

**VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**  
**June 12, 2017**

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, June 12, 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 the agenda for approval. Two additions to the agenda include a presentation to Calvin Kuchta and an update by Tom Wilson on the Tourism Strategy and Broadband.

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

**ANGELA BRESSON, SEASIDE COMMUNICATIONS**

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Angela Bresson, Coordinator of the Volunteer Fire Service Program with Seaside Communications.

Ms. Bresson indicated that Seaside is proud to support Volunteer Fire Departments throughout rural Nova Scotia. She advised that she was in attendance to present cheques to two Victoria County Volunteer Fire Departments – Baddeck Volunteer Fire Department and Neil's Harbour/New Haven Volunteer Fire Department.

Accepting on behalf of the Neil's Harbour/New Haven Volunteer Fire Department was Billy Hogan and Councillor Wayne Budge and for Baddeck Volunteer Fire Department Chief Darren MacAulay and Warden Bruce Morrison. Photos were taken and Warden Morrison offered congratulations on behalf of Council.

Ms. Bresson indicated that volunteer fire departments are the backbone of the community and she encouraged Council to spread the word on Seaside's Volunteer Fire Service Program. Application deadline is the end of November of each year.

Warden Morrison extended a thank you to Ms. Bresson.

**CALVIN KUCHTA PRESENTATION**

Warden Morrison then called upon Calvin Kuchta who was in attendance to be presented with a Certificate of Recognition from the Municipality of the County of Victoria for his quick thinking and live saving action in rescuing Lloyd Stone after his skiing accident on March 3, 2017.

Councillor Perla MacLeod presented Calvin with his certificate and Council applauded Calvin for his heroic action.

In attendance with Calvin were his Mom, Bonnie and his brother, Carter. Councillor MacLeod indicated that Mrs. Kuchta was a volunteer award recipient at the Victoria County ceremony in April.

**SOCIAL ENTERPRISE PRESENTATION**

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Chloe Donatelli, Social Enterprise Developer, Common Good Solutions Inc.

Ms. Donatelli advised that Common Good Solutions was founded in 2013 to help start and grow social enterprises. Social enterprise is a business or organization operated for the purpose of addressing social, cultural, economic or environmental challenges. The majority of profits and surpluses are reinvested to support community needs.

Social enterprises can be non-profit, charity, co-op, for profit or a CIC (community interest company). They operate on the needs of the community and the wants of the customer. They create jobs; deliver products and services that communities need. They exist to directly address issues that are integral to governments' mandates.

The Social Enterprise Sector survey conducted in 2014 identified 1170 social enterprises in Nova Scotia. The survey findings were outlined.

The *Advancing Social Enterprise in Nova Scotia – Nova Scotia Social Enterprise Sector Strategy* was released by the province in April, 2017. She outlined the policy pillars for advancing social enterprise. She outlined some successful ventures in succession planning, transportation, housing, and youth and seniors.

Ms. Donatelli provided her business card and flyer on the products and services offered by Common Good Solutions and indicated she was available at any time to meet or discuss social enterprise.

Discussion took place and Ms. Donatelli answered various questions of Council. The question was raised as to how many of the 1170 social enterprises in Nova Scotia were in Victoria County and she indicated she could provide this information after reviewing the survey findings.

The relationship with the CBREN was outlined and she advised that she has previously met with Patrick Austin, EDO. They will continue to work together and are a great partner.

After further discussion, Warden Morrison extended a thank you to Ms. Donatelli for her presentation.

#### **TOURISM AND BROADBAND UPDATE**

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Tom Wilson, Director of Recreation and Tourism, who was in attendance to update on the Victoria County Tourism Strategy and Broadband.

Tom Wilson advised that after the May 29, 2017, meeting with the consultants on the Victoria County Tourism Strategy, the changes outlined at the meeting were made to the document. The updated document was provided for review and Mr. Wilson outlined the go forward with the Strategy once approved by Council. Discussion took place.

**It was moved and seconded that the Victoria County Tourism Strategy be approved. Motion carried.**

Mr. Wilson advised that the Broadband Strategy is completed and the Committee are ready to move forward on the strategy. Funding has been included in the 2017/18 budget for Broadband.

A provincial update was provided and Mr. Wilson indicated that the province has yet to address the middle mile or last mile strategy with regard to Broadband.

He provided an update on the Municipal Broadband Project funded by the province for two Seaside wireless site upgrades in Victoria County at Englishtown and New Campbellton.

The CBREN Broadband Project was discussed and Mr. Wilson indicated that there is no update since the meeting in Whycomagh, but they continue to share information.

Mr. Wilson advised that he submitted the Broadband Strategy to Sandy Hudson and Mr. Hudson indicated he would forward the document on to Council for review. The Broadband Strategy will be deferred until the next meeting.

**RECESS**

Warden Morrison advised that Council would recess for 10 minutes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MAY 29, 2017**

The minutes of the May 29, 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 29, 2017, be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**JOINT COUNCIL WITH WAGMATCOOK**

A joint meeting between Wagmatcook Band Council and Victoria County Municipal Council will be held at the Wagmatcook Culture and Heritage Centre, Wagmatcook, on Thursday, June 15, 2017, at 5:00 p.m.

Items on the agenda include a tour of their facilities, update on Tourism Strategy and an update on recycling. Other items will be included on the agenda by Wagmatcook Band Council.

**PROPOSED MULTI-PURPOSE/ARCHERY FACILITY**

Following the Council presentation at the May 29, 2017, Council meeting, Stephen Kerr forwarded four questions to the Municipality. Council will support the proposed project in principle, but doesn't foresee any funding in the future to allocate to the project. The Municipality will respond to these questions accordingly.

**COMMUNITY GRANT FUNDING**

The cheques for the approved community grants have been printed and Council was questioned as to how they wished them to be distributed. The cheques are to be mailed along with a letter outlining the information the organizations are to provide to the Municipality.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**FCM/UNSM PROJECT**

Councillor MacLeod expressed an interest in travelling to Vietnam under the FCM Municipal Partners for Economic Development Program.

**It was moved and seconded that Councillor Perla MacLeod be authorized to attend Vietnam under the FCM Municipal Partners for Economic Development Program. Motion carried.**

**HEALTHY EATING POLICY**

**It was moved and seconded that the Healthy Eating in Municipal and Physical Activity Recreation Sports Settings Policy be approved. Motion carried.**

**EXTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS TAX EXEMPTION**

The External Tax Exemption By-Law was approved in 2014 and organizations were to apply annually for the tax exemption. The CAO indicated that this by-law can be withdrawn as Section 71 of the *Municipal Government Act* can extend this exemption to organizations that are approved.

Sandy Hudson presented a list of exempt charitable properties that have their taxes written off. The amount of the tax exemption is \$74,621.72.

**It was moved and seconded to approve the tax exemption for charitable properties in the amount of \$74,621.72. Motion carried.**

Sandy Hudson presented the list of properties that have their commercial assessment taxed at the residential rate (community halls). The total taxes for the properties outlined amounts to \$17,079.46.

**It was moved and seconded to approve a grant in lieu equal to the taxes owing for the commercial to residential properties outlined in the amount of \$17,079.46. Motion carried.**

**CAPE BRETON ISLAND HOUSING AUTHORITY**

An advertisement was placed for a Victoria County representative to serve on the Cape Breton Island Housing Authority Board. Only one application was received from Norman Matheson.

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the Minister of Community Services recommending that Norman Matheson be appointed to serve as Victoria County's representative on the Cape Breton Island Housing Authority Board. Motion carried.**

**DOG CONTROL BY-LAW**

Sandy Hudson introduced an amendment to the Dog Control By-Law giving authority to the Dog Control Officer to enforce the by-law under the *Police Act* and to issue Summary Offence Tickets pursuant to the *Summary Proceedings Act*. The amendment also outlined fines for not complying with the provisions of the by-law. Section 51 of the existing by-law is also repealed.

**It was moved and seconded to approve the first reading of the amendment to the Dog Control By-Law. Motion carried.**

The CAO indicated that he is currently negotiating with the SPCA with regard to temporarily servicing the Boularderie area.

**TAXATION UPDATE**

The CAO provides scheduled Tax Sales dates. The next Tax Sale will be held on August 29, 2017.

He indicated that this time last year taxes owing were \$1.424 million and the taxes owing at this point this year is \$1.364 million.

Discussion took place on why some properties can't go to Tax Sale. The CAO indicated that he is looking at four properties with some issues that he is looking to proceed in a different route to collect the taxes. This method is more risky, but it was felt some risk is necessary to get the title problem properties collected.

Council questioned on how to get out of the position the Municipality is in with regard to outstanding taxes and it was indicated that the easiest way is to focus on collection of current taxes and then focus on the arrears.

The title searches conducted for Tax Sale are charged to the property and therefore, when properties are sold, this expense is collected. The length of time to review property searches by the Solicitor was discussed and the CAO advised that the Solicitor attempts to have a two week turn around in this regard.

**DR. ROBERTA BONDAR**

In conjunction with Canada 150 celebrations, Dr. Roberta Bondar will helping celebrate significant achievements in the areas of history, arts, science and technology. She will visit Baddeck in July to take part in two events - *Mabel Bell: Celebrating a Life and Legacy of Outstanding Nova Scotia Achievements in Art and Science:*” and “*High Flight: Songs of Stars*”.

The AG Bell Foundation requested Council purchase tickets to the musical event for youth. The tickets are \$45.00 per ticket.

**It was moved and seconded that Councillors purchase two tickets at a cost of \$90.00 from each of their district budgets, for a total of 16 tickets, to be given to the AG Bell National Historic Park for distribution. Motion carried.**

**DISTRICT CONCERNS**

**DISTRICT #1**

**It was moved and seconded that \$1,000.00 be approved for the St. Columba Parish to assist with the purchase of a floor polisher from the District #1 budget. Motion carried.**

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to Gerard Jessome, Department of TIR, questioning on when the tender for the Gillis Point Road will be issued. Motion carried.**

**It was moved and seconded that letters of congratulations be forwarded to Central Cape Breton Community Ventures Inc. and the Grand Narrows Waterfront Development Association on the opening of two water access points for the water route for the Trans Canada Trail and the official opening of the 377 km water route at the Iona Port on June 11, 2017. Motion carried.**

**DISTRICT #2**

**It was moved and seconded to request TIR officials Steve MacDonald, Darren Blunden and Gerard Jessome, to meet with Council concerning TIR issues throughout the County. Motion carried.**

Councillor MacLeod brought forward a request from Festiville Baddeck for the installation of a range electrical plug at the Court House for use during Festiville Baddeck. This matter will be investigated.

**DISTRICT #4**

Councillor MacInnis advised of another power outage in his district on Monday past. This has been the fourth major outage in the past six weeks and this is not acceptable.

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to NSPI expressing concern and requesting an explanation on the four major power outages in District #4 the past six weeks. Motion carried.**

**DISTRICT #8**

Councillor MacDonald brought forward a road issue in Cape North. There was a minor MVA on a bridge approach. Upon investigation there is a sharp crack on the approach. He contacted Steve MacDonald, TIR and he will have Nelson Dixon investigate this area.

The stairway issue to Cabot Landing Provincial Park was brought up to the Department of Natural Resources last fall. Councillor MacDonald was in contact with Morley MacNeil, Area Manager, DNR, in this regard and an assessment was to be conducted.

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to Morley MacNeil, DNR, questioning on the results of the assessment conducted at the Cabot Landing Provincial Park. Motion carried.**

Councillor MacDonald brought up the driver testing service that used to be in the Ingonish area. Residents are now required to travel to Cheticamp. A letter was sent last year to the Minister of Service Nova Scotia concerning this issue and Sandy Hudson will follow up on this matter.

**DISTRICT #7**

**It was moved and seconded that \$500.00 be approved from the District #7 budget for the Neil's Harbour/New Haven Development Association. Motion carried.**

**DISTRICT #6**

Deputy Warden Dauphinee questioned whether it was known when the Provincial Cabinet will be appointed.

The last official recount from the Provincial Election will take place today and it is anticipated that the Cabinet will be appointed soon after that.

**DISTRICT #3**

Warden Morrison brought up the marine protected areas. The St. Ann's Bank protected area was announced today and this is an area between Newfoundland and Cape Breton.

The possibility of the Bras d'Or Lakes being designated a marine protected area was discussed.

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans indicating that the Municipality of the County of Victoria is opposed to the Bras d'Or Lakes being designated as a marine protected area. Motion carried.**

The Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board will be holding an information session at the Court House, Baddeck, on Tuesday, June 27, 2017, at 5:00 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next regular session of Victoria County Municipal Council will be held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, June 26, 2017, at 5:00 p.m.



Presentations on the agenda include Nancy Smith, Victoria County Community Health Board, a representative from CBU and Tom Wilson on the Broadband Strategy.

**ADJOURN**

**There being no further business, it was moved to adjourn at 7:10 p.m.**

**Bruce Morrison, Warden**

**Sandy Hudson, CAO**