

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
March 27, 2017

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, March 27, 2017, 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 #5 – Fraser Patterson
District #6 – Larry Dauphinee, Deputy Warden
District #7 – Wayne Budge
District #8 – Norman MacDonald

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 that agenda for approval.

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

VICTORIA COUNTY TOURISM STRATEGY UPDATE

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Tom MacGuire, Economist; Steve Coyle, Director/Researcher; Group ATN, and Tom Wilson, Director of Recreation and Tourism, who were in attendance to update on the Victoria County Tourism Strategy (copy attached).

Mr. MacGuire provided introductions and outlined the agenda. The project mandate is to develop a three-year Tourism Strategy (2017-2019) for Victoria County to increase tourism revenues, products, experiences and quality of services. He outlined the key themes.

The work plan was outlined. A Steering Committee of sector and community representatives was formed. Background research, key partner interviews and community consultations were conducted. There is also an on-line survey that may be completed. The strategic context as related to Tourism Nova Scotia, Destination Cape Breton Association and Victoria County industry was outlined.

The tourism strengths were outlined and it was indicated that notably absent on this list was the golf product, the Bras d'Or Lakes and seafood. The weaknesses and opportunities were also outlined.

Mr. Coyle outlined the strategic framework for moving forward and the implementation framework.

In addition to the information provided, Council and public in attendance identified affordable housing for workers, training of staff, golf, sailing, the Bras d'Or Lake as an inland sea, and seafood as all being priorities to be included in this strategy.

It was indicated that when this strategy is complete, it not lay on the shelf. It is to be implemented and reviewed with a tracking mechanism/report card on the achievements.

Discussion took place. Tom Wilson indicated that with the information received this evening, the appropriate additions to the strategy will be made and brought back to the community. Council will be updated at their April 24, 2017, meeting.

Warden Morrison extended a thank you to the gentlemen.

JIM MUSTARD, RAISING THE VILLAGES

Courtesy of Council was extended to Jim Mustard, Inverness County Councillor, who was in attendance to present on "Raising the Villages" (copy attached).

The One NS Coalition identified a seven point collaborative action plan for Nova Scotians and number 1 on the list is – The Early Years: Starting Strong.

Mr. Mustard identified why early childhood is so important. In the first 6 months after conception, an infant forms @100 billion neurons and they start forming more than 1 trillion connections by the time they are three, mainly through the environment they experience. He outlined the sensitive periods in early brain development. He outlined the % of vulnerable early childhood in Canada.

Mr. Mustard outlined the initiative undertaken in Revelstoke, BC. Breaking down the isolation felt by some parents has made the biggest difference in this community which is thriving.

Mr. Mustard indicated that early childhood becomes our "North Star". The well-being of young children is a shared responsibility and a shared benefit. We need to be reminded that children are gifts and they are here to be our teachers. We need to provide space for them to teach us. Welcoming community spaces is at the hub of this initiative.

Mr. Mustard outlined the collective impact approach that has taken place over the last 6 months. Councillor Perla MacLeod is a member of the organizing committee. The project – *Mawiomi W'jit Mijuwajijk – Raising the Villages*, was outlined. Organizations participating in this project were outlined. The amount being requested from Victoria County is \$7,000.00.

A letter of support was also requested from Victoria County for the application submitted for funding to the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia.

Mr. Mustard indicated that further information on this initiative can be found at <http://raisingthevillages.webs.com/gatherings>.

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

It was moved and seconded that a letter of support be provided from Victoria County to the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia for the *Raising the Villages* initiative. Motion carried.

It was moved and seconded that the \$7,000.00 request for financial assistance be referred to budget. Motion carried.

RECESS

Warden Morrison advised that Council would recess for five minutes

DOG CONTROL ISSUE

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Lorne and Roxanne MacLeod, Big Bras d'Or, who were in attendance with regard to a dog control issue.

Mr. MacLeod indicated that for the past 11 months they have been aggressively terrorized by dogs roaming at large. Their daughter is scared to go to the bus stop or play in the yard and is terrified of all dogs. They have been threatened, assaulted and are at the end of their rope.

They indicated that they do not appreciate dogs roaming on their property and on the roadsides through Big Bras d'Or. The current by-law does not work as it does not have enough authority to enforce in order to make change. They would like the by-law to protect everybody.

In other areas where they visit, there are no issues with dogs roaming at large. They want to see a change in this area.

Sandy Hudson advised that both Dog Control Officers have visited the area on numerous occasions, but have been unable to seize the dogs at large and are not allowed to go on private property to seize dogs.

The CAO is currently investigating the process for making our Dog Control Officers special constables with the ability to issue Summary Offence Tickets. This would take some time to achieve and he has also made contact with the SPCA to see if they can service the Boularderie area until our Dog Control Officers have the certification.

Further discussion took place and the MacLeod's were advised they would be kept informed of the information obtained from the SPCA and the status of training our Dog Control Officers as special constables.

Mr. and Mrs. MacLeod were excused at this time.

EMO PRESENTATION

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Lyle Donovan, EMC, Victoria County.

Mr. Donovan presented the revised draft Emergency Measures Plan for Victoria County and a draft Emergency Measures By-Law for Victoria County for Council's review. He advised that it has been 8 or 9 years since the Plan was reviewed and a by-law is required (copies attached).

Council will review the Plan and By-Law and first reading of the Emergency Measures By-Law will take place at Council on Monday, April 10, 2017.

Discussion took place on Council responsibilities outlined in the by-law and plan.

The relationship between the Village and the County with regard to this plan was questioned and Mr. Donovan indicated that the Village would have their own emergency plan which would be referenced in the County plan. Whether an MOU between the County and Village was needed was discussed.

Discussion took place on the location of Comfort Centres throughout the Municipality.

The first reading of the Emergency Measures By-Law will be placed on the agenda for the April 10, 2017, Council meeting and Council will review the draft Emergency Measures Plan prior to the next meeting.

Warden Morrison extended a thank you to Mr. Donovan for his report.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MARCH 13, 2017

The minutes of the March 13, 2017, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved and seconded that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of March 13, 2017, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Councillor MacLeod requested an update on the action items from February, 2016, with regard to investigating live streaming of Council.

The CAO will check with Tom Wilson on the status of this request.

NEW BUSINESS

TAX WRITE-OFF

The CAO brought up a tax write-off request for an old gear shed assessed in the name of Peter Fraser. The shed is not used and is located on government property. The amount to be written off is \$2,146.06.

It was moved and seconded that a tax write off of \$2,146.06 be approved for gear shed assessed in the name of Peter Fraser. Motion carried.

PROCUREMENT POLICY

A draft Procurement Policy for purchase between \$1.00 and \$25,000.00 has been drafted and changes will be incorporated and it will be brought back to the next session of Victoria County Municipal Council.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

DISTRICT #5

It was moved and seconded that \$1,342.81 be approved from the District #5 budget for the Ross Ferry Volunteer Fire Department of summer student employee top-up. Motion carried.

DISTRICT #6

Deputy Warden Dauphinee mentioned that CBRM was laying charges with regard to graffiti and he questioned if CBRM had a by-law or how they were able to lay charges.

The CAO is to contact CBRM in this regard.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee mentioned the number of cyclists on the Cabot Trail last year. He felt that along with the driving public, the cyclists also require proper training. Not all are experienced cyclists.

A letter is to be forwarded to Velo Cape Breton questioning on how to raise awareness around the proper training and safety of the cyclists.

DISTRICT #8

Councillor MacDonald brought up a concern with regard to a resident in his district who is a dialysis patient and has been without phone service for the past seven days. The resident is located at 1171 Bay St. Lawrence Road.

Bell is to be contacted concerning this matter and Councillor MacInnis mentioned the contact for Bell is Frank Morgan and he provided his contact information.

DISTRICT #1

Councillor MacNeil indicated that an employee of the Little Narrows Ferry is on sick leave and is being replaced permanently by a worker from the Englishtown Ferry. He questioned why a resident from his district could not have been hired to fill this position.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the Minister of TIR and Provincial Union President questioning on why an employee was hired from Englishtown when there were local Union members in District #1 who could have been hired. Motion carried.

The Gillis Point Road is on the list of roads to be paved this season. The condition of the Highland Hill Road was outlined and he encouraged Council to come and travel this road to see firsthand the condition of the road.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to Gerard Jessome and Darren Blunden, TIR, concerning the condition of the Highland Hill Road, Barra Glen. Motion carried.

DISTRICT #2

Councillor MacLeod brought up a transit concern for elders in the Middle River area. A meeting will be arranged in the area to see if an organization can be formed to take on this responsibility.

This comes under the Age-Friendly Committee criteria.

Councillor MacLeod also brought forward a concern with regard to the condition of streets within the Village.

Warden Morrison indicated that he provided Stephen MacDonald, TIR, with a list of streets that require repair prior to the meeting held recently with TIR officials.

DISTRICT #4

Councillor MacInnis brought up the good news received from Tom Wilson announcing the Municipal Broadband funding from the Department of Business. Victoria County had one project announced of \$68,990.19 for upgrade to the Englishtown site and a new site at New Campbellton.

Councillor MacInnis also brought up a news clip he heard regarding the Village of Maitland and the money they receive for their fire department. They have two newer model trucks servicing a population of 250 residents.

There are departments in Victoria County with 40 year old fire trucks and it is a constant battle to keep them operating. Additional funding is required.

He requested that fire department standards across the Province be investigated. The CAO will look into this matter and the status of the Fire Services Report for the Province.

It was moved and seconded that a street light order be placed with NSPI for installation at 1865 New Campbellton Road. Motion carried.

DISTRICT #6

Deputy Warden Dauphinee mentioned the materials received today with regard to the solid waste compliance plan and the move to completely eliminate black bags. This information will be forwarded to all households in the Municipality.

Whether the issue of black bags could be addressed at the UNSM Regional Meeting on Friday was questioned and will be brought up,

The Solid Waste By-Law is being changed to fall in line with our solid waste initiatives and was brought forward for first reading. A public hearing for second (final) reading will be arranged. 14 days public notice is required before final reading.

DISTRICT #4

Councillor MacInnis indicated that he recently travelled by snowmobile to the Highlands and commended the Cabot Snowmobile Club on their dedication to grooming the trails. The trails are excellent.

The same can be said for the Crowdis Mountain Snowmobile Club and the area they cover.

A proper recognition is to be forwarded to both the Cabot and Crowdis Mountain Snowmobile Clubs.

DISTRICT #8

Councillor MacDonald questioned on the status of the water source for Bay St. Lawrence.

Sandy Hudson advised that the well drillers went to both Neil's Harbour and Bay St. Lawrence last week. They weren't successful in finding an adequate source in Neil's Harbour, but drilled two wells – one in Bay St. Lawrence that yielded 25 gallons per minute and one in Bay Road Valley that yielded 80 gallons per minute.

The pump tests and water quality of this source are being investigated and more will be known on the adequacy of the supply shortly.

DISTRICT #2

Councillor MacLeod indicated that a non-resident of the County wishes to set up a food truck in the Baddeck area.

It was suggested that they contact the Eastern District Planning Commission with regard to land use and if a food truck qualifies and also direct them to the Village. Permission would be required from the property owner also to park on the property.

DISTRICT #3

Warden Morrison advised that five Councillors attended the recent Business Forum at the Inverary Resort. It was very well received.

He will be meeting with two provincial representatives tomorrow and the CBREN Business Plan will be submitted to the Minister for approval.

It was moved and seconded that Group ATN be contacted with regard to the tourism strategy and the additions noted for inclusion, to ensure they are in the final Victoria County Tourism Strategy. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council will be held on Monday, April 10, 2017, at 5:00 p.m. Presentations on the agenda include Celtic Colours and Stephen Hines, Department of Housing.

VICTORIA FARMERS CO-OP

Terry Murray indicated that the Victoria Farmers Co-op is presently undertaking a survey with regard to Sunday shopping and she encouraged all members to return the survey to the Co-op by the March 31, 2017, deadline.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, it was moved to adjourn at 7:30 p.m.

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO

