

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
November 14, 2016

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, November 14, 2016, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Warden Bruce Morrison in the Chair.

Present were:

District #1 – Paul MacNeil
District #2 – Perla MacLeod
District #3 – Bruce Morrison, Warden
District #4 – Merrill MacInnis
District #6 – Larry Dauphinee, Deputy Warden
District #7 – Wayne Budge
District #8 – Norman MacDonald

Also present were:

Sandy Hudson, CAO
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

Absent was:

District #5 – Fraser Patterson (Due to Illness)

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Warden Morrison called the meeting to order and welcomed Councillor MacLeod and Councillor MacDonald to their first formal Council meeting. The agenda was presented for approval.

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

COMPLIANCE PLAN – SOLID WASTE

Courtesy of Council was extended to Jocelyn Bethune, Communications Officer, and Robert Dauphinee, Director of Public Works, who were in attendance with regard to a compliance plan for solid waste (copy attached).

Robert Dauphinee provided a recap of the Victoria County Clear Bag Campaign launched in 2014 and phased in over a two year period. Phase 1 was education and awareness that started in July, 2014 and ended on October 20, 2014. Phase 2 was the voluntary campaign between October, 2014 and October, 2015. Phase 3, the mandatory phase began on October 15, 2015.

Statistics were provided indicating that since 2014, residential waste has decreased, while blue bag and organics collection has increased.

There is concern that black bags are still in use in Victoria County and improper sorting of clear and blue bag materials is still occurring.

During a recent week collecting waste, recyclables and compost around the County a total of 452 black bags were collected, with the largest numbers being in the two districts that adjoin CBRM.

Improper sorting of recyclables is contaminating recyclables resulting in them going into the waste stream.

The goal is to remove black bags from the waste stream and to promote proper sorting of clear and blue bags. To achieve this there will be an education and awareness campaign, an update of the current Solid Waste Management By-Law and a compliance program through visits, stickers, door hangers and finally the rejection of non-compliant material.

Jocelyn Bethune outlined the communication methods for achieving the plan. January-February, 2016 will be a review of the clear bag program. On March 1, 2017, black bags will not be collected and from March-September, 2017, non-complaint clear and blue bags will be targeted. Other non-compliant issues will be addressed in October, 2017.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee indicated that the biggest complaint in his area is the organics – the smell and containers are too small. He questioned whether a back yard composting program could be investigated.

Victoria County is the only municipality that has a bagged program for organics. Councillor Budge indicated that he sees compostables to be the problem and backyard composting could assist in this regard.

Councillor MacDonald indicated that curbside he does see a lot of black bags in his district. He felt that literature available at the Dingwall site when residents take waste there could be beneficial.

Councillor MacInnis mentioned putting a tag on the bag and not taking it and this might speed up the compliance.

Councillor MacLeod questioned whether there could be an incentive program for clear and blue bags where the prices could be cheaper to the residents. The possibility of bulk purchasing, etc. was discussed. Also the matter of green bins was brought up. Robert Dauphinee indicated that some investigation could be undertaken on this matter.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that as his district is adjoining CBRM, there are more black bags in his district. Education at the schools and getting the younger residents on board would be a positive action. Going to the Friday night suppers at the Iona Legion would also be an education initiative.

As a point of interest, Jocelyn Bethune indicated that the price point per bag is similar between both clear, blue and black – in the range from 50 to 67 cents per bag.

Wagmatcook's compliance was questioned and Jocelyn Bethune indicated they are complying very well.

Warden Morrison indicated that he is at the Baddeck Solid Waste facility a few times per week and he sees firsthand the amount of black bags on site.

The compliance plan will be carried through as outlined and the Solid Waste By-Law update will be undertaken.

After further discussion, Warden Morrison extended a thank you to Robert Dauphinee and Jocelyn Bethune for their presentation.

CAPE BRETON PARTNERSHIP

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Keith MacDonald, President and CEO, Cape Breton Partnership, who was in attendance to provide a review of the Regional Enterprise Network (REN) Model (copy attached).

Mr. MacDonald advised that there are six REN's throughout the Province and Victoria County, along with Richmond and Inverness Counties, form the Cape Breton REN. He outlined the REN core activities, REN Liaison and Oversight Committee and REN Board of Directors.

The staff of the Cape Breton Regional Enterprise Network include Patrick Austin the new Economic Development Officer (EDO) for Victoria County, Damian MacInnis and Jeff Stanley, who are EDO's for Inverness and Richmond respectively. Laura Jean Grant has been hired as Communications and Event Coordinator and Bobby Morris as the new Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) EDO. Nicole Lucas-Richardson has been promoted to the Strategy and Project Manager position.

Mr. MacDonald outlined the BRE surveys and meetings held throughout Victoria County in the past year. Five identified themes of priority are:

- Support – overarching theme
- Tourism – encompassing Victoria County
- Collaboration – amongst businesses

- Infrastructure – roads, internet and child care
- Entrepreneurship and Employment – promoting opportunities

The Business Climate is to create new business, grow existing business and attract business investment. Victoria County leads the province in business establishments per 10,000 population - with 1214 established businesses.

Mr. MacDonald updated on the Community Profiles which are almost completed, the land asset database and the Invest in Cape Breton website – Investincapebreton.com.

An online Business Directory is currently being developed for Victoria County. Mr. MacDonald outlined priority land for development and lead handling protocol.

Councillor MacNeil welcomed the new staff in attendance and questioned whether the CBP had made contact with Little Narrows Gypsum with regard to plans, assets, etc. Mr. MacDonald indicated that contact will be made within the next month in this regard.

Councillor MacLeod questioned if Patrick Austin as Victoria County's EDO could assist in working through the issues and with partners, to attract business such as a daycare which is needed, not only by residents, but for those who may be considering moving to the area and require this service. Mr. MacDonald indicated that they could assist in working on this issue.

Councillor MacInnis outlined the importance of the fishery in Cape Breton. Cape Breton has the largest capacity of live lobsters in the world and he outlined other diversity processing and marketing that is taking place. It was an amazing season for both crab and lobster this year. Mr. MacDonald indicated that Osborne Burke sits on the Seafood/Aquaculture Committee.

Councillor MacDonald advised that he enjoyed the presentation and the wealth of information provided.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee questioned whether land asset sessions would be held with realtors to outline the value of the land asset database tool and be more responsive to inquiries from potential investors. Mr. MacDonald indicated realtors will be contacted and made aware of the tool.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee mentioned St. Peter's Parish Hall, Ingonish Beach, which is now for sale and the potential for this building.

Councillor MacNeil questioned if zoning was an asset or deterrent to development. Currently zoning only applies in the Baddeck and area. Mr. MacDonald indicated that zoning has the potential to be both an asset and a deterrent.

Warden Morrison extended a thank you to Mr. MacDonald for his presentation.

RECESS

Warden Morrison advised that Council would recess for 10 minutes and he requested Council, if they haven't already done so, to introduce themselves to the new CBP staff in attendance.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ELECTED MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS

At the beginning of each Council term, the Council signs the Code of Conduct for Elected Municipal Officials outlining the standards of conduct, Council responsibilities and good governance, conflict of interest avoidance, etc.

The CAO advised that the Code of Conduct is on the County website for anyone wanting to view same.

Councillors in attendance then signed the Code of Conduct which was witnessed by the CAO.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 19, 2016

The minutes of the September 19, 2016, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved and seconded that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of September 19, 2016, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM SEPTEMBER 19, 2016 MINUTES

Councillor MacNeil brought up the Nugent property request at this meeting and information he has received since that meeting. He advised that he would forward this information on to Council for review.

The CAO previously provided a report to Council with his recommendation in this regard.

Councillor MacNeil gave notice of motion that at the next meeting of Council he would be bringing forward a motion that the Municipality not accept the surplus property as offered by the Province.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NOVEMBER 2, 2016

The minutes of the Victoria County Municipal Council meeting of November 2, 2016, were presented for approval.

It was moved and seconded that the November 2, 2016, minutes of Victoria County Municipal Council be approved as presented. Motion carried.

CEPI SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE

Councillor MacNeil indicated that he attended the recent CEPI Conference on sustainable development within the Bras d'Or Lakes Watershed. Dr. David Suzuki presented on the BLUE DOT campaign outlining the right of residents to a healthy environment that supports clean air, clean water, healthy soil and healthy food.

Councillor MacNeil gave notice of motion that at the next meeting of Council he will be making a motion that Victoria County Municipal Council adopt a resolution regarding the right of its residents to a healthy environment that supports clean air, clean water, healthy soil and healthy food in accordance with the BLUE DOT campaign.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #6

It was moved and seconded that a street light be ordered for 108 Beach Crossing Road, Ingonish Beach. Motion carried.

Councillor Dauphinee questioned on the Water Tower Road right-of-way and the CAO indicated that they are still investigating this matter. The St. Peter's Parish Hall property was again brought up as a potential investment as it is adjacent municipal owned property and for the right-of way to municipal property. The CAO indicated he would have the Building Inspector visit the site and provide an update for the next meeting.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee indicated that Pam Eyking, MLA, advised that there is federal funding available to assist with the Beach Crossing Breakwater and that Gerard Jessome, Department of TIR, was costing the project.

Contact is to be made with Pam Eyking and Gerard Jessome for further information on this matter.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee brought up the re-occurrence of graffiti on Cape Smokey and felt that signage should be placed to indicate this is illegal and the fines for same. The same would apply to Kelly's Mountain.

This would be under provincial jurisdiction as the highways are provincial highways. He requested that the RCMP be contacted in regard to graffiti and investigation be undertaken into by-laws that may exist in other areas in regard to graffiti.

District #7

Councillor Budge questioned on the request made to the Department of Natural Resources regarding the land above Highland Manor.

Sandy Hudson advised that he recently sent another letter to DNR and would follow up on this matter again.

District #8

Councillor MacDonald indicated that he did not have a concern to bring up, but rather a follow up to former Councillor Buchanan's concern with regard to brush cutting, etc.

He was advised that the recent ACOA announcement would assist with view planes in areas around the Cabot Trail,

District #4

Councillor MacInnis congratulated Warden Morrison on first being elected Warden for Victoria County on this date in 2008.

It was moved and seconded that a street light be ordered for installation at 47224 Cabot Trail, Tarbot. Motion carried.

Councillor MacInnis indicated that he was contacted by a senior in his district with regard to a washout on his driveway and he questioned whether there was funding available for this. There is no funding through the Municipality.

Councillor MacInnis brought up a concern with regard to the mussel operation at St. Ann's Bay and the promises made to the community that are not being fulfilled.

It was moved and seconded that Bruce Hancock, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, and Janet MacKinnon, Department of Environment, be contacted to meet with Council to discuss concerns with regard to the St. Ann's Bay Mussel operation. Motion carried.

District #1

It was moved and seconded that a street light order be placed for installation across the road from Civic Address 560 Red Point Road, Red Point. Motion carried.

Councillor MacNeil addressed the current disruption of the Little Narrows Ferry. The Ferry shut down on Saturday afternoon as he was unaware of the closure until Sunday morning. Two pistons needed to be repaired and as the crew were welding on the Seal Island Bridge, there was no one to repair to the Ferry. He was notified that the work would begin this evening

and be completed by tomorrow evening. No signs were put up to notify the public and there are local welders who could have done this repair preventing this long down time.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the Premier, Department of TIR, MLA and John Majchrowicz, Manager of Ferry Operations, advising that the current disruption of the Little Narrows Ferry is unacceptable and that there were qualified welders locally who could be contracted to complete the repairs and have the ferry operating in a timely manner. Motion carried.

Councillor MacNeil brought up the matter of grading of the gravel roads in his district. Some were done and some weren't.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the Department of TIR requesting that a new policy be developed for rural gravel roads and expressing concern on the lack of maintenance of gravel roads in Victoria County. Motion carried.

Councillor MacInnis expressed concern that TIR staff are flagging at the Seal Island Bridge when they should be completing maintenance work that has been requested for eight months now in his district. The current TIR system is not working and he felt that this department should be privatized.

Councillor MacNeil also indicated that five years ago when his district came under the Port Hawkesbury TIR Depot, it was indicated this would be reviewed and he feels his district should again come under the Baddeck TIR Depot.

These matters should be addressed with the Premier and as Councillors are travelling to Halifax for the UNSM Conference later this month, a meeting should be requested with the Premier.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the Premier requesting he meet with Council in Halifax during the UNSM Conference to discuss Council's concerns. Motion carried.

District #3

It was moved and seconded that a letter of congratulations be forwarded to Dan Christmas on his recent appointment to the Senate. Motion carried.

Warden Morrison and Andrew Brooks recently viewed Port Hawkesbury Paper's forestry operation and were impressed with the operation.

It was moved and seconded that a letter of thanks be forwarded to Mark Dube, Port Hawkesbury Paper, for the overview of the Highlands forestry operations with Kristen Campbell. Motion carried.

There is .5 km of the Shore Road from where the sidewalk ends to Alderwood Drive that is unpaved. There is an Alderwood resident who travels by wheelchair to the Village through unsatisfactory conditions until they get to the paved shoulder.

It was moved and seconded that a cost estimate of the cost of paving the .5 km of sidewalk and information on any funding programs to assist be obtained. Motion carried.

Both the Baddeck and North of Smokey Christmas Parades will be held on November 26, 2016. It is suggested that Councillors participate in the parade dressed as recycling elves.

It was moved and seconded that the Manager of CGC Little Narrows be invited to Council to outline the reclamation taking place at the facility and if possible prior to winter, Council tour the facility. Motion carried.

District #7

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to Victoria Co-op Fisheries congratulating them on 60 years of operation. Motion carried.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis indicated that a young man in his district, Alexander MacRae, was featured in a recent issue of the *Victoria Standard* for his quick response that saved a woman's life. He is to be invited to the next Council to be presented with a certificate from the Municipality.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council will be held on December 5, 2016. Emily Pond, Municipal Advisor, will be presenting on FOIPOP and evidence based decision making and the new Councillors will receive a tour of the Baddeck Solid Waste Facility prior to Council. Leanne MacEachen, Director of Finance, will provide an update on the Municipality's finances.

The CAO advised that on Saturday, November 19, 2016, a meeting on high-speed internet for rural areas will be held at Rankin School of the Narrows, Iona, at 10:00 a.m.

Warden Morrison mentioned the recent ACOA announcement of \$1.1 million for improvements to the streetscape, façade and view planes along the Cabot Trail and an additional \$300,000.00 for tourism marketing to promote the island as a golf destination.

Lucille Timmons is Coordinator for the Cabot Trail project and will be holding five meetings around the trail with regard to this project.

The Annual Council/Staff Christmas Party will be held at the Gaelic College, St. Ann's, on Friday, December 9, 2016.

The Annual UNSM Conference will be held at the Westin Nova Scotian from November 29-December 2, 2016.

Four rooms have been booked in Ottawa for the Annual FCM Conference from May 31, 2016 to June 5, 2016.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Appointments were made to the following committees:

Solid Waste Committee

Wayne Budge
Norman MacDonald
Perla MacLeod
Bruce Morrison

Economic Development Committee

All Councillors
3 lay members

Housing Committee

Larry Dauphinee
Norman MacDonald
Bruce Morrison
Fraser Patterson

Water Committee

Paul MacNeil
Larry Dauphinee
Wayne Budge
Norman MacDonald

Broadband Committee

Paul MacNeil
Larry Dauphinee

Planning Advisory Committee

Perla MacLeod
Bruce Morrison

Cape Breton Regional Library Board

Perla MacLeod

Pitu'paq Committee

Paul MacNeil

CEPI

Paul MacNeil

Inverness-Victoria Federation of Agriculture

Perla MacLeod

LFA 27 Management Board

Merrill MacInnis

Wayne Budge

Victoria County Home Support

Norman MacDonald

Merrill MacInnis

Age-Friendly Committee

Larry Dauphinee

Bruce Morrison

Fraser Patterson

Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve

To be decided

Audit Committee

All Council

Budget Committee

All Council

ADJOURN

There being no further business, it was moved to adjourn at 7:35 p.m.

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO

