

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
August 31, 2015

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, August 31, 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 and seconded that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.

DESTINATION CAPE BRETON ASSOCIATION

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Mary Tulle, CEO, and Kelsey Peters, Product Development Officer, Destination Cape Breton Association (DCBA).

Ms. Tulle thanked Council for the opportunity to present and indicated that Warden Morrison is a great member of the Board of DCBA and Sandy Hudson is a member of the Product Development Committee of DCBA.

Ms. Tulle then provided a presentation on 2015 Development outlining where they have come from and where they are going (copy attached).

The one real goal in the tourism industry is to increase revenue. Ms. Tulle outlined the key core tourism experiences. There are two types of tourists – the Authentic Experiencer and the Cultural Explorer.

Ms. Tulle brought up the ACOA/Tourism Atlantic Growth Strategy for Tourism and the development and evolution of the Product Development Committee. She outlined that significant mobilization has taken place on the operator level in terms of product development initiative, participation and engagement.

The development priorities for 2015-2016 were presented and reviewed with Council.

An inventory of the trail systems on Cape Breton is in development, with expected completion in September, 2015. Ms. Tulle updated on the Experience Acadie and Unama'ki opportunities. A draft culinary inventory and assessment will be brought to a stakeholder meeting in September for input into inventory and go forward. Mark Barber has been identified as the lead on niche ports. The Locals Know tri-fold distribution cards were outlined and information on festivals and events is distributed weekly to over 800 stakeholders.

Three promotional videos were shown to Council – one on the Fortress of Louisbourg; one on golfing in Cape Breton and one on the Cabot Trail. Ms. Tulle explained that these videos, as well as other related information is on www.cbisland.com homepage.

Information on artisans, cultures and the associated packages was provided.

Municipalities are represented within the trails and communities sections of www.cbisland.com. Ms. Tulle updated on the online video campaign and the visits to Scotland and New Zealand to see how they promote their product.

Ms. Tulle updated on the future of product development. Identification of product opportunities (i.e. winter product, outdoor product and cultural/performing arts product) will be undertaken. Work will be done on building itineraries and packages. She indicated that Cape Breton Island is to be promoted as a Tourism Destination.

Ms. Tulle advised that June 22-25, 2016, the Travel Media Association of Canada will be holding their annual conference and AGM in Cape Breton. There are 10 pre-events planned for the four days prior to the conference and 10 post-events held four days after the conference.

Ms. Tulle indicated that this year Cape Breton has seen unprecedented numbers since a very long time.

Discussion took place on the viewsapes on the Cabot Trail. They have deteriorated over the years and need to be upgraded. Also the road, guardrail and shouldering in areas along the Cabot Trail is a concern.

There is a project currently being undertaken in certain areas on the Cabot Trail.

Discussion took place on the Ivany Report. Ms. Tulle indicated that the biggest challenge is to keep up with demand. She felt that the Sydney Airport at some point could become an international airport with direct service from abroad.

After further discussion, Warden Morrison extended a thank you to Ms. Tulle and Ms. Peters for their presentation and they were excused at this time.

RECESS

Warden Morrison advised that Council would recess for 10 minutes.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS ACT

The deadline for written submissions on the Discussion Paper concerning proposed changes to the *Municipal Elections Act* has been extended until September 11, 2015.

The Election Review Committee proposes 11 changes to the *Municipal Elections Act*.

The first proposed change is a change to the residency requirement. Discussion took place and Council felt that there should be a six month residency in the municipal district within the municipality.

The second proposed change is to clarify penalties for not submitting campaign financing statements. Discussion took place as to how this applies to financing your own campaign. Clarification is required.

Council agreed with consistent dates for all advanced polls, including electronic, across the province.

Discussion took place on the finalization of voters list after Election Day. The province wants the final lists and this is more of benefit to them.

Allowing electors to take an oath when they don't have identification is acceptable.

Prohibiting the elector from taking a picture of their ballot was discussed. Although, they agreed with the change, it was uncertain how this could be prevented.

Council disagreed with the proposed change that would permit Returning Officers to determine the quality, color and size of the ballot. They felt election ballots should be consistent across the province.

The requirement that auditors take an oath relating to confidentiality, when using e-voting, was discussed and Council agreed with the change.

It was moved and seconded that a submission on the proposed changes to the *Municipal Elections Act* be compiled and sent the province by the September 11, 2015, deadline. Motion carried.

TAXATION

Councillor Grant brought up items mentioned during the auditor's report to Council, one with regard to the Federal Government not paying the total assessment on federal properties when paying their property taxes.

Discussion took place. The Solicitor and Director of Taxation will be on the agenda of the October session of Council to discuss taxation matters and this will be discussed at that time.

The valuation allowance on taxes receivable was discussed. This is an annual allowance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – AUGUST 10, 2015

The minutes of the August 10, 2015, session of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved and seconded by that Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of August 10, 2015, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Roper's Bridge

Councillor Dauphinee brought up the condition of Roper's Bridge.

Sandy Hudson advised that it was brought to the attention of Steve MacDonald, Area Manager, and TIR, who indicated he would be meeting with Nelson Dixon, Area Supervisor, on this matter.

Property – District #8

At the previous meeting, a motion was passed that the old pump house at Dingwall be declared surplus and put up on tender as long as there is no further use for the property. Since that time the CAO has met with Robert Dauphinee, Director of Public Works, who has indicated that the main waterline is located in this area.

It was moved and seconded that the motion of August 10, 2015, concerning the old pump house at Dingwall be rescinded. Motion carried.

ROAD NAME CHANGES

Two petitions were received for proposed road name changes for private roads.

Brookside Loop in Ingonish to Roberts Lane
Unnamed Road in Ingonish Ferry to Cove Road

It was moved and seconded that these petitions be forwarded to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal and the Eastern District Planning Commission to determine if the road names proposed are acceptable. Motion carried.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #5

It was moved and seconded that a streetlight order be placed for installation at 1862 New Campbellton Road, Cape Dauphin. Motion carried.

District #6

Councillor Dauphinee expressed concern that the Visitor Information Centre in Baddeck provides advice to tourists that the Cabot Trail is a one day trip. This is a detriment to the establishments in communities along the Cabot Trail.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the operators of the Baddeck Visitor Information Centre voicing Council's disagreement with their advice that the Cabot Trail is a one day trip and this information is not correct and does not benefit Victoria County as a whole. Motion carried.

It was moved and seconded that \$4,000.00 be approved from the District #6 budget for Ski Cape Smokey to assist with winter preparations. Motion carried.

Councillor Dauphinee brought up the Rasmussen request with regard to road access in area of the water tower at Ingonish Beach. The reply received from the Solicitor with regard to liability was discussed.

Sandy Hudson will ask the Solicitor for more detail and an answer to this request.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis brought up his concern with regard to the Baddeck Visitor Information Centre. He went to volunteer some time and was told by a staff member they would

have to check with their supervisor before he could do so. He did not feel welcome and has not received a reply as yet. As the County provides some funding for the VIC, he felt they should be providing service for all of Victoria County, not just Baddeck area.

Council was advised that even some Baddeck offerings are not known/promoted at the Baddeck VIC.

It was moved and seconded that the Supervisor of the Baddeck Visitor Information Centre be requested to come to Council to address issues of concern. Motion carried.

Councillor MacInnis advised that Ronald Caplan will be the recipient of the Katharine McLennan Award in recognition of exemplary volunteer and community contribution at a ceremony at the Fortress of Louisbourg on September 10, 2015, at 2:00 p.m.

Councillor MacInnis indicated he was unable to attend and requested representation from Victoria County. Warden Morrison and Councillor MacNeil indicated they could attend.

Councillor MacInnis brought up a concern with regard to the sewage smell in Baddeck Bay. Warden Morrison indicated that the smell is a result of swamp rot in the water.

District #2

It was moved and seconded that \$1,500.00 be approved from the District #2 budget for the Middle River Volunteer Fire Department to assist with work on their building. Motion carried.

It was moved and seconded that a letter of congratulations be forwarded to the Middle River Recreation Association in recognition of the major renovations and grand re-opening of the Middle River Hall which took place on Saturday past. Motion carried.

Councillor Grant questioned on the funding for the PAN Cape Breton Food Hub and he was advised that the funding was sent.

The status of implementing the Paymentus system for accepting credit card payments was questioned. Sandy Hudson advised that implementation will begin in October, 2015, and it is anticipated that this system will be operating by January, 2016.

Councillor Grant indicated that with the closure of Court and pending closure of the Registry of Deeds Office, he felt a Committee should be established to see what could be best done with the free space.

It was felt that the CAO should provide a report to Council for the next meeting on what he feels should be done with the space moving forward.

District #1

Councillor MacNeil felt another meeting should be held with Department of TIR officials as the roads in his district are being neglected.

The lack of maintenance funding is a concern and is leaving areas of grave concern in District #1.

Councillor MacNeil was advised to take pictures and send them on to the Minister, MLA and other forms of media to get the word out.

It was moved and seconded that the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal be requested to come to Council in September. Motion carried.

The recommendation with regard to ferry fees is not satisfactory. No consultation was held with the Municipality on this matter as was promised.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be sent to the Minister of TIR, with a copy to the MLA, indicating Council's dissatisfaction with the options regarding ferry fees and the lack of consultation with the Municipality on this issue. Motion carried.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that there are a few holes on the Gillis Point road that have to be repaired immediately.

District #8

Councillor Buchanan brought up the matter to the smell from the compost site at the Dingwall Transfer Station.

The compost material should be available for sale in the spring of 2016.

In the meantime, this matter will be investigated to see if the right balance of water and wood chips is being used to limit the smell of the shellfish offal used in the compost.

District #3

Deputy Warden Patterson assumed the Chair.

Warden Morrison indicated that there is a rumor with regard to the loss/reduction of the Public Health Nurse position in Baddeck.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be sent to Cathy Bell, Director of Public Health Services, questioning on the future status of the Public Health Nurse position for the

Southern area of the County and requesting that there be no reduction or elimination of this position. Motion carried.

Warden Morrison indicated that he personally saw trucks illegally parked at the Irving/Tim Hortons this past week. He felt these companies should be notified of this violation by their drivers as it a safety issue to the travelling public.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be sent to Easson's Transport and Atlas Moving Company advising that their trucks have been seen parked illegally at the Irving/Tim Hortons west of Baddeck and this is a safety concern for the travelling public. Motion carried.

Council was advised that Stephen MacDonald, TIR, met with Gerard Jessome, Director, TIR, and they will be requesting Irving Oil to conduct a traffic impact analysis of the Irving/Tim Hortons site. A traffic count will be completed at this location this week.

Since the meeting held with all parties concerning this site, Circle K have removed the advertising signs that were impeding visibility and cones have been placed to prevent trucks from parking on the roadside in front of the Irving.

Warden Morrison brought up the recent water boil order in the Village of Baddeck.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the Village of Baddeck questioning on the protocol they have in place and follow in the event of a water boil order. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Water Committee

A Water Committee meeting was held prior to Council.

It was moved and seconded that a water rate study for the Victoria County Water Utility be undertaken beginning in the new fiscal year 2016-2017. Motion carried.

It was moved and seconded that the Victoria County Water Utility budget for 2015-2016 be approved. Motion carried.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The Solicitor, along with the Director of Taxation, will be requested to come to an October meeting of Council.

Amy MacKinnon has not responded to the date provided for a presentation of the Washroom Study.

Robert Dauphinee, Director of Public Works, is to be requested to come to Council to discuss future expenditures and solid waste related matters.

MARITIME BUS

Maritime Bus will be no longer providing freight pickup and delivery at the Circle K Irving site.

It was indicated that this is a result of Couche Tard, the parent company of Circle K, no longer wishing to provide this service at their location.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be sent to Couche Tard expressing concern and displeasure with the elimination of the freight service at their facility in Baddeck. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO

