

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
May 8, 2017

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, May 8, 2017, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Warden Bruce Morrison in the Chair.

Present were:

District #1 – Paul MacNeil
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

Absent was:

District #2 – Perla MacLeod (Due to Illness)

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Warden Morrison called the meeting to order and presented the agenda for approval.

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

SOLID WASTE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT BY-LAW

A Public Hearing was held prior to Council at 4:30 p.m. on the Solid Waste Resource Management By-Law.

No comments or submissions were received.

It was moved and seconded that 2nd (final) reading of the Solid Waste Resource Management By-Law be approved. Motion carried.

OCEAN TRACKING NETWORK

Courtesy of Council was extended to Paul Whoriskey, Executive Director, Ocean Tracking Network.

Mr. Whoriskey advised that Ocean Tracking Network is a collaborative, globally-linked infrastructure platform and research network. They measure marine animal movements and survival and have 1648 acoustic receivers deployed globally. In addition to their receivers, there are approximately 20,000 independent compatible receivers deployed.

Mr. Whoriskey provided an outline of what the Ocean Tracking Network does (copy attached). The technology of electronic tracking was outlined and he provided samples of data loggers, satellite tags, and acoustic tags for Council to view. The new generation technologies were also outlined. He provided information on the global telemetry activity across the world.

Mr. Whoriskey explained why they track and indicated that it fills the knowledge gaps in the local, regional and ocean basin.

The snow crab tracking presently being undertaken was outlined. Snow crab is number 3 in fishery value behind lobster and scallops in Nova Scotia.

Mr. Whoriskey outlined the fishery issues and telemetry objects which include:

- Are the animals crossing current management borders?
- Are they entering the Marine Protected Areas?
- Will there be an impact from the Maritime Link?
- Brought together DFO Science and Management, Local Harvesters, Emera Maritime Link and Ocean Tracking Network.

Mr. Whoriskey indicated that the very preliminary results indicated that animals are surviving tagging and are being detected. The three programs are becoming mutually supporting and some animals are moving over large distances.

Ocean Tracking Network is located at Dalhousie University and he provided contact information for Council. Their website, www.oceantrackingnetwork.org, is an additional information resource.

Council all thanked Mr. Whoriskey for the very interesting presentation.

The impact the Emera Maritime Link would have the crab/lobster industry was discussed. Mr. Whoriskey indicated they are establishing a baseline right now with the tracking being undertaken.

The question was raised as to if the line was buried, would the crab/lobster return to the area and Mr. Whoriskey indicated he felt they would.

Councillor MacInnis indicated that this is his 43rd year in the fishing industry and the tracking work being done is one of the most exciting things he has witnessed in these 43 years.

It was just 46 years ago that crab were discovered in the area when trawling was taking place for cod.

Mr. Whoriskey's participation in *The Amazing Race Canada* segment in Halifax was outlined.

Whether the tracking technology was being used in the wild and farm fishing industries was questioned and Mr. Whoriskey updated on the work undertaken and the analyzing of the combined fishery.

After further discussion, Mr. Whoriskey indicated his pleasure on being here to present and Warden Morrison extended a thank you to for the presentation and indicated it is very rare, where a presenter gets a round of applause.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – APRIL 24, 2017

The minutes of the April 24, 2017, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved and seconded that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of May 8, 2017, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

MARGAREE AIRPORT

Whether there was an update on the Margaree Airport matter was questioned and Council was advised that this matter has not been addressed by Inverness County Council as yet. More will be known after the Inverness Council meeting.

WEST SIDE MIDDLE RIVER ROAD

Warden Morrison, on behalf of Councillor MacLeod, advised that a section of the West Side Middle River Road was washed out today. Councillor MacLeod had presented a petition regarding the repaving of this road at Council which was submitted to Pam Eyking, MLA, for presentation in the Legislature.

NEW BUSINESS

FCM BOARD

Councillor Patterson indicated that he may be interested in putting his name forward as a rural representative on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Board. The deadline for submission is May 17, 2017. A motion of Council is required nominating him for this position.

It was moved and seconded that Council nominate Councillor Fraser Patterson to put his name forward to serve on the FCM Board. Motion carried.

WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Sandy Hudson indicated that with the upcoming replacement of the Neil's Harbour/New Haven Water Tower, the possibility of implementing a water conservation program beginning in this utility and carrying forward to the other utilities in the future is being considered.

He indicated that items such as low flow taps and sprinkler heads, etc. would be provided by the Municipality to the users which the users would install. This would aid in conservation of the supply.

It was moved and seconded that Council support a water conservation program for the Victoria County Water Utility. Motion carried.

Sandy Hudson advised that he would like approval to apply for Provincial Capital Assistance Program (PCAP) funding for the Neil's Harbour/New Haven Water Tower.

It was moved and seconded that the Municipality apply for PCAP funding for the Neil's/Harbour/New Haven Water Tower Project. Motion carried.

TOURISM STRATEGY UPDATE

The final draft of the Victoria County Tourism Strategy has been circulated to Council. Council will meet to review the document with the consultants on Monday, May 29, 2017, at 3:30 p.m. prior to Council.

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

A Budget Committee meeting was held prior to Council on the community grant applications.

It was moved and seconded that the total community grant budget for 2017-18 be \$253,000.00. Motion carried.

It was moved and seconded that funds be transferred from the operating reserve to the operational reserve to cover any shortfalls for the 2016-17 fiscal year. Motion carried.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #1

Councillor MacNeil brought up the condition of the roads in his district with the recent rain and resulting flooding. He contacted Darren Blunden, Area Supervisor, DTIR, who advised that there is only one worker in the Ashfield location. Nothing will get done with one person.

He felt that roads in all areas are crumbling and less money is being allocated for repairs. He indicated that at the recent UNSM Regional Meeting, Councillors from Richmond and Inverness Counties who attended had the same issues.

All Victoria-The Lakes candidates are to be invited to meet with Council on the rural roads issue and what their party plans on doing in this regard. This meeting could be held as a Council session to deal with just this issue.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis brought up concerns with regard to dangerous and unsightly premises in his district.

Dangerous and unsightly complaints are not driven by Council. They are administered by the Dangerous and Unsightly Premises Administrator, Eastern District Planning Commission, on complaints received by the public.

District #8

Councillor MacDonald was commended for sending his district concerns to the Recorder prior to the meeting.

It was moved and seconded that a street light order be placed for 78 Meat Cove Road. Motion carried.

Councillor MacDonald brought up the smell issue at the Dingwall Transfer Station. This is a result of the crab offal and will be investigated. Once the heavy garbage collection is completed, staff will be able to haul additional woodchips for mixing in the compost. This should reduce the odor.

District #6

Deputy Warden Dauphinee brought forward a concern from a local gas station with regard to a Marine Atlantic \$50.00 gas card promotion. The gas cards are Irving gas cards.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to Marine Atlantic expressing concern on their gas card promotion initiative as it is unfair to promote one gas company over another. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee extended congratulations to *The Victoria Standard* on their five standing finalist nominations for Newspapers Atlantic 2017 Better Newspapers Competition.

Andrew Brooks advised that Josh Kaiser and Madison Greening are finalists for the Outstanding Cartoon category and he has been nominated in three other categories.

The status of the Water Tower Road right-of-way request was questioned by Deputy Warden Dauphinee. Sandy Hudson provided an update. Whether expropriation was a possibility was questioned and this will be investigated.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee requested an update on the speed radar signs. Sandy Hudson advised that he has information on these signs. The signs can be in one place for no more than two weeks at a time and Ministerial approval is required to erect these signs. The Municipality would be responsible for the maintenance and locating of the signs.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee indicated he would like to see these signs in place prior to the tourist season and the purchase of two signs will be investigated.

District #3

Warden Morrison, on behalf of Councillor MacLeod, brought up the washout on the West Side Middle River Road. Contact is to be made with the Minister of TIR concerning the damage to this road and other roads in the County that have been affected.

District #1

Councillor MacNeil brought up the matter of the Cape Breton West Islanders who were recent winners of the Telus Cup – the National Major Midget Championship.

It was moved and seconded that congratulations be forwarded from Victoria County to the Cape Breton West Islanders on winning the Telus Cup – National Major Midget Championships. Motion carried.

It was moved and seconded that the Municipality of the County of Victoria provide support to the Cape Breton West Islanders in their bid to host the 2018 Atlantic Championships. Motion carried.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES CHART

Warden Morrison brought up the Strategic Priorities Chart on the back of the Council agenda. Council and senior staff met with Gordon McIntosh on strategic priority planning for the Municipality and the chart outlines the corporate and operational strategies going forward.

Councillor Patterson indicated that the housing issue is contained in the Age-Friendly Plan. He suggested that after the Provincial Election, the Minister, Deputy Minister and David Harrison, who was retained to do the Age-Friendly Plan, meet with Council. A copy of the final draft of the Age-Friendly Plan will be sent to Council for review.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received from the Honourable Zach Churchill, Minister of Municipal Affairs, advising that the Department of Municipal Affairs will contribute 50% of the eligible project costs, up to a maximum of \$150,000.00 toward the cost of the Neil's Harbour/New Haven Water Tower Upgrade Project.

Warden Morrison brought up the posting of Council expenses on the County website. The recommendations report of the Joint Municipal Accountability and Transparency Committee was submitted to the Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs. It was brought to the Legislature and will be enacted in law. A standardized form has been developed for expense reporting and the Municipality will look into having this information provided online.

NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council will be held on Monday, May 29, 2017, at 5:00 p.m. A Public Hearing on the Emergency Management By-Law will be held at 4:30 p.m. prior to Council.

The UNSM Spring Workshop will be held at St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, from May 10-12, 2017. Warden Morrison and Sandy Hudson will be attending.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, it was moved the meeting adjourn at 6:30 p.m.

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO

