

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
July 17, 2017

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, July 17, 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 #8 – Norman MacDonald

Also present were:

Sandy Hudson, CAO
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

Absent was:

District #1 – Wayne Budge (Out of Town)

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was presented for approval. It was noted that the Baddeck & Area Cat Rescue Society and the Vietnam Partnership Program Visit presentations were cancelled for this evening. Bras d'Or Lakes Day Camps Association has been added to the agenda.

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

ALDERWOOD BUS PRESENTATION

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Gail Boudreau, Alderwood Working Council, and Kaye Garland, former member of the Alderwood Working Council who were in attendance with regard to the purchase of a used van for Alderwood.

Ms. Boudreau indicated that John Berk has advised that the existing Alderwood van will not pass inspection at the end of August, 2017. The van is used daily to take residents to appointments.

The Alderwood Working Council has \$10,000.00 in their bus account that they will provide for the used van and they are requesting \$5,000.00 from the Municipality.

They hope to find and purchase a second hand van and have also requested money from the Province through MLA Keith Bain.

It was moved and seconded that the Municipality provide \$5,000.00 towards the purchase of a van conditional on money being received from the Province. Motion carried.

BRAS D'OR LAKES DAY CAMP

Courtesy of Council was extended to Madison Greening, Bras d'Or Lakes Day Camp Association.

Ms. Greening indicated that the Bras d'Or Lakes Day Camp Association is supplying out-of-school engagement for children and youth ages 5-12. Registration is on a week to week basis to from July 3 to August 28, 2017, to ensure flexibility. The cost to the parent/guardian is \$75.00 per week and she outlined examples of the activities that have occurred and will take place.

She outlined the benefits of the pilot program to Council. Baddeck Academy is the site for 6 weeks and the remaining 2 weeks will be at the Victoria Highland Civic Centre.

Ms. Greening indicated that they are pleased that the Municipality approved \$5,000.00 towards this pilot program and requested that the funding be released as they need it to operate.

The \$5,000.00 was contingent on funding being provided by the Province and in discussions with Larry Maxwell, Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage, he has advised an application has been submitted and he indicated it will be looked at positively but may take some time.

The pilot project employs 3 students and 1 coordinator and the uptake has been impressive. Discussion took place.

It was moved and seconded that upon the basis of the information received from Larry Maxwell, the \$5,000.00 be released to the Bras d'Or Lakes Day Camp Association. Motion carried.

HOUSING STRATEGY – INVERNESS COUNTY

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Jim Mustard, Inverness County Councillor; Bobby Morris, EDO BRE, CBREN; and Joe O'Connor, CAO, Inverness County.

Mr. Mustard outlined the background as to how the Housing Strategy came to be. In February 2016, Inverness County launched an 8 month assessment of its housing needs, challenges and opportunities. The strategy was undertaken by Conrad Taves Design Consulting and completed in December, 2016.

Affordable housing has been identified as the number 2 priority for Victoria County also and as Inverness and Victoria Counties share a common geography, opportunities and challenges it was felt that cooperation between the two municipalities would be a positive move going forward.

Bobby Morris indicated that one piece identified in the quarterly reports of the BRE Program was the inability to attract staff as a result of no adequate housing. This message was consistent in the three counties under the CBREN.

Understanding the needs, housing gaps, and infrastructure capacities were all considered in the strategy. A recommendation to hire a Housing Development Coordinator for a two year pilot was discussed. Whether Victoria County would like to participate in this pilot with Inverness County was discussed.

Council expressed their opinions in this regard and the indications were that it would be a great initiative to partner on. How to proceed was discussed.

It was felt it would be better to start moving sooner than later and the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) would be the first step. The idea of this position being under the CBREN was felt to be a good idea and it was felt a discussion should be had with Richmond County on this initiative also as they are a partner in CBREN.

Further discussion took place.

It was moved and seconded that the Municipality investigate a MOU with Inverness County for a Housing Coordinator. Motion carried.

Joe O'Connor and Sandy Hudson will work on drafting the MOU.

Warden Morrison extended a thank you to the gentlemen for their presentation.

RECESS

Warden Morrison advised that Council would recess for 10 minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JUNE 12, 2017

The minutes of the June 12, 2017, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved and seconded that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of June 12, 2017, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

BROADBAND PLAN

The Broadband Plan has yet to come before Council. The plan is to be resent to Council for review prior to the next meeting.

STEPHEN KERR

The CAO will respond to the questions raised by Stephen Kerr with regard to the proposed multi-purpose archery facility.

JOINT SESSION – WAGMATCOOK

Whether the Joint Council Session with Wagmatcook First Nation was rescheduled was questioned. No date has been set as yet and this matter will be further investigated.

NEW BUSINESS

ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA VILLAGES

The Village of Baddeck will be hosting the Annual General Meeting of the Association of Nova Scotia Villages (ANSV) at the Inverary Resort, Baddeck, in September and they are requesting a \$500.00 sponsorship from the Municipality.

It was moved and seconded that \$500.00 be approved for ASNV Annual General Meeting. Motion carried.

BADDECK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The property on which the Baddeck Volunteer Fire Department is located is owned jointly by the Village and the County. They have requested that the Municipality relinquish their interest in this property.

The CAO outlined the procedure to be followed and indicated that a Public Hearing would have to be held.

The Village of Baddeck have also been approached to relinquish their interest in this property. Whether they are required to follow the same process was questioned.

It was moved and seconded to follow the Public Hearing process and requirements to relinquish the Municipality's interest in the property on which the Baddeck Volunteer Fire Department building stands. Motion carried.

CAO RETIREMENT

Sandy Hudson advised that he would be terminating his position with the Municipality effective in mid-October. He thanked Council for their support over the last 15 years. With accumulated vacation time, he will be leaving his employment in the near future.

Warden Morrison, on behalf of Council, accepted his decision and wished him well in the future. Council thanked him for his service to the County.

This matter will be further discussed at an In Camera meeting to be held following the regular agenda of Council.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #8

Councillor MacDonald brought up the dangerous situation at the intersection of the Dingwall Road and Cabot Trail. The brush in this area is a serious hazard to the travelling public and there have been a few near accidents in the last week.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the Minister of TIR with regard to brush cutting at the intersection of the Dingwall Road and Cabot Trail. Motion carried.

The condition of the pump house in Cape North was brought up. The CAO advised that this building will be torn down using our own resources.

The extension of the waterline to Cape North was again brought up. This project is on the Municipality's infrastructure priority list and Council will be provided with the infrastructure priority information tomorrow.

Councillor MacDonald indicated that the Bay St. Lawrence Crab Fest was a great success yesterday, serving over 600 meals.

District #6

It was moved and seconded that a letter of congratulations be forwarded to Keith Bain on being elected MLA for Victoria-The Lakes. Motion carried.

The internet service in the Ingonish area is failing miserably. It is no longer reliable and Deputy Warden Dauphinee questioned on how to best proceed. It was indicated that the service is similar in other areas of the County.

It was moved and seconded that a representative from Bell Aliant be invited to Council to discuss this issue. Motion carried.

The doctor shortage in northern Victoria is again an issue as one of the new physicians recruited is leaving the area and Dr. Buffett will be retiring also. Dr. Murray is up in age and will be looking towards retirement before too long.

Two resident physicians will be coming to Victoria County to meet in Baddeck on Wednesday. There is a new contact for the NSHA Physician Recruitment position.

It was moved and seconded that the Warden obtain the contact information for the NSHA Physician Recruitment position and report back his findings from the Wednesday meeting. Motion carried.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis brought up the issue of unsightly premises and the lack of action. A property was reported in the Goose Cove area 2 years ago and nothing has been done.

Sean Donovan is the Dangerous and Unsightly Premises Coordinator for Victoria County and the CAO will follow up with John Bain, Director, EDPC, in this regard.

Councillor MacInnis commended Warden Morrison on his interview on the Vietnam visit.

Councillor MacInnis questioned when Council could begin their district Council meetings. The next meeting of Council will be held on Monday, August 14, 2017, at the Indian Brook Fire Hall, at 1:00 p.m., followed by a boat tour, compliments of Councillor MacInnis.

Today was the last day of fishing for lobster fishers in LFA27 and Councillor MacInnis indicated that this was the most successful season in living memory. Catches were good, prices were good and there were no reported injuries.

District #2

Councillor MacLeod advised that she was approached by the Library Board for a refresh of the Ingonish Library sign.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee agreed to pay for this cost out of his district budget.

Councillor MacLeod, as Victoria County representative on the Cape Breton Regional Library Board, also brought forward a letter outlining deficiencies in the Baddeck Library. How best to handle these issues was discussed.

The letter is to be tabled and Councillor MacLeod and Warden Morrison will visit the Baddeck Library tomorrow.

Councillor MacLeod also questioned on the status of the repairs to the West Side Middle River Road and whether the petition was tabled in the Legislature.

It was moved and seconded to contact the Speaker of the House to determine the status of the petition with regard to West Side Middle River Road. Motion carried.

Councillor MacLeod brought up some complaints with regard to speeders on the Big Baddeck Loop and questioned on whether “Share to Road” signs could be erected. The Department of TIR will be contacted in this regard.

Festiville Baddeck held on July 3, 2017, was a success and another Festiville will be held on Monday, August 7, 2017.

District #1

Councillor MacNeil brought up the matter of the lack of grading on the dirt roads in his district. Some roads had spot grading and some not at all. The work done is inadequate.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to Gerard Jessome and Darren Blunden, Department of TIR, concerning the condition of the dirt roads in District #1. Motion carried.

Councillor Budge has also requested that it be brought before Council that a meeting be requested with the Minister of TIR at a location suitable to him.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the Minister of TIR requesting that he meet with Council at a location suitable to him. Motion carried.

It was moved and seconded that a street light order be placed at a property between Washabuck Bridge and South Cove (civic address will be provided). Motion carried.

The lack of mowing along the roadsides throughout the County is to be added to the letter to be forwarded to the Department of TIR.

The Washabuck Community Centre Festival will be hosting a golf tournament during the first week of August in Dundee. Cost to participate is \$53.00 per person. Councillor MacNeil will provide Council with the information on this event.

District #3

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to Pam Eyking, former MLA, thanking her for her service to Victoria County as a former MLA for Victoria-The Lakes. Motion carried.

Warden Morrison advised that on Wednesday, July 19, 2017, two prospective resident doctors will be coming to the Baddeck area and they will be taken to lunch at the Telegraph House. He will mention to doctor shortage in the northern area of the County also.

The old Doctors Office on High Street is now vacant and Warden Morrison indicated that he contacted Stephen Hines, Housing Nova Scotia, indicating that this would be an excellent site for seniors housing units. Victoria County is underfunded for housing units.

District #5

Councillor Patterson indicated that the Age-Friendly Communities Plan has been completed and the Deputy Minister has committed to coming to Baddeck on September 25, 2017, for the unveiling of this plan.

AMENDMENT TO DOG CONTROL BY-LAW

A Public Hearing was held prior to Council on the proposed amendment to the Dog Control By-Law. No submissions were received.

It was moved and seconded that the 2nd (final) reading of the amendment to the Dog Control By-Law be approved. Motion carried.

The SPCA has been provided with a copy of a contract for temporary coverage in the Boularderie area and will be advised of the approval of the amendment to the Dog Control By-Law.

ROAD NAME CHANGES

A petition was received to change the name of a private road at New Harris Settlement to be renamed to Dale's View Lane.

Council agreed to submit this road name change to the EDPC and Department of TIR for approval.

Another petition was submitted out of the regular process, by Bryne Butts, Civic Address Coordinator with EDPC. His name is the only name on the petition to rename 6103(P) Road off Old Route 5, Big Bras d'Or, to Red Fox Lane for safety reasons.

There are senior residents on this road who have an address off Old Route 5 and they do not want to have to change their address at this stage in their lives. The CAO will have a conversation with Bryne Butts regarding this request.

IN CAMERA

It was moved and seconded to move In Camera to deal with personnel issues. Motion carried.

REGULAR SESSION

It was moved and seconded to return to the regular session of Council. Motion carried.

It was moved and seconded to accept the recommendations of the In Camera session concerning personnel issues. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Sandy Hudson, CAO

Bruce Morrison, Warden

