

**VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**  
*April 10, 2017*

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, April 10, 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 #6 – Larry Dauphinee, Deputy Warden  
District #7 – Wayne Budge  
District #8 – Norman MacDonald

Also present were:

Sandy Hudson, CAO  
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

Absent were:

District #4 – Merrill MacInnis (Out of Town)  
District #5 – Fraser Patterson (Due to Illness)

**CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Warden Morrison called the meeting to order and presented that agenda for approval. Rick Ramsay will be added to the agenda to provide a presentation on the CAO Performance Appraisal Process.

**It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved with the noted addition. Motion carried.**

**CELTIC COLOURS**

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Mike MacSween, Executive Director, Celtic Colours.

Council provided introductions to Mr. MacSween and he thanked Council for the opportunity to appear. He assumed the Executive Director position in October, 2016, replacing Joella Foulds who has moved on to new opportunities.

Mr. MacSween provided Council with an update on the 2016 Celtic Colours (copy attached).

2016 was the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Celtic Colours. Victoria County, in particular the Baddeck area, is the beating heart of Celtic Colours. A large demographic of Festival attendees stay in the Baddeck area, because it is central and because of the convenience of the Festival Club shuttle that transports to and from the Gaelic College Festival Club.

Mr MacSween provided the 2016 statistics for Victoria County. There were 19 shows; 5,324 tickets sold (98% of tickets sold for Victoria County venues); 81 community cultural experiences; 28 community organizations participated; 7,744 attendees at the community cultural experiences and an approximate gross revenue of \$114,599.00.

The decline in Cape Bretoners attending Celtic Colours events is a concern and Mr. MacSween advised that the Festival is put on for Cape Bretoners and there is a continued need that they support the Festival. This is a message they will convey.

Mr. MacSween outlined the livestream, social media and website statistics. The audience expenditures in the 9 days of the 2016 Festival across Cape Breton were \$13.2 million.

The Baddeck-Gaelic College shuttle service, supported through a \$5,000.00 grant from the Municipality, continues to be heavily used by visitors and locals. The total cost of the service in 2016 was \$9,540.00 and people utilized this service an estimated 4,000 times, which averages well in excess of 400 rides per day.

Mr. MacSween outlined the plans and dates for the 21<sup>st</sup> year of the Celtic Colours Festival in 2017. The theme for 2017 is Roots. The 2017 schedule will be launched on June 26, 2017, and ticket sales will commence on July 11, 2017.

Mr. MacSween again thanked Council for their ongoing support of the Celtic Colours Festival.

Council thanked Mr. MacSween for his presentation and the good news that the Festival numbers are increasing every year.

Mr. MacSween was questioned on whether Celtic Colours make a profit and he indicated that they had a small surplus at year end, but mainly it balances out.

The economic impact to Victoria County as a result of the Celtic Colours Festival is phenomenal. Discussion took place on where attendees come from and the importance of the suppers in local communities to the communities and the attendees.

A number of Councillors have volunteered at Festival Club and the interaction they receive as a result is always positive.

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

**STEPHEN HINES, HOUSING NOVA SCOTIA**

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Stephen Hines, Housing Nova Scotia, who was in attendance to present on Housing Nova Scotia Programs (copy attached).

Mr. Hines thanked Council for the invitation to appear and update on Housing Nova Scotia and introductions were provided.

Housing Nova Scotia provides housing repair programs for low to modest income Nova Scotians. There are 17 different grant/forgivable loans and repayable loan programs. The Eastern Region covers CBRM, Inverness, Richmond and Victoria Counties. Approximately 600 applicants are approved annually totalling \$3.5 to \$5 million.

Housing Nova Scotia serves families, seniors, persons with disabilities, landlords and tenants, transition houses, co-operatives and non-profits and builders of affordable housing.

The investment by the Province has increased from up to \$25,000.00 per unit to up to \$50,000.00 per unit through the Investment in Affordable Housing and Social Infrastructure Fund. The requirement for any proposal is to include at least 4 units. The term of forgiveness is 15 years and tenants must have incomes under the Housing Income Limits. Tenants are not to pay more than 30% of their gross household income for renting these units.

Mr. Hines provided the household income limits (HILs) for the federal and provincial housing programs. He provided a list of the grant programs and program funding limits.

In 2016/2017, 29 household were approved for approximately \$177,000.00 in Victoria County. To date, there are currently 12 files for review for this budget year. Mr. Hines indicated that applications are welcome and Councils referral for potential clients would be greatly appreciated.

Mr. Hines provided contact information and indicated that additional information on programs could be accessed at [www.housingns.ca](http://www.housingns.ca).

Deputy Warden Dauphinee brought up the situation with a resident in his district and was advised to provide the name to Mr. Hines for investigation.

Mr. Hines indicated Housing Nova Scotia would like to see more applications received from Victoria County.

Discussion took place on the Family Modest Housing Mortgage of up to \$70,000.00. It was felt this amount should be increased.

The Emergency Repair Program (ERP) was discussed. Whether there was any assistance for services to seniors, i. e. snow removal, etc. Mr. Hines advised that there is nothing through Housing Nova Scotia.

Kate Oland questioned whether there was posters/information that could be provided for display at the Library and this will be provided. Mr. Hines indicated that Housing staff can go out to the communities to meet and provide information.

Discussion took place housing for the vulnerable population (mental health, addictions, etc.) and Council was advised any such program would be through the Department of Community Services.

Why gross income was considered, as opposed to net income, was questioned and Mr. Hines advised that all programs consider gross income.

After further discussion, Warden Morrison extended appreciation to Mr. Hines for the information provided.

**PERFORMANCE EVALUATION – CHIEF ADMINSTRATIVE OFFICER**

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Rick Ramsay, Richard G. Ramsay Management Consultants Inc., who was in attendance to present on the process for performance evaluation of the Chief Administrative Officer (copy attached).

Mr. Ramsay indicated that performance evaluation is a key human strategy used by organizations to evaluate the performance of an employee. He outlined the benefits of evaluating performance to both the employee and the employer.

The Chief Administrative Officer is the only employee of Council and it is up to Council to undertake the performance evaluation.

The step by step process of evaluating performance was outlined and a sample formats were provided.

Mr. Ramsay provided discussion points, tips to success and current trends in employee performance evaluations. He indicated that it is important to do the evaluation in a timely manner.

Mr. Ramsay indicated that the next session with Council on the performance evaluation of the CAO will be more in-depth. The target for completing the evaluation is early to mid-May, 2017.

After further discussion, Warden Morrison extended a thank you to Mr. Ramsay for the information provided and indicated a date and time will be arranged for the next meeting with Council.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MARCH 27, 2017**

The minutes of the March 27, 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 27, 2017, be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**DOG CONTROL ISSUE**

The CAO advised that he contacted the SPCA with regard to providing temporary services in the Boularderie area, but the cost was exorbitant and he is not recommending it at this time. He will continue to investigate solutions to this issue and report back at a later meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**WAGMATCOOK COURT SERVICES**

Warden Morrison presented a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Wagmatcook and Waycobah First Nations and the Municipality of the County of Victoria for the return of Provincial Court services to Wagmatcook First Nation.

The official signing of the MOU will be held at Wagmatcook First Nation on April 19, 2017, at 2:00 p.m.

The cost to the Municipality with regard to the Court services was questioned and Warden Morrison advised that the financial implications will be determined by the services offered and will be known at a later date.

**It was moved and seconded that the Warden be authorized to sign the MOU for the provision of Court Services in Victoria County. Motion carried.**

**LIVE STREAMING OF VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**

Sandy Hudson presented findings of the possibility of live streaming Victoria County Municipal Council sessions.

The costs associated can vary depending on the requirements. John MacKinnon, Director of IT Services in CBRM, indicated that CBRM's live streaming system can be viewed at any time.

**FCM LEGAL DEFENCE FUND**

An invoice was received from the FCM for \$500.00 for their legal defence fund. The Municipality is not obligated to pay this amount. The CAO will look after this matter.

**BELLWETHER MEDIA INC.**

Andrew Brooks, Bellwether Media Inc., explained his updated proposal for a tourist supplement to be placed in nine issues of the *Victoria Standard* from June through October. The funding requested has been reduced to \$4,500.00 from the original ask of \$7,500.00.

The original request was referred to budget and the updated request will still be referred to budget.

Mr. Brooks was questioned as to when a decision of Council would be required and he indicated that ideally it would be by mid-May.

The request will be dealt with at an upcoming Budget Committee meeting.

**DISTRICT CONCERNS**

**District #6**

**It was moved and seconded that \$200.00 be approved from the District #6 budget for sponsorship of a hole at the Fisher and Buddy Golf Tournament. Motion carried.**

**It was moved and seconded that the Municipality sponsor a team in the Fisher and Buddy Golf Tournament at a cost of \$500.00. Motion carried.**

Deputy Warden Dauphinee indicated that CBRM's heavy garbage collection begins on May 1, 2017, and he questioned on the status of a date for Victoria County's collection. The northern area of the Municipality is being tendered and the southern area will be done by Public Works staff. It is anticipated it will start the first week of May.

A question was raised as to why electronics is not included in the heavy garbage collection and the CAO will discuss this matter with Robert Dauphinee, Director of Public Works.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee brought up a concern with regard to speeders in the Ingonish area, especially from the elementary school to the Park boundary. A radar sign for this area was investigated with the Department of TIR. DTIR will only place them for a maximum of two weeks in any one area.

The possibility of the Municipality purchasing one or two radar signs that could be moved to different areas of the County was discussed. The signs cost in the vicinity of \$3,500.00 each. Deputy Warden Dauphinee indicated he had a copy of the TIR policy/process which he would provide.

**It was moved and seconded that the CAO investigate radar speed signs for the Municipality. Motion carried.**

Deputy Warden Dauphinee indicated the RCMP are supportive of the location of radar signs and will provide a letter of support if required.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee indicated that he has two visually impaired residents who walk throughout his district and he would like to see caution signs indicating visually impaired located in the district. The Department of TIR will place signs for children, but not adults.

**It was moved and seconded that the CAO contact the Department of TIR regarding signage for visually impaired. Motion carried.**

### **District #8**

Councillor MacDonald brought up the Gaelic signage issue and how to go about getting signs erected indicating community names in Gaelic.

A follow up will be made with the Departments of Gaelic Affairs and TIR in this regard.

Councillor MacDonald indicated he is receiving complaints about the condition of Quarry Road. Fishermen are hauling their boats to the wharf via this road and it is in deplorable condition. The Department of TIR indicated that patching will be carried out but no major road work. The road to the wharf is a federal road and whether they can undertake repairs is to be investigated.

### **District #2**

Councillor MacLeod brought up the reduction of the speed limit by the Irving/Tim Hortons. It is currently a 90 km speed zone. A traffic study conducted by the Department of TIR in the past indicated it did not warrant a speed reduction. This will again be investigated.

The number of tickets issued by the RCMP for those illegally parked at this location was requested and the CAO advised he would provide the information he received in this regard.

Councillor MacLeod presented a petition with 914 signatures with regard to the repaving of the West Side Middle River Road.

This petition is to be forwarded to MLA Pam Eyking, with a copy to the Minister, for introduction and tabling in the Legislature and a received copy is to be requested returned to the Municipality.

Councillor MacLeod indicated that a meeting will be held at the Waycobah School, Waycobah, on April 27, 2017, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with regard to “Raising the Villages” initiative.

Councillor MacLeod brought up training for employees and requested that this be further investigated.

### **District #1**

Councillor MacNeil indicated that \$10 million has been earmarked for the gravel roads in the Province and he wants to ensure that funding is allotted for repairs to roads in District #1.

He requested that a meeting be set up as soon as possible with Gerard Jessome and Darren Blunden, DTIR, and the Minister and MLA if they are available with regard to the gravel roads in District #1.

Central Cape Breton Community Ventures wish to advertise the Municipality as a sponsor of World Oceans Day. This permission was granted.

### **District #3**

Warden Morrison reminded Council that Gordon McIntosh will be in Baddeck on April 24-25, 2017, to assist in facilitating strategic priorities with Council/Senior Staff.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that he read of Facebook that the Municipality’s heavy garbage collection will be held beginning May 1, 2017. He felt, that as a Councillor, he should be informed of such things before they are made public.

The CAO will investigate this matter with the Communications Officer.

Warden Morrison indicated that a couple of months ago, an aquaculture presentation was made and he felt a formal letter should be sent to the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture with regard to support and growth of the aquaculture industry in Victoria County.

The Housing presentation brought to light the low limit for the Family Modest Housing Mortgage of up to \$70,000.00.

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to Housing Nova Scotia requesting that the Family Modest Housing Mortgage level be increased to a more realistic amount. Motion carried.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Warden Morrison indicated that a meeting of the Liaison and Oversight Committee of the CBREN was held earlier today and the 2017 Business Plan submitted by the Cape Breton Partnership was adopted.

**BY-LAW/POLICY REVIEW**

The CAO advised that the Procurement Policy document is still being finalized before being brought to Council.

The second (final) reading of the Solid Waste Management By-Law will be held at the May 8, 2017, session of Victoria County Municipal Council.

**It was moved and seconded that the first reading of the Emergency Measures By-Law be approved. Motion carried.**

**ADJOURN**

**There being no further business, it was moved to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.**

**Bruce Morrison, Warden**

**Sandy Hudson, CAO**