

**VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**  
*April 27, 2015*

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, April 27, 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 Grant, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

**HOSPICE SOCIETY OF VICTORIA COUNTY**

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Jennifer MacDonald, Vice-Chair, Hospice Society of Victoria County.

Mrs. MacDonald indicated they are in the midst of a shift in the Society and want to increase awareness of what they do, where they are going and what can be done to help the Society.

The Hospice Society relies on fundraising, donations and support from the community. They offer support to anyone in Victoria County for end of life care and their area of jurisdiction is the catchment area of the Victoria County Memorial Hospital.

Mrs. MacDonald outlined what the Hospice Society does. They provide oxygen, medication and other needed supplies to homes throughout Victoria County. They maintain the Healing Garden, and the Palliative Care Patient and Family Rooms at the Victoria County

Memorial Hospital. Funding is provided for Professional Development for front-line workers in Palliative Care and they advocate for Palliative Care in the community. They engage the public by providing educational opportunities for our community to learn more about Palliative Care and surrounding issues and collaborate with other organizations and professionals to best serve the community.

Mrs. MacDonald outlined where the Hospice is and where it wants to go. They seek to be sustainable both organizationally and financially. The Society would like to attract more Board members from outside the Baddeck area. They wish to achieve financial stability and she outlined some of the fundraising efforts.

The Society would also like to raise its profile in the community to promote community engagement with the Society. Mrs. MacDonald mentioned the new logo and indicated this will be consistent on all materials and be easily recognizable.

The Society also seeks to support, enhance and expand its programs and services. The average caseload for the Hospice Nurse is 30 people monthly and it is not only the patients, but their families and caregivers that also get care and support.

Mrs. MacDonald indicated that the Society seeks to develop a sustainable and effective volunteer program.

Council can assist the society by informing residents of the services they provide, informing caregivers about the professional development fund and helping recruit volunteers/board members and offering suggestions on gaps in the services provided.

The contact information for the Hospice Society of Victoria County was provided:

Email – [hospicevc@gmail.com](mailto:hospicevc@gmail.com)

Website – [www.hospicesocietyofvictoriacounty.com](http://www.hospicesocietyofvictoriacounty.com)

Phone – 902-295-1097

Mrs. MacDonald distributed information pamphlets on the Hospice Society of Victoria County. She advised that Rev. Allison Etter is the Board Chair of the Hospice Society of Victoria County and she introduced Terry Murray, a Board Member who was in attendance with her this evening.

Ms. Murray has a background in palliative care nursing and she provided information on the education part of hospice. She outlined how we can be responsible to affect policy and health care decisions to be in line with other parts of the country. She advised of advanced care planning and trying to normalize the conversation to have end of life care wishes, etc. placed on

paper. She provided information on Personal Directives in Nova Scotia and the process for making a Personal Directive.

Dr. John Ritter is the palliative care physician who has a schedule of three days every two weeks in this area. He puts in more than his scheduled time and is a tremendous physician and asset in this field.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that hospice is an excellent service to have in our County.

Councillor Grant is a member of the Hospice Society Board and congratulated the group for the progress it has made in the past six months.

Councillor MacInnis indicated he has been personally affected by hospice in the past and it is a wonderful service. Discussion took place on alternative funeral arrangements and Mrs. MacDonald indicated that this, along with other ideas, is being investigated.

Councillor Buchanan also indicated that this service is a great thing and Councillor Budge indicated that he has dealt with the hospice organization in the northern area of the County and what they do is amazing.

Councillor Dauphinee questioned on the boundary line of the two hospice organizations in Victoria County and Mrs. MacDonald indicated that the Wreck Cove area is the boundary, but there are open communications between both organizations and they work together.

Deputy Warden Patterson indicated that he recently attended a meeting with Minister Leo Glavine, Health and Wellness and Seniors, and palliative care was a part of the discussion. It takes special people with special abilities to be able to work in this field and it is a wonderful gift to give the people in need.

The Hospice Society of Victoria County meets the second Wednesday of every month at the Victoria County Memorial Hospital.

Warden Morrison extended a thank you to Jennifer MacDonald and Terry Murray for the information provided and he advised that Council would do their best to get the Hospice message out.

### **CAPE BRETON CONNECT PRESENTATION**

Courtesy of Council was extended to Iris Kedmi, Marketing Developer & Coordinator, Cape Breton Connect; Ellen Polegato, Regional Physical Activity Coordinator, Nova Scotia Health and Wellness; and Vince Forrestall, Victoria County Physical Activity Strategy Coordinator.

Mr. Forrestall thanked Council for the opportunity to present on the Cape Breton Connect Partnership Initiative.

Ellen Polegato indicated that the Cape Breton Connect Initiative is a partnership initiative between CBRM, the Town of Port Hawkesbury, the Municipalities of Inverness, Richmond and Victoria, Sport Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness. Their mission is “To educate, inspire and empower residents and visitors on Cape Breton Island to be “Active for Life”. The website & user friendly database will provide a one stop shop that offers up to date information and opportunities related to recreation, sport and physical activity.”

Ms. Polegato indicated that the ultimate purpose of Cape Breton Connect is to help increase participation in sport, recreation and physical activities through an awareness of active living opportunities. There will be an internet-based, searchable directory whereby the public can access up-to-date information on active living.

Connect is recreation, sports, outdoor recreation, active transportation, professional development/leadership opportunities and funding opportunities.

Iris Kedmi advised that she and Devon Pierre are the two JCP Program employees for Cape Breton Connect. Devon Pierre does Data Entry and is responsible to collect and enter data from the partners, collect missing data, train municipal staff and support partners after staff training. Iris Kedmi is the Marketing Developer & Coordinator and she is responsible to build the Connect.ca website, develop and implement the strategic marketing plan, coordinate the CB Connect launch and administrative tasks.

The launch date for the Connect.ca website was questioned on Ellen Polegato indicated the target date is December 2015/January 2016. The maintenance of the database and the responsibility for this maintenance was discussed.

After further discussion, Warden Morrison extended a thank you for the presentation and information provided and requested that updates be provided to Council in future.

### **PROPOSED SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SCHEDULE CHANGES**

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Robert Dauphinee, Director of Public Works.

Mr. Dauphinee was in attendance with regard to moving away from collection on holidays and doing the collection on an alternate day. There are only a few jurisdictions that collect on holidays and it would be more cost effective not to collect. At present the waste collection staff who work on holidays receive pay for the day at 1 ½ and receive another day off in lieu. They also are unable to have these holidays off and spend time with their families.

The collection staff is coming up on their five year anniversary of employment and will be receiving an additional weeks' vacation. The holiday issue came up during Union negotiations and in discussing the schedule change with the employees they are in agreement. They will work longer days during the days they double up on collection. It will cost the municipality less in wages and be easier on the equipment.

Communicating any changes was felt to be very important. When the holiday collection change would take effect was discussed.

The possibility of waste collection every second week was brought up and whether the volume could be handled at peak times was questioned.

The progress of the changeover to clear bags was questioned. The voluntary phase began in October, 2014 and allowed for a 12 month transition to give residents and businesses time to adjust. The program will become mandatory in October of this year. After that time modification of routes and other efficiencies will be investigated.

Communicating the changes in the holiday collection schedule was felt to be important and getting the message out to the public is important. It was felt that communications should be done from now through the summer and that the change in holiday collection will take place on Labour Day - Monday, September 7, 2015.

Robert Dauphinee reported on the Public Works staff meeting held in Indian Brook on March 25, 2015. It was an all-day in service with various items on the agenda. The staff were very receptive and the day was a resounding success. Mr. Dauphinee outlined his plans for future training sessions.

The use of clear bags to date was questioned and Mr. Dauphinee indicated that the uptake has been less than anticipated, but until the program becomes compulsory in October it will probably be slow.

The blue bag collection was discussed. It was felt that putting the word out about what is to be placed in blue bags is also important. All blue bags received at our sites are opened and sorted appropriately.

Whether sample clear bags could be provided to kick start the public on the use of these bags was questioned and can be pursued.

The garbage along the roadsides was discussed. Councillor MacNeil indicated that a roadside cleanup will be held in his district and questioned whether gloves and clear bags could be provided for the collection. Supplies can be provided and it was indicated that the Department of TIR will also provide some supplies for a roadside cleanup.

Councillor Dauphinee indicated that he has a resident in his district that collects garbage on the roadsides and does not sort materials. Mr. Dauphinee indicated that if they are made aware of such cases, they will be more diligent in accepting mixed materials from these designated individuals.

Controlling litter on the highways was discussed and how this is handled in other provinces was questioned. An education initiative on littering can be instituted in outgoing communications and in the schools.

Jocelyn Bethune requested that Council advise her of any events happening in their districts and she can attend and provide information on the clear bag program, other initiatives, etc.

Warden Morrison extended a thank you to Robert Dauphinee for the update.

**RECESS**

Warden Morrison announced that Council would recess for 10 minutes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – APRIL 13, 2015**

The minutes of the April 13, 2015, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

**It was moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of April 13, 2015, be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**Electronic Voting**

Sandy Hudson provided an update on the voting statistics from the 2004, 2008 and 2012 municipal elections. The 2012 election saw advance poll voting done electronically, which resulted in an increase in voting in the advance poll.

How to proceed in the 2016 municipal election was discussed. In any case, it was felt an enumeration would have to be undertaken.

The advantages and disadvantages of electronic voting only were outlined.

**It was moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that voting in the 2016 municipal and school board election be conducted electronically for the advance poll and manually on Election Day. Motion carried.**

**Mussel Farm Operations**

The letter to be forwarded to the Honourable Keith Colwell, Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture, regarding the mussel farm operation in St. Ann's was discussed. Warden Morrison and Councillor MacInnis met with the Stewards of St. Ann's and the former 5M mussel farm operators concerning the operations in St. Ann's Bay.

A meeting with the Minister has been requested to discuss the concerns.

**DISTRICT CONCERNS**

**District #1**

Discussion took place on the former Rankin School property.

**It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that the former Rankin School property be sold for its appraised value to the CBVRSB and the easement for the water/sewer line request from Lawrence MacKinnon be included in the sale agreement. Motion carried.**

The gravel roads in District #1 are in terrible shape this year. Culverts are plugged and roads are giving away in some areas.

**It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that a letter be forwarded to the Department of TIR that upgrades to the gravel roads in District #1 be undertaken immediately. Motion carried.**

**District #2**

Councillor Grant expressed concern that the provincial government has shut down the Community Counts website in their budget cuts. This was a good site with a great deal of information on demographics, salaries, crime statistics, and other important background information.

**It was moved by Councillor Grant, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that a letter be forwarded to the Minister of Finance requesting the government reinstate the Community Counts website. Motion carried.**

Discussion took place on the provincial government cuts and the impact they have on rural areas.

**District #4**

Councillor MacInnis mentioned the recent protest regarding the increase in ferry fees and with this in mind, he indicated that the Liberal Caucus will be meeting in Membertou from May 1-3, 2015, and this may be an opportunity to meet with the Minister of TIR.

Warden Morrison indicated that as a Board Member of the UNSM, he will be meeting with Minister MacLellan tomorrow and will request that he meet with Council at his convenience during these days and if he indicates he is unavailable, he be advised that Council will be in Membertou at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 2, 2015, and hope he has time with them then.

Councillor MacInnis questioned on the status of the Fire Coordinator position requested by the Chief Officers Committee.

The CAO indicated that he has been in contact with Inverness and Richmond Counties and the Town of Port Hawkesbury to determine their interest in having a regional position for the 4 municipal units.

Councillor MacInnis questioned on the use of pesticide in Victoria County and whether the Municipality could achieve pesticide free status. It was felt that the first step would be to start with the local farmers to determine how they grow their crops and control pests.

Gary Koziel, Department of Agriculture, would be an initial contact in this regard.

**District #8**

Councillor Buchanan indicated that there is only one RN on shift at Buchanan Memorial Hospital in Neil's Harbour, where there are two in most of the other rural facilities.

**It was moved by Councillor Buchanan, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that a letter be forwarded to Eileen Woodford, Director of Rural Health, concerning Buchanan Memorial Hospital having only one RN on shift and request they have the same level of coverage as other rural facilities. Motion carried.**

**District #7**

Councillor Budge indicated that at a recent Highland Manor Board meeting, it was mentioned that the parking lot property at the facility is owned by DNR. They would like to obtain this property and he questioned on a land exchange to achieve this.



**It was moved by Councillor Budge, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that a request be submitted to DNR to exchange property to obtain the parking area at Highland Manor from the Crown. Motion carried.**

**District #6**

Councillor Dauphinee brought up the condition of the shoulders of the roads and felt that a request should be submitted to the Department of TIR to have the shoulders graded and repaired prior to the Cabot Trail Relay. He also asked that the Department of TIR be requested to paint the yellow line on the new section of highway through the North Shore.

These items will be included in the letter to the Department of TIR.

**District #5**

Deputy Warden Patterson advised that Councillor Dwayne MacDonald, Inverness County, is the Interim Manager of Strait Area Transit, and he has had a couple of conversations with him regarding the transit service. There is talk of expansion to Waycobah and the possibility to Wagmatcook to NSCC. From there it is only a short distance to Baddeck. This concept is only in the exploratory stages but it would be to Victoria County's benefit to open discussions as it could be a partial solution to the transit issue.

Deputy Warden Patterson indicated that there were surveyors on the Kempt Head Road today and it is looking hopeful that a six km section of the road will be paved this construction season. He also indicated concern on the condition of the gravel roads in his district.

**District #3**

Warden Morrison brought up to two town hall meetings held in Neil's Harbour and Little Narrows concerning the ferry rate increase. He thanked the Councillors who hosted these meetings and indicated they were well received in the community.

Warden Morrison questioned when the tax bills would be sent and whether the information on rebate programs requested to be printed on the tax bills would be included. The CAO indicated the bills are sent out in June and the information will be included.

A Committee of the Whole meeting is to be held on the tax sale/search issue in the near future.

Warden Morrison updated on the UNSM Advocacy Day he will be attending in Halifax tomorrow. There are four UNSM issues that he and Councillor Clarence Prince, CBRM, will address and he hopes to discuss some Victoria County issues if possible.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**SUBDIVISION BY-LAW**

The Victoria County Subdivision By-Law is in need of review and it was questioned as to how Council wished to proceed. It was agreed that all Council should be included in the review as it affects the entire County.

A meeting to begin the review will be arranged with John Bain, EDPC, for Monday, May 11, 2015, at 4:00 p.m.

**WATER COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Water Committee will meet tomorrow at 1:00 p.m. It is hoped that the Water Utility Operators contracts will be completed.

**BUDGET**

The budget process will be starting and the CAO advised they will draft a budget based on no changes in the rates and proceed as directed by Council from there as necessary.

**GARBAGE TRUCK**

One of the Victoria County garbage trucks has been rented to Inverness County while their truck is undergoing repairs.

**NEXT MEETINGS**

Councillor MacNeil indicated a meeting of the Economic Development Committee will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, May 11, 2015.

Council will be held on Monday, May 11, 2015, and presentations on the agenda include the RCMP and possibly Blair Parly, Parks Canada, who has provided with the option of May 11 or May 25, 2015.

**POLICY REVIEW**

Deputy Warden Patterson questioned on the tendering process for printing requirement. Audit and legal service tendering were also mentioned.

The tendering procedure will be reviewed.

**ADJOURN**

**There being no further business, on motion of Councillor Buchanan, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.**

**Bruce Morrison, Warden**

**Sandy Hudson, CAO**