

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
May 25, 2015

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, May 25, 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

Also present were:

Sandy Hudson, CAO
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

Absent was:

District #8 – Johnny Buchanan (Work Related Absence)

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Warden Morrison called the meeting to order and presented the agenda for approval.

Deputy Warden Patterson requested that the proposal from Strait Area Transit and Rack Promotion Cards be added to the agenda.

**It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved with the noted additions.
Motion carried.**

BADDECK COMMUNITY WIND TURBINE PROJECT

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Mitch Underhay, Project Planner, and Gay Harley, Manager, Community Relations and Carbon Services, Scotian Windfields.

Mr. Underhay provided an outline of the presentation (copy attached). Scotian Windfields is a community owned company that works on COMFIT wind projects, utility wind projects and small scale wind projects.

Their project development partner is WEB Wind Energy North America. This is a community owned developer from Austria with over 3000 investors and 300+ MW in operation.

Mr. Underhay presented a map of the COMFIT projects undertaken and planned for Nova Scotia, including the Baddeck Community Wind Turbine Project. He presented a map of the proposed turbine location in Rear Baddeck Bay.

The Baddeck Community Wind Turbine Project is 1 turbine, 1.70 MW that can provide power to 650 homes annually. There is a 1% community dividend of \$5,000.00 and municipal taxation of \$12,450.00 per year.

The turbine to be located at Rear Baddeck Bay is a Vesta V100, with a 312ft hub height, 164ft blades, a sweep area of 1.9 ac and a total overall height of 476 ft. He presented the updated site plan.

A public meeting was held on November 4, 2014, and another public meeting will be scheduled for mid-July. Wind testing was completed in 2014/2015 and a development permit was issued in May, 2015. It is anticipated that installation will take place in May, 2016.

Gay Harley explained the community dividend – what it is, why it was instituted, the benefits and how it is administered. She indicated that they are recruiting now for a Community Liaison Committee to consist of 6 to 12 community-oriented individuals. The Committee will meet 3 to 4 times per year. The recruiting and application process is transparent.

Scotian Windfields is seeking community support and are requesting Council to consider passing a resolution of support.

Mr. Underhay provided his contact information if anyone should have further questions or wish to contact him.

It was moved and seconded that provided all applicable by-laws and regulations are in place, Victoria County Municipal Council offer support for the 1.7 MW wind turbine project to be located at Rear Baddeck Bay. Motion carried.

Councillor Grant indicated that the Alternate Energy Committee met prior to Council and Scotian Windfields toured some of the local facilities and will be providing advice on what opportunities exist for solar energy for these facilities.

Warden Morrison extended a thank you to Mr. Underhay and Ms. Harley for their presentation and they left at this time.

CANADIAN DOCTORS FOR MEDICARE

Courtesy of Council was extended to Dr. Monika Dutt, Medical Officer of Health.

Dr. Dutt indicated that she was not in attendance in her role as Medical Officer of Health, but as a Canadian Doctor for Medicare. She presented a resolution she would like Council to consider for a National Pharmacare Strategy.

Dr. Dutt indicated that over 3 million Canadians, including many in our local communities, don't take medicines prescribed by doctors because they can't afford them. Canada is currently the only country with a national Medicare program that does not have a national pharmacare program. Studies show that an adopted national pharmacare program would lower costs to businesses and these gains could be achieved with little or no increase in public investment. Municipal government expenses for employee benefits would significantly decrease by having a national pharmacare program and this program would be sound policy, both economically and socially.

Dr. Dutt indicated that a recent study published by Dr. Danielle Martin indicated Canada would save \$7.3 billion if it had a national pharmacare program.

Dr. Dutt advised that the Canadian Doctors for Medicare are doing a campaign to get their message out across Canada and seek support. Victoria County is the first Nova Scotia municipality to be approached to date.

Council felt this is a very good initiative and one they would like to endorse.

It was moved and seconded that Victoria County Municipal Council express its support for the creation of a national pharmacare program as an extension of Canadian Medicare and call on the UNSM to urge the Province of Nova Scotia to work with other provinces and the federal government to develop and implement a national pharmacare program and further request the UNSM to urge the FCM to adopt a similar resolution respecting the federal government. Copies of this resolution are to be forwarded to the Premier of Nova Scotia, Provincial and Federal Ministers of Health, our MP and MLA, and the Prime Minister. Motion carried.

Dr. Dutt was extended a thank you for her presentation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MAY 11, 2015

The minutes of the May 11, 2015, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved and seconded by the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of May 11, 2015, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Heavy Garbage Collection

Heavy garbage collection will take place starting June 8, 2015, in both areas of the County. Dingwall Trucking will be doing the collection in the north of Smokey area and the collection south of Smokey will be done by our own municipal resources.

Councillor Dauphinee indicated that he spoke to a few of his residents since the last meeting about the possibility of a bi-weekly solid waste collection and they responded negatively.

RCMP Presence

Councillor MacNeil mentioned that the RCMP presence in his district is evident. The lack of break and enters in this district was also noted and may be a result of the increased RCMP presence.

NEW BUSINESS

Promotional Rack Cards

Deputy Warden Patterson showed the Council samples of promotional Rack cards for Victoria County that he suggested be printed and taken to the FCM for distribution. He provided costs for having the cards printed.

It was moved and seconded that 2500 Promotional Rack Cards be ordered at a cost of \$350.00. Motion carried.

The CAO advised that we also have USB memory sticks with the Victoria County logo that can be taken to the FCM for distribution.

Strait Area Transit

Deputy Warden Patterson brought up the meeting held with Dwayne MacDonald, General Manager, Strait Area Transit. Two things coming from the meeting were the possibility of a service from Baddeck to points west and return twice per day and that the cost for a trial period would be a maximum of \$5,000 per month for an 8 month period beginning in August, 2015. Discussion took place on this matter.

It was moved and seconded that \$40,000.00 be included in the budget for 2015-2016 and the transit proposal be referred to staff to work out further details. Motion carried.

Little Narrows Land Issue

Councillor MacNeil brought up the matter of the surplus property at Little Narrows and the possibility of an amended offer from the Province as a result of a request from an adjacent property owner to this property.

The CAO indicated that he is looking into this matter and is awaiting an amended offer and map from Lewis Wood, Province of Nova Scotia.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #5

Deputy Warden Patterson advised that a section of the Kempt Head Road has been marked and painted and residents are anxiously awaiting asphalt.

District #6 and #7

It was moved by and seconded that a letter be forwarded to Stephen MacDonald, Area Manager, Department of TIR, requesting an update on road improvements and shouldering in the area of Ingonish Centre and North Ingonish. Motion carried.

District #7

The CAO provided Councillor Budge with a copy of the Neil's Harbour/New Haven Water Study completed by Earth Water Concepts for review and recommendation. A decision will have to be made on how to proceed in the near future.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis brought up the matter of adopting a by-law to eliminate the use of plastic bags at retail outlets.

Whether there are by-laws in place in other jurisdictions is to be investigated.

It was moved and seconded that the CAO investigate whether by-laws are in place in other areas regarding the regulation of the use of plastic bags in retail outlets. Motion carried.

District #2

Councillor Grant brought up the letter received from Cindy Steele, Manager, Acquisitions and Disposals, Department of Natural Resources, regarding the proposed land

exchange. The review has been completed of the County's request to exchange 100 acres of land at Rear Little River for 100 acres of Crown land at Wreck Cove and the Department of Natural Resources feel the municipal parcel does not surpass the value of the Crown property and the request is declined.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the Premier and the Minister of Natural Resources expressing Council's dissatisfaction with the decision on the land exchange request. Motion carried.

District #1

Councillor MacNeil brought up the condition of the St. Columba Road and advised that the beavers are back and the road is being flooded as a result.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to Darren Blunden, Area Manager, Department of TIR, requesting that the necessary work be undertaken on the St. Columba Road, Iona. Motion carried.

Councillor MacNeil brought up the World Oceans Day celebrations to be held in Iona on June 6, and 7, 2015, and encouraged Council members who are available to attend this event.

District #6

Councillor Dauphinee indicated that the detailed impact analysis study for the Green Cove memorial has been completed and it is now open for comments.

District #3

Deputy Warden Patterson assumed the Chair.

It was moved and seconded that a letter of congratulations to be forwarded to Seamus Stears, Baddeck, who recently won a bronze medal at the Canada-Wide Science Fair in Fredericton, New Brunswick. Motion carried.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be sent to Dave Parkinson, Cape Trail Relay Organizing Chair, congratulating them on a successful 28th Cabot Trail Relay this past weekend. Motion carried.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to Paul LaFleche, Deputy Minister, Department of TIR, requesting an update on the request on the non-access highway designation between Exits #8 and #11 as was to be provided by Brian Ward. Motion carried.

Warden Morrison returned to the Chair.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget Committee

The recommendations contained in the Budget Committee meeting of May 19, 2015, were reviewed.

The amount of funding for the Inverness-Victoria Federation of Agriculture is to be investigated. \$1,000.00 was approved but Councillor MacInnis felt that the annual funding should be \$2,000.00.

The N-E NS Snow Crab Association application for financial assistance was discussed. Councillor MacInnis indicated that money is being committed from the fishermen, Victoria Co-op Fishers and other avenues and indicated he would like to see it included in the budget. The crab quota in this area is the lowest and he indicated the need to track the snow crab.

Further information on the funding partners for this request is to be obtained for the Budget meeting on Thursday, May 28, 2015. Council will look at approving this request once the required financial information is provided.

It was moved and seconded that \$1,000.00 be approved for the Ingonish Triathlon Society and \$2,000.00 for the Ingonish Development Society from the District #6 budget. Motion carried.

These amounts are to be included in the cheque with the amounts approved by Council.

Information on the funding paid to the Bay St. Lawrence Community Centre over the past number of years is to be provided for Thursday's meeting.

Discussion took place on the tax rates for 2015-2016.

It was moved and seconded that the tax rates for 2015-2016 remain the same as last year - \$1.20 residential and \$2.10 commercial. Motion carried.

The CAO mentioned major capital projects which include the Neil's Harbour/New Haven Water and the construction and demolitions debris (c&d) site. An expansion to the contaminated soil site is also required.

BY-LAWS/POLICY REVIEW

Workplace Harassment – Discrimination Policy

A copy of the proposed Workplace Harassment – Discrimination Policy was provided to Council for review and comments and possible adoption at the next meeting.

Subdivision By-Law

A meeting to review the Subdivision By-Law will be scheduled with John Bain.

Action Updates List

The CAO reviewed the action items list and updated Council on the status of each item.

CORRESPONDENCE

Items of correspondence both sent and received are to be put on the County website so the public can be informed.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, it was moved and seconded to adjourn at 6:35 p.m.

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO