

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
July 11, 2016

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at The Iona Heights Inn, Iona, on Monday, July 11, 2016, 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 #8 – Johnny Buchanan

Also present were;

Sandy Hudson, CAO
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

Absent was:

District #7 – Wayne Budge (Out of Town)

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Warden Morrison called the meeting to order, welcomed those in attendance and presented the agenda for approval.

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved. Motion carried.

CENTRAL CAPE BRETON COMMUNITY VENTURES

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Anne Marie MacNeil, Central Cape Breton Community Ventures, who was in attendance to thank Council for their contribution and guidance in the recent World Ocean's Day. She indicated it would not have been possible without this assistance and presented Council with commemorative T-Shirts from World Ocean's Day.

BRUCE HATCHER, STRIPED BASS PRESENTATION

Courtesy of Council was extended to Bruce Hatcher, PhD, Cape Breton University, who was in attendance to provide a presentation on striped bass.

Professor Hatcher indicated he wears several titles at Cape Breton University and has been with the University since October, 2004. He is a Marine Ecologist and Oceanographer and he updated on the research undertaken in Victoria County with regard to salmon smolts and striped bass.

Mr. Hatcher outlined the lifecycle of the striped bass. He indicated that ten 1 kg. adult fish can produce 80,000 eggs and one 10 kg. fish can produce upwards of 800,000 eggs. These fish start in freshwater and go from there to salt water to the ocean.

The striped bass impact other resident fish populations as they feed on other local aquatic dwellers.

He outlined the research done using electronic tracking devices. The movement of the fish was outlined.

A license was obtained from DFO last year to catch striped bass for research purposes. The contents of the stomachs of the fish caught were analyzed and he outlined what was found.

Mr. Hatcher talked at length about the striped bass species, their origin and their consideration as an invasive species that could possibly be a factor in the local salmon and lobster population.

How to tell the age of a fish was questioned and Mr. Hatcher indicated that with the use of dye and a microscope, you can see semi-circular ridges and each ridge is considered a year of life for the fish.

Whether he felt the decline in the salmon population was a result of striped bass was questioned and Mr. Hatcher indicated that he has no evidence to support same. There is never a single factor to blame. As the ocean warms, more striped bass are coming in this direction.

Councillor Grant advised that a diver in the area of the Nyanza Wharf recently sighted a large swarm of striped bass in the area. Mr. Hatcher indicated that this species can often be found in areas such as this.

The research done on the salmon smolts was discussed. Mr. Hatcher indicated it is important to recognize that the Bras d'Or Estuary is a very important eco-system, but there is no getting around the fact that it is not as productive as the ocean is. Plankton levels are never as high as those in the ocean.

Councillor MacInnis questioned whether a survey of the striped bass would be conducted again in 2016. If the province agrees to provide funding, it will be done in 2016. Councillor MacInnis indicated that the future of the lobster industry is in danger as a result of this invasive

species. The lobster fishery is the most lucrative fishery in the province and research must be done.

The recreational fishery for striped bass was discussed. It allows for a maximum of one fish per day up to 26 inches long. Councillor Buchanan estimated there is 100,000 pounds of striped bass in the Bay St. Lawrence Harbour and he has never seen a 26 inch fish come out of the harbour. They are all smaller.

Deputy Warden Patterson questioned if the striped bass was edible and he was advised they are.

Councillor Dauphinee indicated he is hearing more and more about striped bass in his district and they are being caught off the wharf in Ingonish.

Warden Morrison indicated that Councillor Wayne Budge, who is absent this evening, partakes in the recreational fishery in the Aspy River. There are striped bass being caught and he noted a decline in the salmon in the river.

Support for further research would be helpful and Mr. Hatcher is to send an outline of his proposed research so that a letter of support can be provided from the Municipality.

It was moved and seconded that upon receipt of the necessary information from Mr. Hatcher, a letter of support for research funding be provided. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JUNE 27, 2016

The minutes of the June 27, 2016, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved and seconded that the June 27, 2016, minutes of Victoria County Municipal Council be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Councillor Dauphinee questioned whether a reply was received from Minister Margaret Miller with regard to the Ingonish Protected Area.

The CAO advised that a reply has not been received to date.

Discussion took place on the provision of office space in the Court House for Continuing Care. It is unknown at this time when this will occur.

The storage of patient files from the Doctor's Office on High Street, Baddeck, in the former Registry of Deeds office was bought up at the last Council meeting. This is to be given consideration.

At the last meeting, the CAO was requested to investigate a Loitering By-Law for the Municipality.

The CAO indicated that Section 175(1) of the *Criminal Code of Canada* refers to this topic and he felt that the RCMP could act on this section with regard to loitering and causing a disturbance in or near a public place.

It was moved and seconded that the RCMP be requested to enforce Section 175(1) of the *Criminal Code of Canada* in regard to loitering and causing a disturbance in or near a public place. Motion carried.

The draft Social Media Policy was forwarded to Council for review and possible first reading at the July 25, 2016, Council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

The CAO suggested that due to the October Municipal Election, he felt that Council meetings should be dispensed with for September and October, 2016.

Warden Morrison indicated that he spoke to a senior Council member who felt there should be a Council session in September. A decision will be made at the next Council meeting.

Councillor Grant questioned on the Mile Brook Estates matter. The Subdivision By-Law was forwarded to the Minister. Acknowledgement was received from Gordon Smith, Provincial Director of Planning, and he indicated further correspondence will be received once the review has been completed.

\$19,000.00 has been included in the 2016/2017 budget for the Cape Breton Small Business Development Centre. Both Inverness and Richmond Counties have decided not to fund the Centre and the Centre's main focus will be CBRM.

It was moved and seconded that funding not be provided to the Cape Breton Small Business Development Centre for this fiscal year – 2016/2017. Motion carried.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #2

Councillor Grant indicated that the second annual science field day known as Bras d'Or Watch sponsored by the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve Association will be held on Saturday, July 16, 2016, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at a site in Baddeck and one in the Barra Strait area.

Councillor Grant questioned on the Fire Service Report conducted a number of years ago. Who was responsible for the recommendations in the report was discussed, as was the current status of the report.

The CAO indicated that a number of recommendations involved the fire service directly and he forwarded a copy on to the Chief Officers Committee for review and action.

The report was conducted for the Municipality by Marathon Human Resources in 2011 and it will be reviewed and brought to Council on July 25, 2016.

Councillor Grant indicated that he received questions and concerns on the roads built at the Baddeck Solid Waste Management Facility that were not tendered. Final costs for the C & D Site, roads and contaminated soil site are to be provided for the next meeting.

District #1

Councillor MacNeil brought up the condition of the Gillis Point Road, the gravel roads in his district and the flooding in MacKinnon Harbour.

A letter is to be sent to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal on the condition of the Gillis Point Road, gravel roads in District #1 that require grading and flooding in the MacKinnon Harbour area as a result of plugged culverts.

Carl MacNeil, a resident of MacKinnon Harbour, addressed the flooding problems as a result of beavers and he felt these should be removed by DNR/DFO. Letters are to be sent to these departments in this regard.

District #4

It was moved and seconded that Pam Eyking, MLA, Victoria-The Lakes, be requested to come to Council. Motion carried.

District #8

Councillor Buchanan brought up the vacant housing units in his district and the status of same. He has heard they are for sale, but if not, he felt they should be repaired.

It was moved and seconded that Joan McKeough, Director, Cape Breton Island Housing Authority, be requested to come to Council. Motion carried.

Councillor Buchanan requested that the painting of the lines on the road north of the Englishtown Ferry be added to the letter to be forwarded to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal.

The 25th Anniversary of the Fishing Derby and Crabfest in Bay St. Lawrence will take place in Bay St. Lawrence on Sunday, July 17, 2016.

District #5

Deputy Warden Patterson questioned whether the fire department funding presented by Seaside Communications at the last meeting would be matched by the Municipality.

The CAO advised that the Municipality will match the funds presented to the Ross Ferry Volunteer Fire Department and Cabot Volunteer Fire Department.

District #6

Councillor Dauphinee brought up the matter of the Ingonish Barrier and who is responsible for same. To date, no one has taken responsibility and he indicated that it should be a provincial issue and he will again contact Pam Eyking, MLA, in this regard.

The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal are currently surveying along Ingonish Centre for paving sometime in the future and the possible purchase of land from landowners in the area has been mentioned. Councillor Dauphinee will follow up on this matter with Stephen MacDonald, Area Manager, DTIR.

The August 15, 2016, session of Victoria County Municipal Council will be held at the Keltic Lodge Resort at 5:00 p.m.

District #1

Councillor MacNeil indicated that the Central Cape Breton Community Ventures will be hosting the Bluenose for three days beginning July 17, 2016.

Warden Morrison indicated that the Bluenose will be visiting Baddeck also.

Andrew Brooks advised that the Bras d'Or Watch events on July 16, 2016, will be held at the Alexander and Mabel Bell statute in Baddeck and the Wheelhouse Café in Grand Narrows.

District #3

Warden Morrison indicated that the inaugural Festiville Baddeck held on July 4, 2016, was a tremendous success.

It was moved and seconded that a letter of congratulations be forwarded to the Festiville Baddeck Organizing Committee. Motion carried.

The Bras d'Or Yacht Club who is hosting the Bluenose has requested that the Municipality co-sponsor a social event during the visit.

It was moved and seconded that \$500.00 be approved to assist with a social event for both the Baddeck and Iona visits of the Bluenose. Motion carried.

Warden Morrison brought up the unfortunate fire at the Bell Bay Golf Course on Sunday morning.

It was moved and seconded that a letter of appreciation for their service at the Bell Bay fire be forwarded to the Baddeck, Middle River and Whycocomagh Volunteer Fire Departments. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Deputy Warden Patterson indicated that an Economic Development Committee meeting should be held in the near future.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that a Water Committee meeting is also required.

BY-LAW/POLICY REVIEW

The Social Media Policy was provided to Council by email and is to be reviewed prior to the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council will be held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, July 25, 2016, beginning at 5:00 p.m. Grant Thornton LLP, external auditors, will be presenting the financial statements for the Municipality of the County of Victoria for the year ended March 31, 2016.

Warden Morrison thanked Councillor MacNeil for hosting Council and the public for attending.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO