

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
April 25, 2016

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, April 25, 2016, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Warden Bruce Morrison in the Chair.

Present were:

District #1 – Paul MacNeil
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

Absent was:

District #2 – Athol Grant (Out of Town)

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 circulated. Motion carried.

RCMP UPDATE

Courtesy of Council was extended to Staff Sgt. Craig Yorke, Victoria County District, RCMP, who was in attendance to provide the Victoria County Policing Report for 2015 (copy attached).

Staff Sgt. Yorke outlined the annual performance plan priorities which included contributing to safer highways through education and enforcement, reducing crime by targeting repeat offenders, and cybercrime.

The policing resources in the Victoria County District – Baddeck and Ingonish Beach offices were outlined, as well as the transfers planned for the summer of 2016.

The duties of the community safety officer were explained, as were the community policing initiatives within the County.

Staff Sgt. Yorke outlined some noteworthy investigations that took place during the 2015 year. The elimination of Provincial Court sittings in Baddeck and the affect this has had on the RCMP resources was outlined.

The 2015 crime statistics for both the Baddeck and Ingonish Beach Detachments were provided.

Staff Sgt. Yorke will be relocating to Eskasoni, pending sale of his property.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that crime is down in his district and he felt this was due to the increased police presence in his district. Deputy Warden Patterson echoed Councillor MacNeil's comments as the same applies to District #5.

All Councillors expressed the sentiments that they were sorry to see Staff Sgt. Yorke leave the district and wished him well in the future.

Warden Morrison mentioned Cpl. Scott Williamson who was in attendance also and welcomed him to the meeting.

A general discussion took place on policing and whether a request from the Municipality to keep RCMP members in the community would be considered.

Staff Sgt. Yorke indicated that the Victoria County District is a 3 to 5 year posting. A few members go beyond those terms. In his 28 years of service with the RCMP, Staff Sgt. Yorke has moved 12 times. The Commanding Officer in Halifax would be the initial contact in regard to extending policing terms.

After further discussion, Warden Morrison extended a thank you on behalf of Council to Staff Sgt. Yorke for his presentation and his service to Victoria County.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – APRIL 12, 2016

The minutes of the April 12, 2016, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved and seconded that the April 12, 2016, minutes of Victoria County Municipal Council be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Bulk Water Rate

Application has been made to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board for approval of a bulk water rate for the Victoria County Water Utility.

If a reply is received to this request, a Water Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 3, 2016.

Minister Lloyd Hines, DNR

Councillor Dauphinee questioned whether a meeting has been arranged with Honourable Lloyd Hines, DNR, with regard to the Ingonish Barrier Beach.

The request was sent, but to date, a reply has not been received.

Chief Fire Officers

The Chief Fire Officers are to provide a request to Council with regard to training.

Pan Cape Breton Food Hub

The Pan Cape Breton Food Hub request was referred to Council.

A Budget Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 3, 2016, at 5:00 p.m.

MARK EYKING, MP, SYDNEY-VICTORIA

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Mark Eyking, MP, Sydney-Victoria.

Mr. Eyking thanked Council for the opportunity to appear. He indicated it has been an exciting time for the government, with a new Prime Minister and Cabinet, and a new directive.

Mr. Eyking has been appointed Chair of the International Trade Committee and he outlined some of the activities that are taking place in this regard.

Mr. Eyking outlined that he participated in a funding announcements recently for the Gaelic College and the Victoria Highland Civic Centre with other levels of government. He is presently working on a project with the Baddeck Curling Club that has not been officially announced as yet and is working with the Englishtown Community Centre on an upgrade.

The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans has announced an investment in small craft harbours of \$3.5 million dollars. Harbours in Victoria County will receive funding. They have not been officially announced as yet.

Parks Canada is investing \$50 million dollars in road and bridge improvements throughout Canada. Next year is the 150th anniversary of Canada and Prime Minister Trudeau has announced free admission to Parks Canada sites in 2017.

Mr. Eyking advised that Parks Canada has opened up in April of this year due to the anticipated influx of tourists coming to Canada.

There is also an announcement of investment in education for First Nations communities.

The RCMP have recently moved into their new headquarters in Ingonish Beach. The expression of interest for the former RCMP building has been extended. It is opened up to proposals from community groups.

Mr. Eyking advised of the New Horizons for Seniors Program and the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program. The status of infrastructure programs was also outlined.

Deputy Warden Patterson brought up the Cabot Trail and the possibility of designating this highway as a Heritage Highway. Money is being invested by Parks Canada on their section of the Trail, but getting to this area requires travelling in and out on inadequate roads. The Cabot Trail is a unique situation because it is a provincial road and there is no other provincial road being discussed at the federal level. Mr. Eyking indicated that meetings have been held on the Cabot Trail and it is on the radar. He is working with his counterpart, MP Rodger Cuzner, in this regard also.

The investment by Small Craft Harbours was discussed. Whether the Ingonish Barrier Beach was on the funding queue was questioned. Mr. Eyking questioned whether an application was submitted and Councillor Dauphinee indicated he would check on this matter.

Mr. Eyking advised that funding under Small Craft Harbours will be approved for the Big Bras d'Or and Little River wharves.

The topic of a water extension to the Ski Lodge for future development was questioned.

Councillor Buchanan questioned whether the northern tax is still on the radar. Mr. Eyking indicated he does not have any indication that they are looking at this. Right now the focus is on the remote First Nations communities.

Councillor MacInnis brought up the Little River Wharf and Harbour. Last April the wharf was condemned. 100 fishermen use this facility each day. The funding announcement of \$1.1 million for a new wharf last year left the whole harbour upset because 150 feet of wharf space was lost and vessels have been displaced with no consultation. He felt that before decision are made, the users should be consulted and he hoped this would be done in the future.

Councillor MacInnis also indicated that the crab industry is in crisis right now and he explained the situation.

Mr. Eyking indicated that the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans will be attending the Canadian Coast Guard College's graduation ceremonies and he hopes to arrange a meeting with the Minister when he is in the area.

Councillor MacNeil questioned on the status of the railway. The use of trucks for transporting goods that could travel by rail is damaging the highways. It was felt that the only salvation for the railway line is if a major investor becomes involved.

Warden Morrison indicated that the bridge in front of the AG Bell Museum is to be replaced and the impact this will have if done during the tourist season was discussed. The possibility of having it done in the off-season was questioned and will be investigated with Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

Councillor MacInnis questioned on whether Mr. Eyking was up to speed on the lobster tariff imposed by Sweden/Norway as an invasive species. They want to stop the shipping of all live lobsters within the European Union. This is a critical issue.

Mr. Eyking indicated he would obtain an update on this issue and forward his findings to Council.

Nicole Lucas-Richardson, our new Economic Development Officer, was introduced to Mr. Eyking.

After further discussion, Warden Morrison extended a thank you to Mr. Eyking for his attendance and the information provided.

RECESS

Warden Morrison announced that Council would recess for 10 minutes.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #5

Deputy Warden Patterson advised that he was approached by a resident concerning a community road sign for the boundaries of the community of Ross Ferry.

It was moved and seconded to request the Department of TIR to erect “Ross Ferry” community signs at each of its boundaries. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Patterson indicated that Denise Oake, Big Bras d’Or, was recently awarded a teaching award during Education Week 2016.

It was moved and seconded that congratulations be forwarded to Denise Oake, Big Bras d’Or, recipient of an Education Week 2016 Teaching Award. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Patterson indicated that the UNSM Board were provided with an update on the *Municipal Government Act* review. It was expected to be complete by the end of June, but it has been extended to September 1, 2016. They are aiming for legislation to be introduced for the proposed changes in a year from now.

Deputy Warden Patterson indicated he was contacted by the Big Bras d’Or Fire Chief concerning the feasibility of a dry hydrant at Dalem Lake which could be shared with DNR and other adjacent fire departments if necessary.

It was moved and seconded to investigate the establishment of a dry hydrant at Dalem Lake. Motion carried.

District #6

Councillor Dauphinee brought up the lack of painted lines on the roadways in the Municipality. Last year the lines were not painted until August and this is too late. The lack of maintenance on the side roads was also discussed.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the Department of TIR requesting that the lines on the roadways be painted as soon as possible and request that grading be completed on the side roads in the Municipality as soon as possible. Motion carried.

District #7

It was moved and seconded that Lisa MacKinnon be appointed to the Highland Manor Board and Bernie Vassallo, retiring Board Member, be sent a letter of thanks for his service on the Board. Motion carried.

Councillor Budge advised of an upcoming salmon conference in May that he would like to attend.

Council agreed that Councillor Budge be authorized to attend.

District #8

Councillor Buchanan indicated that he was informed that the grader would be in Victoria County this week.

Councillor Buchanan questioned on the heavy garbage pickup. The tentative date for pickup to begin is the week of June 6, 2016.

Councillor Buchanan brought up the condition of the roads and felt the Minister should be contacted to come, with his staff, to travel the roads in Victoria County.

It was moved and seconded that Minister Geoff MacLellan, DTIR, be requested to come with his staff to travel the roads in Victoria County. Motion carried.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis questioned on whether a copy of the Englishtown Bridge Study was received. It was indicated that the study was sent back for revisions and nothing has been received at the County office.

It was moved and seconded to request the Minister of TIR for a copy of the Englishtown Bridge Study. Motion carried.

Councillor MacInnis expressed concern on the trucks travelling through his community which are hauling C & D materials for the Municipality from Cape North. Why this is being done when the roads are closed and full loads are not possible was questioned. Sandy Hudson advised that the Department of Environment gave the Municipality a month's extension to the end of April, 2016, to have these materials removed.

District #1

It was moved and seconded that a street light be ordered for installation in District #1 (address to be provided by Councillor MacNeil). Motion carried.

Councillor MacNeil will be meeting with Darren Blunden and Gerard Jessome, DTIR, on Wednesday concerning the condition of the gravel roads in his district. The St. Columba Road is not accessible at present and the alternate route is the Gillis Point Road which is in deplorable condition.

A letter is to be sent to the Minister indicating that additional money is required for maintenance of the side roads.

District #3

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the Village of Baddeck requesting that the fire hydrant at 99 Old Margaree Road be replaced. Motion carried.

It was moved and seconded that DTIR be requested to repair the catch basins located by the Baddeck Post Office and Baddeck Marine. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Sandy Hudson questioned whether Council wanted an enumeration completed for the upcoming Municipal Election.

It was moved and seconded that an enumeration be completed for the upcoming Municipal Election. Motion carried.

RACE THE CAPE

A request was received from Race the Cape for a \$5,000.00 sponsorship for the 2016 event. This race stops at both Baddeck and Ingonish.

It was moved and seconded to approve the Race the Cape request for \$5,000.00, but they be advised that in future the application should be submitted prior to the due date of March 31. Motion carried.

Some organizations are accessing funding from the Municipality from more than one municipal department and it may not be known by the departments and the County that this is being done.

The Finance Department is to be requested to provide a report on the cheques being sent out through the Municipality for the various requests.

DESTINATION CAPE BRETON ASSOCIATION

Council was informed that Destination Cape Breton Association will be receiving 25% less for program funding from Tourism Nova Scotia.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be sent to Tourism Nova Scotia indicating that Council are opposed to the program funding decrease to Destination Cape Breton Association. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUDGET COMMITTEE – APRIL 12, 2016

The Budget Committee minutes of April 12, 2016, were presented for approval.

It was moved and seconded that the April 12, 2016, Budget Committee minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried.

FESTIVILLE BADDECK

FestivilleBaddeck proposes to celebrate the unique feel of Baddeck culture by transforming the main street into a pedestrian-friendly gathering space for artisans, foodies and entertainers. They are seeking a letter of support from the Municipality.

It was moved and seconded that a letter of support be provided for *FestivilleBaddeck*. Motion carried.

JIM MORROW

Warden Morrison advised that this Council session is the last session that will be covered by Jim Morrow as a reporter. Mr. Morrow has covered Council sessions for the past 24 years. Council acknowledged Mr. Morrow for this accomplishment, thanked him for his service and wished him well in his retirement.

Warden Morrison also acknowledged Andrew Brooks who is the new owner/operator/manager of the *Victoria Standard*.

Council then had their picture taken with Jim Morrow commemorating his last Council meeting as a reporter and looked forward to seeing him in attendance in the future as a citizen.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, it was moved and seconded to adjourn at 7:05 p.m.

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO