

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
April 24, 2017

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck on Monday, April 24, 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 #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 presented the agenda for approval. He indicated that both presentations scheduled on the agenda have cancelled for this evening.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – APRIL 10, 2017

The minutes of the April 10, 2017, session of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved and seconded that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of April 10, 2017, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

SPEED RADAR SIGNS

Deputy Warden Dauphinee requested an update on the speed radar signs. Sandy Hudson advised that he has obtained information on the Dynamic Speed Display Signs. The possibility of purchasing same for placement in various areas around the County was discussed. Whether County signs could be placed on DTIR right-of-way will be investigated and also the Director of Public Works was contacted with regard to his department staff moving and locating these signs if permitted.

The CAO also advised that he contacted DTIR with regard to visually impaired signs. These signs are only placed in areas where there are visually impaired children, but in this case, it is visually impaired adults. Whether the County can erect these signs will be investigated.

PETITION – WEST SIDE MIDDLE RIVER ROAD

Councillor MacLeod brought up the petition for the repaving of the West Middle River Road. The petition was forwarded to Pam Eyking, MLA, for presentation to the Legislature. She is requesting that the letter accompanying the petition be addressed to the House of Assembly and Councillor MacLeod indicated this has been done and Shaun Tobin, Assistant to the MLA, will pick the letter up at the Court House.

DOG CONTROL ISSUE

Sandy Hudson updated on the dog control issue. The cost received from the SPCA to serve the Boularderie area is exorbitant. Contact has been made with the Solicitor with regard to changes to the Dog Control By-Law to outline fines. Training will be obtained for our Dog Control Officers to be able to issue summary offence tickets.

Councillor Patterson has been made aware of these findings in regard to the dog control issue in his District.

HOUSING NOVA SCOTIA

The Family Modest Housing Mortgage of up to \$70,000.00 through Housing Nova Scotia was discussed. Council felt that this level is too low for the housing market in Victoria County.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to Housing Nova Scotia requesting that the level of the Family Modest Housing Mortgage be increased to the average home value in Victoria County of up to \$140,000.00. Motion carried.

PROVINCIAL COURT SERVICES

Warden Morrison advised that he attended the official signing of the Memorandum of Understanding for the provision of Provincial Court Services in Wagmatcook. Justice Minister Diana Whalen announced that the Province will invest \$286,000.00 in this new Court system.

It is anticipated that the Court will be up and operating in September, 2017. Councillors will be invited to the grand opening. This Court will be the first one in Canada to offer regular Provincial Court, Gladue Court and Aboriginal Wellness Court.

NEW BUSINESS

NEIL'S HARBOUR WATER TOWER

The replacement of the existing water tower servicing the Neil's Harbour/New Haven Water System was discussed.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board approving the construction of a water tower for the Neil's Harbour/New Haven Water System at a cost of \$750,000.00 and the Municipality agree to cover the shortfall of the water utility for the replacement of the water tower. Motion carried.

Leanne MacEachen, Director of Finance, indicated that ½ of the funding for this project will come from Gas Tax funds.

CAPE BRETON ISLAND HOUSING AUTHORITY

A letter was received from Honourable Joanne Bernard, Minister of Community Services, advising that the term of Gail Boudreau as Victoria County's representative on the Cape Breton Island Housing Authority Board, will expire this month. She requested the Municipality to recommend a replacement for the vacancy. Ms. Boudreau has indicated that she is not interested in re-offering for this position.

It was moved and seconded to advertise for a representative to serve on the Board of the Cape Breton Island Housing Authority. Motion carried.

QUIT CLAIM DEED

The CAO advised that the Solicitor has received the executed Release & Indemnity agreement from the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board for the Bay St. Lawrence Bus Garage and he is recommending that the Municipality execute a Quit Claim Deed to the School Board.

It was moved and seconded that the Quit Claim Deed from the Municipality to the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board be executed for the Bay St. Lawrence Bus Garage. Motion carried.

MARKETING LEVY

Destination Cape Breton Association have expressed concern on the receipt of marketing levy funds for Victoria County tourist establishments and are requesting that Victoria County take steps to make changes to the current Marketing Levy By-Law with regard to enforcement of payment of these funds.

Leanne MacEachen, Director of Finance, is to review the marketing levy payments to determine who is delinquent in paying their levy funds.

OUTREACH PILOT PROJECT

Warden Morrison presented correspondence from the Richmond County Literacy Network with regard to a pilot project for a community outreach person to assist seniors. They are requesting the Municipality to partner on this pilot project.

The CAO is to contact Richmond County for more information on what this pilot project would entail.

This request will be dealt with at a future meeting.

MARGAREE AIRPORT

Discussion took place on the proposed expansion of the Margaree Airport.

This matter is to be tabled as information and the CAO is to contact Inverness County for further information.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #1

Councillor MacNeil indicated that there are now three gravel roads closed in his district. The majority of the money approved by the Province for upgrading gravel roads has been allotted and Councillor MacNeil indicated that he was advised nothing would happen until after the provincial election is over.

District #8

Councillor MacDonald brought forward a concern with regard to the Blaze Road in his district. It is a gravel road currently impassable. He questioned on how the money for gravel roads is allotted.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the Department of TIR questioning on how they determine where the funding for the maintenance of gravel roads is allocated. Motion carried.

Councillor MacDonald indicated that he was contacted by a resident of Capstick Manor concerning the location of an AED at this facility.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the Cape Breton Island Housing Authority and the Heart and Stroke Foundation concerning the location of an AED at Capstick Manor. Motion carried.

District #6

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the Department of TIR questioning on the status of the Bridge Plans for Little Narrows and Englishtown. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee brought up the issue of speeding vehicles in the Ingonish Harbour area and the possible reduction in the speed limit from 60 km/hr to 50 km/hr.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to Department of TIR regarding the placement of a radar speed sign in this area. Motion carried.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis questioned on the status of the presentation to Council by the Ocean Tracking Network.

Sandy Hudson advised that they have been scheduled on the May 8, 2017, Council agenda.

Councillor MacInnis brought forward a concern with regard to the new contact number for the Department of Transportation. You call a 1-800 number and are placed in a queue and unable to contact staff locally.

Councillor MacNeil will be meeting with the Minister of TIR and will bring forward this frustration with regard to the new phone number for contacting the Department of TIR.

Councillor MacInnis indicated that he was contacted by a resident of the New Harris area advising that he is not receiving notification of information being sent out by mail with regard to solid waste matters, etc. He receives his mail at the Little Bras d'Or Post Office.

Flyers sent are not mailed directly to individual addresses and are sent out as bulk mail and the Municipality has no way to determine who receives mail outside the Municipality.

Council was questioned as to whether they had any information on closure signs at the Seal Island Bridge. No information was received, but it was indicated there were signs there recently with regard to closure to high-sided vehicles. Signs may also be located there when wide-load vehicles are being escorted across the bridge.

Councillor MacInnis indicated that Shawn Andrews, Fire Services Coordinator for Guysborough County, attended a meeting of the Chief Fire Officers Committee recently. He felt it would be beneficial for him to attend Council also.

The Municipality is awaiting the release of the AMANS/UNSM Fire Services Report which was sent back to the consultants for updates. Once this report is received and reviewed, then it would be more appropriate to invite Mr. Andrews to Council.

The CAO will contact the UNSM to investigate when the Fire Services Report will be released.

District #3

Warden Morrison indicated that Council is being requested to participate in the Canada 150 July 1, 2017, parade in Baddeck. Events will be taking place in other areas of the Municipality on that day also.

The Warden will have Jocelyn Bethune investigate a theme for July 1 Canada 150 parade for those who can participate.

Warden Morrison indicated that Council and Staff are participating in a Strategic Priority Planning Session today and tomorrow with Gordon McIntosh and a topic of discussion today was internal communications. He indicated that when Council have concerns they will be bringing to Council, they provide information in advance to the Recording Secretary for clarity purposes for the minutes.

BY-LAW/POLICY REVIEW

The public hearing on the Solid Waste Management By-Law will be held on May 8, 2017, at 4:30 p.m.

The CAO advised that work is still being completed on the Procurement Policy and it will be brought to Council in the near future.

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The public hearing on the Emergency Management By-Law will be held on May 29, 2017, at 4:30 p.m. prior to Council.

NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council will be held on Monday, May 8, 2017, at 5:00 p.m. A presentation from Ocean Tracking Network will be on the agenda.

The UNSM Spring Workshop will be held at St. FX University on May 10-12, 2017. Those wishing to register are to contact the Municipal Office.

The NSUARB hearing on the Victoria County Water Utility rates will be held at the Court House, Baddeck, on May 18, 2017, at 11:30 a.m.

The UNSM Regional Meeting will be held at the Civic Centre, Port Hawkesbury, on May 5, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.

CANADA 150

Deputy Warden Dauphinee questioned on the Canada 150 benches for each district. The price received was costly and there are no funding programs to access in this regard.

INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

Concern was expressed that on occasion Council were not made aware of things happening within the Municipality (Heavy Garbage Collection, staffing issues) prior to them being advertised to the public.

In future, Council are to be emailed this information prior to or at the same time as it is being released to the public so they will be informed.

There is a Social Media Policy in place in the Municipality. Council and Staff are encouraged to review this policy.

Warden Morrison advised that he will be out of town from Wednesday, April 26, 2017, to Saturday, May 6, 2017.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, it was moved to adjourn at 6:00 p.m.

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO