

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
August 15, 2016

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Keltic Lodge Resort and Spa, Ingonish, on Monday, August 15, 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 #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 thanked Councillor Dauphinee for inviting Council to Ingonish and to Graham Hudson, General Manager of the Keltic Lodge Resort and Spa for the tour of the renovations and improvements made to the facility. He welcomed those in attendance, including Emily Pond, Municipal Advisor, DMA.

The agenda was presented for approval.

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

INGONISH DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Donald Jardine, Chair, Ingonish Development Society.

Council provided introductions and Mr. Jardine thanked Council and staff for the assistance provided in moving some projects forward and allowing them to plan for future goals.

The Ingonish Development Society is a non-profit society actively working with businesses and community groups in the Ingonish area. They have a membership of 50 plus

businesses. The goal of the membership is to promote the Ingonish area. The past five years have seen a rejuvenation of the Ingonish Development Society (IDS).

Mr. Jardine outlined a list of projects completed, including the second printing of the Ingonish – Nature’s Home brochure, the Huckle Buckle Festival in October and the revitalization of the Ingonish Landing Marina.

Work completed at the Ingonish Landing Marina was outlined. The CBCL concept drawing of a new building to be located at the waterfront was shown. The costs were outlined.

Mr. Jardine indicated that this summer, they have been able to hire two students and a full time person who are located at the Cape Smokey Ski Lodge. The activities that have been undertaken – i.e. inflatable amusement devices, escape room, etc. were outlined.

Race the Cape had a stop in Ingonish in 2015, but due to weather conditions, were unable to do so in 2016. It is hoped this will return in 2017.

The AGM and Business Appreciation Night was held where 25 to 30 people were recognized. Two members of the IDS sit on the Cabot Trail Steering Committee. Other initiatives of the IDS were outlined.

Mr. Jardine indicated that the Ingonish area is in the middle of their busiest tourism season in quite some time and one challenge is staffing and staff accommodations.

The possibility of GolfNorth being a year around operation was discussed and would be a positive for employment in the area.

Mr. Jardine indicated that the lack of water at the Ingonish Landing Marina is a deterrent to development of the area. He is aware that the Municipality has a priority list for infrastructure and this area is not on the top of the list. The cost of extending the Ingonish Water System to this area was discussed.

Mr. Jardine indicated that the full-time employee hired for 4 months under Employment Nova Scotia’s Start Program has been a huge asset. This program can only be accessed once, and he questioned if Victoria County could assist with subsidizing these costs in future years.

Mr. Jardine thanked Council for the opportunity to appear before them.

Councillor Dauphinee indicated that the participation of the young business owners has been key in rejuvenating the IDS. Their great ideas and energy have indeed benefited the area. The provision of water to the Ingonish Landing Marina is an important initiative that should continue to be investigated and one he would promote.

Deputy Warden Patterson indicated that it is good to see a volunteer board from the community working for the betterment of the area and he was encouraged by what has been accomplished and water is in their dreams for the future. Promoting the natural environment and beauty is key.

Councillor Buchanan thanked the IDS for the use of the inflatable amusement devices at the Bay St. Lawrence Crab Fest.

The distance of the existing Ingonish waterline from the Ski Hill was questioned and it was estimated to be approximately 2 km. Strait Engineering has looked at the cost and estimated it to be in the \$80,000.00 to \$100,000.00 range.

The dockage space at the Ingonish Landing Marina was discussed as was the breakwater issue, fees, etc.

Warden Morrison indicated that although this project is not on the Municipality's infrastructure priority list, there are small pockets of money that may be available, i. e. Provincial Capital Assistance Program (PCAP). PCAP applications are closed for this year, but Emily Pond advised that there is now a new program for just water and wastewater that could be investigated.

The BABTA initiative of forming a County wide Committee to revitalize the VIC was discussed and the IDS were encouraged to have someone sit on this Committee.

After further discussion, Warden Morrison extended a thank you to Mr. Jardine for his presentation.

RECESS

Warden Morrison advised that Council would recess for five minutes

ASSISTED LIVING IN BADDECK PRESENTATION

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Sheumais MacLeod and Florence Cook, MacLeod Group Health Services Ltd. who were in attendance to make a presentation on Assisted Living at MacLeod House in Baddeck (copy attached).

Mr. MacLeod thanked Council for the opportunity to appear and Council provided introductions.

Mr. MacLeod outlined the possible addition of assisted living to MacLeod House, Baddeck. Market research studies have indicated that Cape Breton's senior population will increase by 50% in the next two decades. Of those residing in facilities other than private

homes, 82% are cared for in nursing homes. Assisted living accommodation accounts for only 3% of the available beds in the region. This is significantly below the national average.

A survey of health professionals provided varying reactions, but overall there is support for adding Assisted Living services in Baddeck.

Mr. MacLeod indicated that seniors prefer to stay in their community and age in a place, maintaining relations with their family, friends and existing health care providers. MacLeod House intends to add Assisted Living to their existing offering of Independent Living and access to personal care.

A breakdown of proposed services and costs for Assisted Living was provided. These proposed costs will be available to the public on September 1, 2016, and until this time are to be kept confidential.

MacLeod House has achieved just over 50% occupancy to date. In the last week and one-half there have been three rentals and inquiries about winter rentals. Winter rentals are for a minimum four month period.

The transportation of MacLeod House residents was questioned and at present if transportation is needed, the staff transport the residents if they do not have their own vehicle.

There are two rooms that are available, with family being priority at MacLeod House and they have an excellent relationship with the hospital and on three occasions have taken residents from hospital who decided not to return to home. There are pet-friendly units.

Florence Cook indicated that at present they have two CCA's under contract to provide services and in future, if it is determined a nurse is required, one will be hired.

There is a protocol in place for unannounced fire drills and staff complete fire training when hired.

MacLeod House is governed by the Joint Tenancy Act and not the Health Act. There is at present 24 hour staff presence and care in the building. The two meals provided are lunch and supper and they are looking at offering a light breakfast option.

Further discussion took place and Warden Morrison extended a thank you to Mr. MacLeod and Ms. Cook for their presentation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JULY 25, 2016

The minutes of the July 25, 2016, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved and seconded that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of July 25, 2016, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Pam Eyking, MLA

Councillor Dauphinee questioned if a reply was received from Pam Eyking, MLA, with regard to attending Council. She was provided with two dates but a reply has not been received to date.

The condition of the sides of the road on Smokey was discussed. To date nothing has been done.

Mile Brook Estates

At the previous meeting a motion was passed that the agreement with Mile Brook Estates should include that after a two year period, if the required lots have not sold, application must be made again to the Municipality.

Sandy Hudson indicated that he did not think this is possible. He felt that after the second year, the paving should be completed. He met with Wayne Ryan and Leo Fownes, Mile Brook Estates, and they are open to discussion on this point and this will be discussed for inclusion in the negotiated agreement.

Joan MacKeough, Cape Breton Island Housing

Joan MacKeough, Cape Breton Island Housing Authority, is to be in attendance at the August 29, 2016, Council meeting.

Little Narrows Property

Councillor MacNeil indicated that Mike Nugent would like to meet with Council concerning the property matter in Little Narrows.

Fire Services Report

A provincial fire services report was completed last spring and at present there is another fire services review underway. Whether the 11 fire departments in the Municipality are aware this review is happening was discussed.

Strait Area Transit

Deputy Warden Patterson advised that he received a call from Malcolm MacPhail, Interim Manager of Strait Area Transit, indicating that requests are being received for the transport of students to NSCC in Port Hawkesbury. He reviewed the costing and indicated that the service could be provided for the Municipality at a cost of \$3,000.00 per month. This can be a topic for discussion.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #1

Councillor MacNeil expressed concern on the lack of mowing and brush cutting on the roadsides in his district and the fact that they have indicated it will not be done this year.

Pam Eyking, MLA, is to be contacted regarding the safety concern of lack of brush cutting and mowing and dust control throughout the County.

Councillor MacNeil brought forward a concern that Victoria County is not included in the Celtic Heart brochure this year. This will be investigated.

District #6

Councillor Dauphinee mentioned the letter received from Minister Margaret Miller, Department of Environment, indicating that they will defer advancing the Ingonish River Wilderness Area under the Parks and Protected Areas Plan.

It was moved and seconded that congratulations be forwarded to six members of the Ingonish Beach Volunteer Fire Department on obtaining their Medical First Responders status. Motion carried.

Councillor Dauphinee indicated that the line painting has been completed in the North of Smokey area, however, there are no painted passing lanes in areas where there was before.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the Department of TIR expressing dissatisfaction with the recent line painting and lack of painted passing lanes in areas where they were prior. Motion carried.

Councillor Dauphinee again indicated that the roadsides on Smokey Mountain are a disgrace.

It was moved and seconded that \$300.00 be approved for the Neil's Harbour/New Haven Development Society for fireworks and \$500.00 for the Ingonish Development Society for their Escape Room from the District #6 budget. Motion carried.

District #5

Problems being encountered with cell phone services throughout the County were discussed.

The CAO advised that the seven eastern municipalities are in discussion with Bell Mobility and the Province and ACOA is this regard.

District #8

It was moved and seconded that \$300.00 be approved from the District #8 budget for the Neil's Harbour/New Haven Development Society for fireworks. Motion carried.

Recognition is to be provided to the Bay St. Lawrence Volunteer Fire Department for 25 years of continuous success in hosting the Bay St. Lawrence Crab Fest and Fishing Derby.

Councillor Buchanan brought up the issue of dead spots with regard to cell phone coverage in his area. This will be discussed with Andrew Morrison, Bell Mobility.

District #2

Councillor Grant brought up the cell phone service improvement in the Middle River area which allowed the RCMP to communicate via cell phone to assist someone lost in the Highlands and direct them to safety.

The flags at the Court House were discussed. The Victoria County flag should be flown and the Canadian Flag should be flown on the left hand side of the Court House lawn. The pole on this side is owned by the Village of Baddeck. This matter will be discussed with the Village.

Councillor Grant brought up the traffic issue at the Irving/Tim Hortons on the TCH outside Baddeck. This matter has been brought up 9 times at Council in the past two years.

Councillor Grant indicated that he was advised today that two message signs indicating reducing speed will be installed as a temporary measure – one located at Exit 8 and one at the DNR Depot on the TCH 105. This is not a permanent solution and this situation must be addressed on a permanent basis.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the Minister of TIR thanking him for the temporary action at the Irving/Tim Hortons and requesting that a permanent solution to this serious traffic situation be undertaken. Motion carried.

The unsightly condition of the Ultramar Cardlock property and the cleanliness of the interior of the Irving were discussed.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis indicated that a serious bump located in Indian Brook was reported in April and just repaired last week. The Department of TIR's system is not working.

It was moved and seconded to invite the Minister of TIR to come to Council to discuss the privatization of the roads and ferry system. Motion carried.

District #3

Warden Morrison indicated that he forwarded an update on the status of the Victoria County Memorial Hospital improvements and indicated that a new family physician, Dr. Emily Copland, will be coming to practice here.

Warden Morrison advised that he has seen first-hand that black bags are still being used and collected/dropped off at our Waste Management facilities. It was felt it was important to get the clear bag message out to the public again and that there will be zero tolerance with regard to the use and collection of black bags.

Jocelyn Bethune, Communications Officer, will be requested to get this information out to the public again.

PROCLAMATION

A request was received from the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for Nova Scotia, to proclaim September 26-October 2, 2016, as "Right to Know Week".

It was moved and seconded that September 26-October 2, 2016, be proclaimed "Right to Know Week" in the Municipality of the County of Victoria. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council will be held at the Bay St. Lawrence Community Centre, Bay St. Lawrence, on Monday, August 29, 2016, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

THANK YOU

Warden Morrison extended a thank you to those in attendance and to Councillor Dauphinee for hosting tonight's Council meeting.

ADJOURN

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO