MEETING

Warden Morrison advised that a meeting was held on January 19, 2015, regarding REN6. The proposed Board of Directors have scheduled a meeting for February 9, 2015, with the CEO's of Business Cape Breton and the Cape Breton Partnership. A report should be received from this meeting and an update will be provided at the February 23, 2015, Council meeting.

IN CAMERA

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Deputy Warden Patterson, to move In Camera to deal with a personnel issue. Motion carried.

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO